



# Newsletter

# Nelson Police Department

Chief Jim “The Priest” Koury

## Introduction

Welcome back to the newsletter.

It has been a busy month once again getting things organized, writing policies and attending training.

## Chief Executive Training



The State of Georgia requires all new chief executives of law enforcement agencies to attend chief executive training, which is sponsored by The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

This training covers liability, budgeting, training, policy development, leadership and many other topics. I was able to complete the course with a final score of 98%.

The biggest thing I was able to take away from this training was learning what I needed to do as your chief to get the agency state certified.

State certification is a process that will take a year or so to accomplish, which will result in the liability insurance premiums for the city to decrease by up to 20%. This is a great cost saving measure that will benefit us all.

## Agency Mission Statement

After doing research and speaking with agency heads from several agencies I have come up with the mission statement for The Nelson Police Department.

*“The mission of The Nelson Police Department is to use community partnerships and creativity to encourage voluntary compliance with state and local law, using the least intrusive means necessary.”*

This statement will be the guide of how we at the agency will do business, which leads me to the next section...

## The Role of American Law Enforcement

Ask anyone, including sworn police officers what the goal or function of police officers are and you will get a wide range of responses. Most will say “to protect and serve”, or “to keep the peace”.

Those are noble ideas and certainly part of the job but at it’s core, is not what we in law enforcement do.

My theory on law enforcement is that it is our job to get people to voluntarily comply with the law through the use of education and enforcement actions.

I will use traffic enforcement as a very simple example of this.

For the most part people generally obey traffic law. Most people speed, but not excessively, traveling less than 10 miles an hour over the speed limit. I have spent a fair amount of time using speed detection devices around the city and it is only about 1 out of every 50 cars that are going fast enough for me to stop. So as I sit there and monitor the traffic one car will go by doing 15 MPH over the limit. I stop the car and issue a citation. The driver will have to go through the court process and ends up paying a fine. Most people that this happens to at this point will not speed in that area again. Not only that driver, but all the others that pass, and anyone that the cited driver talks to about receiving the citation are much more likely to voluntarily comply with the speed limit.

It is not about how many cars you stop and how much money you make people pay. It is about being seen and encouraging people to comply.

This is why one of my first actions as chief was to have the “ghost lettering” removed from the police Tahoe, and have bright and easily seen markings added. This style of vehicle marking will be on all future city police vehicles as well.



This basic concept is in almost all actions that police officers do.

## Reserve Unit

In last month’s newsletter I told you all about our plans for a reserve unit. It is up and running with three members at this point with plans for adding more.

I have known and worked with these officers in the past, and I have full confidence in their abilities.

Officers Riehl, Robinson and Poulos have a combined experience level of 12 years working with Holly Springs

Police Department and The Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office.

Officer Riehl is a former Army NCO and combat veteran.

Officer Robinson holds both bachelor and master degrees and Officer Poulos holds an associates degree and is working on his bachelor degree.

All three officers have completed the state police academy and are certified to hold their positions. They all completed use of force training and firearms qualification 2 weeks ago and have started patrolling the city.

### Officer Riehl’s first day



## Bulletin

There has been an increase in stolen mail in both Nelson and Ballground in the last month.

We will be doing concentrated patrol in the affected areas and I encourage you all to limit what you leave in your mailboxes as much as possible.

We are also approaching the time of year when entering autos and thefts from vehicles tend to increase.

Less than 5% of these crimes involve actually breaking into vehicles. These crimes happen overnight and the cars that have items stolen from them are left unlocked.

This type of activity is called “flipping” by the people that commit these thefts because they just walk house to house flipping car door handles to see if they are unlocked. The best way to keep from becoming a victim of this is to make sure you always lock your car doors even when parking at your home.

## Requests for Service

Let's say that someone has entered your vehicle and stolen items, or that a neighbor's dog is in your yard tearing up your trash.

How do you handle it?

You call 911.

No matter the reason for your request for service, always call 911, even if it is not an emergency.

The reason for this is that is how police are dispatched. We use a CAD system, which stands for Computer Assisted Dispatching. This system is how we generate call history, case notes and case numbers.

If you circumvent this by calling city hall or an officer directly it affects our ability to track calls for service, uniform crime reporting and skews any statistical data that we may be trying to compile.

So spread the word and use the E911 dispatch system as it was designed.

Well that is all I have for this month. All is going well and I have met some great folks. I hope to see you all soon.

Chief Jim "The Priest" Koury