

NEWS

You Can Use...

JACKSONVILLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gene Paul N. Smith, Chief of Police

April 2023



Greetings All,

DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was very successful. The event was held at the police station, and residents dropped off unused and/or old prescriptions. A total of 256 pounds of prescription medications were collected in only four hours!

Last week, both sworn and civilian members of our department participated in the 2023 Florida Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The one-mile event celebrates and brings attention to Special Olympics and is held at law enforcement agencies throughout the country March to May. (See photos on Facebook).

Reminder: April 1 - September 30, no dogs are allowed on the beach from 9 AM to 5 PM.

The second full week of April was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Most people not in law enforcement do not realize that without these dedicated professionals, also known as dispatchers, the whole system would collapse. If you happen to request emergency services in the future, please thank them for their service.

At the City Council workshop this month, the Police Department delivered three presentations in one night. We highlighted our accreditation program and what it takes to be one of only 750 agencies out of 18,000 agencies in the U.S. to hold CALEA accreditation status. We also did a drone flight demonstration in Council chambers to show off the capabilities of this new program. Finally, we did a TASER demonstration, and Council Members Bill Horn and Fernando Meza bravely volunteered to get TASED. It was the highlight of the night, and there are videos that exist, but you will have to conduct your own investigation to get one.

National Volunteer Week was April 16 - 22. Our volunteers mean so much to us, and we are so thankful for each and every one of them. We absolutely could not accomplish our mission and goals without them. On behalf of every member of this agency, WE THANK THE VOLUNTEERS!!!! (See photos on Facebook).

Detective Ikram attended the 2023 Street Cop Training Conference this weekend in Nashville as an exhibitor. Over 500 officers from around the country were in attendance, and Detective Ikram showcased the Jacksonville Beach Police Department as the best agency to work for. Our agency and our badge (shown prominently during the presentation) were singled out by the organizer during opening ceremonies as innovative and amazing for allowing her to travel to the conference to recruit. (See photos on Facebook).

The Downtown area was crowded all month when the weather was nice. The annual Springing the Blues Festival drew the largest crowd to the area this year. I am happy to report that despite large crowds all month, we again had no major incidents.

State Attorney Melissa Nelson and Sergeant Dan Watts created the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer (OLEO) Awards approximately five years ago. After Dan's death, Mrs. Nelson renamed the awards the Daniel E. Watts OLEO Awards in Dan's honor. This year, JBPD Senior Corporal Morris G. Ingle was awarded the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of a suicidal person who was threatening to jump from a bridge. JBPD Detective Meho Custo was awarded the Investigative Excellence Award for his work as a DEA Task Force Officer.

We continued our successful efforts in enforcement of criminal street gangs, illegal drugs, and illegal firearms. These arrests are prominently displayed on our social media pages.

We currently have five officer vacancies; however, we have three new out-of-state officer transfers who start work on May 8. We also have two part-time officers who are progressing quickly through training, and they will provide much needed relief when they go into solo status. In May, we have an upcoming retirement that will create another vacancy. We have three dispatch vacancies and one dispatcher progressing well through training. There are no other applicants processing at this time for police officer or dispatcher.

Master Sergeant C. David Young (currently GIU detective sergeant) has submitted his intent to retire in May after 25+ years at this agency. He will be immediately starting his second law enforcement career with the U.S. Navy as an NCIS Special Agent in his hometown of Naples, Italy. We will miss him and wish him the best. Please feel free to reach out to him and wish him well. We will be sharing retirement celebration invitations soon.


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