



## **Assistant Chief's Update November 22, 2013**

In this Chief's update I thought I'd start by answering one of the questions that I've been routinely getting lately:

### **I've seen some officers testing some of the body worn cameras in patrol; are we going to be mandating these cameras for all patrol officers?**

We have begun researching cameras that could be worn by officers. However, we are early in the process. It has become pretty-widely accepted that the body-worn video camera will eventually become standard equipment for just about every police officer. Some of the reasons for this include greater efficiency, enhanced officer safety, and more effective criminal prosecution. Moreover, many agencies have seen a reduction in citizen complaints. Nearly everyone we encounter these days has the ability to record our interactions with their phones and we are frequently recorded. It's important that we have our own video of events. It's amazing how differently things can look from an officer's perspective.

Many of our officers are already wearing cameras. The body-worn cameras were approved for uniform reimbursement a couple of years ago and we currently have a huge variety of cameras in use in the uniformed division. If we don't begin to research best practices and further develop policy, it will become an unmanageable tool. As we move forward, we will be gathering a lot of feedback from a cross-section of our department in addition to learning from other agencies. If you have any thoughts on this technology or want to be involved in the evaluation let me know.

### **Update on Block Party**

The look and feel of this year's block party will be familiar to us with a few changes. One of the biggest changes will be the sponsors of the events. Fiesta Bowl was the primary sponsor for many years and the block party had a football theme as a result. This year, the DTC will be the primary host of the party and Circle K will be the primary sponsor. The party will have a smaller footprint and will reside on Mill Avenue from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Tempe Beach Park will not be part of the event. There will be stages, a kid's area, live entertainment and DJs like in years past. However, the goal of this year's event will be more focused on downtown businesses and creating a landmark event for the City. Although it's difficult to estimate how big of a crowd we may see, it's safe to say that we will have a very large

turnout. I know we've done a great job planning for a variety of scenarios, so I'm confident it'll be a great, safe event for our city.

### **Upcoming Enforcement Efforts**

October is largely our peak month for much of our activity. However, it doesn't slow down much throughout the rest of the year. Our efforts for the next month will be focused on a lot of retail areas in our **Winter Freeze** operation. There are several locations that will see higher calls for service – especially now that many retailers are extending hours more than in the past. You'll be seeing additional details on the areas of focus for this operation in the near future.

The DUI task force will also be in full-swing during the month of December. My hope is that our enforcement efforts throughout the Fall and the tone we have set in Tempe will be apparent in the number of drivers who choose to drive impaired in Tempe.

Finally, the holiday season brings us the opportunity to take some time off and spend quality time with our families. I hope that you have a great holiday next week and a wonderful holiday season.

John