THE BRIEFING

WICHITA METRO CRIME COMMISSION INC.
EST. 1952
WORKING WITH YOU TO PREVENT CRIME

March / April 2023

Upcoming dates to remember:

- **April 27, 2023 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
  Dr. Shelly Steadman, Director, Sedgwick County Forensics Lab
  Scotch & Sirloin

- **May 25, 2023 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
  KBI Director, Tony Mattivi

- **June 22, 2023 - Monthly Insider Briefing**
  Speaker TBD
  Scotch & Sirloin

- **June 25, 2023 - Support Law Enforcement Big Dill Fundraiser**
  Chicken N Pickle

Crime Commission Membership Milestones

Roland Belcher, Land Title Services - 5 years

Bob Dool, Mid Continent Safety - 40 years

WICHITA METRO CRIME COMMISSION, INC
MONTHLY INSIDER BRIEFING
THURSDAY, April 27, 2023
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Dr. Shelly Steadman
Director Sedgwick County
Regional Forensic Science Center

The Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center is a full service, state-of-the-art facility housing the office of the District Coroner and Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL). The Center is a stand-alone Forensic Laboratory and Medical Examiner/Coroner Office, led by Director Shelly Steadman.

Open since 1997, the Center accepts cases for firearms examination, forensic examinations for the identification of biological fluids and drug identification for local and regional law enforcement agencies. In 1997 it opened the first STR DNA Laboratory in the State of Kansas.

All these services are under the direction of Dr. Shelly Steadman. Prior to becoming director of the FSL in 2019, just as the COVID 19 pandemic was emerging, Dr. Steadman spent 22 years as a Forensic Scientist serving as Manager of the DNA Laboratory.

A Mulvane native, Dr. Steadman earned her B.S. from Newman University, and did graduate coursework at Baylor College of Medicine and thesis research at WSU, where she earned an M.S. in Biology. She has since achieved her Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

Not only does Shelly Steadman hold a Ph.D., she is also a retail business owner and Mayor of Mulvane!

Please contact the office with your confirmation or regrets at 316-267-1235 or email Julie@wichitacrimecommission.org by Tuesday, April 25, 2023, so we can make the necessary luncheon arrangements with the Scotch.

Meal Options

Cajun Chicken Pasta

or

salad with a protein.

Please let me know if you would like a salad.

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WMCC MEMBER UPDATE

Greetings:

Our 69th Annual Awards Dinner on March 21st at Mark Arts was a wonderful evening honoring both law enforcement and citizens. I want to thank Mel Hambelton Ford for being our Presenting Sponsor, plus suppling the floral centerpieces along with the Cocoa Dolce chocolate treats. The wine served at the tables by the bartending staff was courtesy of WMCC member Earlene Condiff. The evening was made special by the Awards Sponsors, and we thank each of them for their support.

I want to say a special thanks to Julie Hower and Sharon Van Horn, who have this event down to a science. Maverick Woodbridge led the Events Committee and had many WMCC Members helping to put this event together. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who started setting up at 10:00 AM, then stayed afterwards to tear down while most were already at home.

The facility was full with approximately 360 in attendance, for a great evening of food, drink, and comradery, but more importantly, recognizing the individuals that were honored this year. Dan Dillon did a fabulous job of emceeing this year's event, and for that I owe him a great deal of gratitude.

Mike Hill was the "12 Apostles of Justice" award recipient for 2022, and very deserving of this award voted on by his peers. I'm not sure how Mike's wife kept this a secret while still getting his friends to attend, but Judy - WELL DONE!

The most difficult part of the evening was presenting a plaque to the family of Deputy Sidnee Carter who lost her life on Oct. 7, 2022, due to a traffic accident while on duty. For me this plaque recognizes the loss of Deputy Carter, shows support to her family, but also reminds us of ALL the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep the public safe.

Overall, a great evening, and thanks to everyone for attending!

The Crime Commission is working hard on an enhanced social media campaign on Fentanyl Awareness which should roll out in early April. This project made possible by funding from Sedgwick County and some of our funds from the VitalCore Health Strategies donation.

April's Insider Briefing will feature Dr. Shelly Steadman, the Director of the Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center, with KBI Director Tony Mattivi joining us in May.

Planning is in full swing for the 3rd Annual "Big Dill" Event to support Law Enforcement, which is on June 25th at Chicken-n-Pickle. This will be a fun afternoon of pickleball, a silent auction, light food, and socializing, so we hope you will support this endeavor.

Thanks for your support of the Wichita Metro Crime Commission.

Norris Slupianek
President
Wichita Metro Crime Commission, Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year award nominations forms are sent to all law enforcement agencies in the area, as well as KBI, FBI, Highway Patrol and others. An awards committee then reviews all the nominations and chooses the year's recipients. The 2022 Awards Committee was chaired by Mike Hill and included retired law enforcement and citizens. Our congratulations to this year's winners!

Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Officer of the Year

Alex Stadler
Wichita Police Department

The Crime Prevention Officer of the Year recognizes a law enforcement officer or employee whose work in preventing crime has benefitted the citizens of Sedgwick County in 2022.

Alex Stadler is a 3-year member of the Wichita Police Department Crime Analysis Unit, assigned to the Patrol South Bureau. His strong working knowledge of many necessary programming languages make him a highly effective Crime Analyst. Alex works closely with the Patrol South Community Policing team and with the HOT – Homeless Outreach Team. Alex created and maintained a current events calendar for Executive and Command Staff to have constant access to events, protests and potential civil unrest events occurring within their respective areas of responsibility. Alex developed a Ranked Offender list, something no other police department in our region (including Kansas City, Johnson County, Tulsa and Oklahoma City) has.

Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Activist of the Year

Stephanie Quick
USD 259

The Crime Prevention Citizen Activist of the Year award honors non-law enforcement members of our community who have actively worked to improve the quality of life and safety in the community through programs or projects that proactively strive to prevent crime.

Stephanie Quick began her career with Wichita Public Schools as a high school teacher at South High. While at South Stephanie started a new program called "Youth Court" – a program that involves students in administering peer justice for student infractions. The program was so successful that it was quickly adopted by other Wichita high schools and continued until 2022.

In 2005 Stephanie was selected as a Drug and Violence Prevention Specialist, and soon was appointed the Supervisor of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Prevention and Intervention Program. In this position she successfully led a team of drug abuse and youth violence prevention specialists for all Wichita schools.

In her current role as Safety Services Supervisor Stephanie is considered the department's team threat assessment expert. Her leadership and commitment was instrumental in the expansion of SPEAK UP – the school safety arm of Crime Stoppers – to all 10 Sedgwick County school districts as well as the Catholic Diocese schools in Sedgwick County.

Stephanie is involved in many area organizations including the Safe Streets Coalition, Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center, and the Sedgwick County Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

Hero Award

Daphne Sanchez
WPD Officer Jerrad Daniels
WPD Officer Travis Cox

The Crime Commission takes great pride in bestowing a Hero Award to a sworn law enforcement officer or a citizen for acts of uncommon valor. This year we are honoring both a citizen and law enforcement officers for their heroic actions.

Daphne Sanchez

In September of 2022 Daphne Sanchez was sitting outside a gas station and witnessed Julian Gonzalez ramming his car into a car driven by Ramiro Anguilar. Inside the Anguilar car were a woman and 2 small children. After ramming the car Gonzalez broke the back window and started stabbing into the back seat of the vehicle where the children were located. Anguilar jumped into the back seat and covered the children with his body. When Daphne Sanchez realized what was occurring, she proceeded to drive her car between Anguilar and the Gonzalez car until police arrived. Ramiro would later tell detectives at the hospital that he believed Julian would have killed him and his children had it not been for Daphne's heroic actions.

WPD Officers Jerrad Daniels and Travis Cox

On a frigid night in December of last year, Officers Jerrad Daniels and Travis Cox responded to a domestic disturbance. While approaching the house they heard a young child screaming for help from a different residence. They ultimately found a 4-year-old child on a front porch of a residence wearing only a t-shirt and light pajama pants. The child was crying and clearly in distress. Initially thinking the child may have been locked out of the house, the officers tried the front door, but found it unlocked. Upon opening the door, they were met with thick smoke from a fire. They kept the 4-year-old from entering the house while they went in, calling for others inside. Officers alerted dispatch of the situation and requested fire and EMS response.

Inside the home they found a 2-year-old child in the living room and a 3-month-old baby on a bed in a back bedroom. Despite the risk to their own well-being and safety, Officers Daniels and Cox thoroughly searched the house. Finding no one else in the residence the officers took the three children to the warmth of their cars to await EMS. Wichita Fire Department Battalion Chief Winter and fire investigators on the scene stated the children would have succumbed to the smoke had Officers Daniels and Cox not found and removed them.

Humanitarian Award

Sedgwick County District Attorney Investigator Kristen Zluticky

The Humanitarian Award is an award given for the acts of an individual or organization in the community which rise above good deeds to clearly demonstrate compassion that improves the lives of individuals in our community.

Kristen Zluticky is a zealous, hardworking and compassionate investigator in the Sedgwick County District Attorney's office. Her advocacy for the elderly, education efforts in the community, and her willingness to dig into investigations that cross state lines is something few but law enforcement get to witness. She has trodden new ground for the DA's office in prosecuting fraud cases including "romance scams" and assisted in the identification, extradition, and prosecution of fraudsters across the country. She is instrumental in the FAST team, which works to investigate and resolve cases of elder abuse. She is also a consumer fraud investigator, helping low-income residents who have been swindled by deceptive business practices. Our community at large has benefitted from her diligence and commitment to helping non-profit organizations and victims of consumer fraud.

Excellence in Community Engagement

Wichita Police Department Patrol West
Department of Motor Vehicles

Recognizing that it "takes a village" to keep our community safe, the Crime Commission introduced a new award for 2022 – The Excellence in Community Engagement Award. This award recognizes a community group, organization or individuals whose demonstrated efforts have enabled people to come together to address community issues that shape our community's future and or quality of life.

The recipients for this new award are perhaps the largest group ever recognized by the Crime Commission; however their "Second Chance Thursday" is proof what collaborative efforts can produce.

In 2021 Patrol West started a program called "Second Chance Thursday" to assist citizens of Wichita in clearing traffic warrants and setting up court dates. In 2022 this program expanded to include additional violations, again with the goal of assisting citizens clear up these violations.

The Patrol West Community Police Team invited the Department of Motor Vehicles to join the Second Chance Thursdays. Brian Whalen, Kelsie Erwing and Jeff Taylor, all with the Department of Motor Vehicles, answer questions about how to reinstate driver's licenses and answer other questions. In 2022 the Patrol West Community Police Team assisted in clearing almost 300 warrants. The DMV assisted over 270 citizens and 62 restricted licenses were completed.

The Patrol West Community Police Team continues to work within the community to assist the citizens of Wichita. Their love for the city shows and they are always ready to assist wherever a helping hand is needed.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Detective Christopher Hehemann

This is the 33rd year the Wichita Crime Commission has presented the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. This award recognizes the exemplary work done by a law enforcement officer .

Detective Christopher Hehemann is a dedicated officer, serving his community with intelligence, hard work and discipline. Detective Hehemann is on the front lines of our battle against the flood of fentanyl that has been pouring into our community. As an undercover agent he has bought thousands of fentanyl pills and pounds of methamphetamine, and in the last year has indicated seven people through the US Attorney's Office for their role in selling fentanyl in our community. Through his efforts thousands of dollars in cash and stolen goods have been recovered.

From writing search warrants to talking directly with Mexican sources to arrange buys to assisting in the investigation of a distribution/overdose fentanyl case, Detective Hehemann takes an active role in prosecuting those who bring illicit drugs into our community. In one case alone, fifteen additional indictments are in process. He has written over 40 search warrants. Sheriff's Detective, Christopher Hehemann is the epitome of the core values of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.

Criminal Justice Professional of the Year

Derby Police Chief Robert Lee

The Wichita Crime Commission's Criminal Justice Professional of the Year is an award that recognizes a person for his or her outstanding accomplishments in the criminal justice profession including law enforcement, the judiciary or other professions directly connected to criminal justice.

Derby Police Chief Robert Lee will retire on July 23 after 42 years of dedicated police service with the Wichita Police Department and the Derby Police Department.

Chief Lee started as a 22-year-old officer with the Wichita Police Department in 1980. He advanced through the department from an officer to detective, lieutenant, captain and eventually Deputy Chief. He was the Deputy Chief over Investigations when BTK was arrested and was there when the arrest was made, along with about 200 other police officers.

Although very happy with his career with the Wichita Police Department, Lee was interested in leading his own department. When the Derby Police Chief position opened in 2009 he applied and was accepted. Derby City Manager Kiel Mangus states, "the leadership that Chief Lee has provided during his career in Derby is invaluable. He is a dedicated public servant who put a strong emphasis on community policing and police officers being active and involved in the community, himself included."

Chief Lee was instrumental in the Derby Police Department obtaining accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, one of just eleven departments in the state. Under Chief Lee's leadership Derby crime has been reduced while the city's population continues to grow. Lee says his philosophy on leadership can be boiled down to one thought: "I think I will be pretty successful if I simply leave things better than I found them."

After 42 years we all agree that is exactly what Chief Lee has accomplished.

12 Apostles of Justice

Mike Hill

Thirty six years ago, the Commission's board of directors decided to annually recognize a Crime Commission member for his or her outstanding contributions to the success of our programs. What better way to honor the memory of the 12 founders than to name the award "The 12 Apostles of Justice Award". Each year the recipient is chosen by his or her peers, thereby giving the annual award greater meaning.

Six decades ago, in 1963, Mike Hill started serving his community. He graduated from police training and was given a gun and a beat. The years went by and Officer Hill moved up the ranks. Then came August 11, 1976. It was a day that shocked Wichita and changed the city forever. A 19-year-old man climbed out onto a 26th floor balcony at what used to be the Holiday Inn on Douglas Ave and opened fire. At that time police didn't have the fire capability to reach that far. In 11 minutes, then Wichita Police Lt. Mike Hill and other officers hurried to the hotel from City Hall, took the hotel elevators to the top, found the room where Michael Soles was repeatedly shooting – and Hill shot him through a glass door.

The Holiday Inn Sniper killed 3 and injured seven. The toll wasn't higher because of the bravery of Mike Hill and his fellow officers. This heroic man, Mike Hill, is who we are honoring this year.

Mike continued to serve his community. In 1979 he became the Commander of Special Investigations for the Wichita Police Department, then was asked to run for Sheriff. In 1984 he was elected Sedgwick County Sheriff…and continued to be elected three more times. He retired in January of 2001, completing a 37-year career in law enforcement.

Mike joined the Wichita Crime Commission in 2013, and immediately began making an impact. He was (and is!) our biggest cheerleader, inviting dozens of people to join our organization. Mike joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and became President in 2020 – during the Pandemic. But a little COVID didn't stop Mike! Through his leadership a new strategic plan was put into place, new committees were formed, and the Wichita Metro Crime Commission came out of 2020 financially strong with membership growing.

Last year the Crime Commission "roasted" Mike on his 80th Birthday. It is our honor to again recognize Mike's service to law enforcement, our community, and the Wichita Metro Crime Commission as the 12 Apostles of Justice recipient for 2022.

FENTANYL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO LAUNCH

"Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose death and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day."
--DEA Administrator Anne Milgram

In early April a community-wide Fentanyl Awareness Campaign will launch, with a specific goal of educating our youth about the dangers of fentanyl. Sedgwick County lost 5 youth in 2 weeks to this deadly drug. Because of the partnership of Sedgwick County, The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, the Wichita Police Department, the Wichita Metro Crime Commission (through our VitalCore contribution), Y.E.E.P. and others, a multi-media campaign using billboards, social media, radio and TV will carry the message of the dangers of fentanyl. A targeted social media campaign will target youth during the summer. Community events and school activities are being planned. We want to give special thanks to JumpStart for playing a video message at their pumps for the months of April & May Also to the Wichita Auto Dealers Association for displaying our messages on their signs and QuikTrip for displaying our posters in their stores. These opportunities go a long way in getting our message into the community.

If you have children or grandchildren…TALK TO THEM! ONE PILL CAN KILL is not just a slogan. It is a fact. Fake pills can kill. Unless it comes from a pharmacy it should not be taken.

Contact Julie or Sharon if you have a business and want posters for your employee areas We will update you in the coming weeks and months of other fentanyl-related activities and programs. As a community we must confront this

L.A.W. CAMP SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11-13

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office will again hold L.A.W. (Leaders. Achievers. Winners.) Camp in 2023, this time as a day camp at Watson Park from July 11-13. Middle school youth ages 10-14 will be invited to attend this free camp. Former SCSO Captain Mary Mattingly, who oversaw L.A.W. Camp when she was with the Sheriff's Office is our Camp Director and has a myriad of fun and educational activities planned. Once again the Crime Commission will be assisting with the Camp.

If you would like to participate or volunteer in L.A.W. Camp
contact Sharon (316) 207-5732
Sharon@wichitacrimecommission.org
or Mary (316) 285-0840
mary@wichitacrimecommission.org.
We need all kinds of "back end" help with registration, serving meals and other tasks!

Crime Stoppers of Wichita and Sedgwick County
a Division of the Wichita Metro Crime Commission

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers approved $ 2,050 in reward payouts at the March 13, 2023 meeting. There were two tips recommending a $400 payout each. Both tips were about drug sales out of homes. The total value of drugs seized from these two tips was $81,500.

Five school districts reported a total of 13 tips with alcohol, bullying and sexual misconduct being the most reported tips. There was also a planned school attack tip which is currently under investigation.

Wichita Metro Crime Commission
Est. 1952 Inc.
Working With You to Prevent Crime

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 25, 2023
Pickleball Tournament - 2:00 PM
Big Dill Party & Silent Auction - 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Support Law Enforcement

It's a Big Dill!

JumpStart

INTRUST Bank

Chicken N Pickle Wichita

WMCC Law Enforcement Committee will host a First Responder Movie Night at

STARLITE DRIVE-IN

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Open to First Responder Agency Employees and their families.

In appreciation for all they do!!