



# Newsletter

# Nelson Police Department

Chief Jim "The Priest" Koury

## Introduction

Welcome back to the newsletter.

It has been a busy month once again acquiring equipment, doing grant research and completing the final steps to organize the public safety day on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## The Reserve Unit

Three reserve officers were sworn in at the May City Council meeting.



Pictured from left to right are officers, Poulos, Robinson and Riehl

Officer Poulos is a full time student working on his BA and works part time at a local gun store. He holds an AA degree in police sciences where he became a certified peace officer by attending the police academy as part of his degree.

Officer Robinson previously worked for The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office for 10 years and holds both BA

and MA degrees. Additionally she has attended specialized police training ranging from speed detection to crisis intervention.

Officer Riehl comes to the agency after serving 15 years in the military as a decorated combat veteran and working for The Holly Springs Police Department for a year.

All of these officers volunteer their time at no cost to the city and have already greatly increased the law enforcement coverage in the city.

## Public Safety Day

Everything is finalized and set up for June the 7<sup>th</sup>. The festival will start at 11:00 am and end at 3:00 pm.

There will be free t-shirts and backpacks, BBQ and bounce houses.

There will also be different types of fire trucks from both the city, Cherokee County and Pickens County fire.

Additionally, there will be police cars, mobile command vehicles, tactical vehicles and SWAT teams.

The American Red Cross will be taking blood donations and will be providing disaster preparedness information.

Missing children packets will also be prepared for parents. These packets will contain all of their child's information to include finger prints and photographs on a DVD that the parents will possess and be able to give to local authorities in case their child goes missing. Parking

will be available at the grass lot for the Rebecca Lodge, City Hall, the old marble headquarters buildings and at the marble plant behind city hall.

So be sure to come out with your family for some food, fun and a chance to meet those public safety personell that work in the area.

## Statistics

Extra Patrols	42
Community Contacts	33
Citations Issued	12
Total Calls	151

## School Is Out

Just a quick reminder that there will be kids out and about at times not normally seen so be sure to use caution when driving around the city.

## Town Hall Meetings

The police department will be holding regular town hall meetings at city hall.

The purpose of these meetings will be for officers and residents to connect and share ideas, and to keep residents informed of the operations of the agency. All questions are welcome and the agency statistics will be explained.

The first meeting will be Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm.

Please come by and say hi and get to know members of the agency.

## New Equipment

Last month I traveled to Alabama and acquired a HMMWV, commonly called a Humvee or Hummer.

The city previously had one of these vehicles, and many residents were not happy about it. There are some

differences this time and I will explain them and why it is important that the city have this vehicle.



First let me explain the situation with the previous HMMWV.

This vehicle was obtained through a program the Department of Defense (DOD) has where local law enforcement can get equipment at no cost. Equipment can either come directly from DOD or another agency that has DOD equipment it is no longer using.

The previous vehicle was obtained from Calhoun Police Department in no working condition. It took a lot of money to get it running. Additionally, it cost the city over \$1000 a year for insurance.

This was because it was insured at its original new value of \$126,000. Is was improper as the true value of the vehicle is ZERO.

Conversely, the HMMWV that I went and picked up came directly from the DOD in good working order. It has many new parts and no problems.

Additionally, the cost of insurance is under \$500 a year.

So why does the city need one of these vehicles?

The primary purpose is evacuation and disaster relief. The vehicle will be stocked with blankets, bottled water and lifesaving equipment.

We are fortunate that we have our own ability to keep our roads open during winter storms, but unfortunately as we saw during the last two storms, once outside the city the road conditions are poor. In fact Cherokee County lost its ability to patrol the county and the National Guard deployed with 14 HMMWV vehicles to assist with patrol functions.

We were also fortunate that we did not see the normal power outages that go along with these winter storms. Frankly, we got lucky, but we can't count on luck. During future storms as residents lose power and the ability to warm their homes I will be able to get to those residents, and if needed evacuate them to warming shelters.

This also applies during spring and summer storms where there is damage to homes and power lines, with roadways being blocked by downed trees.

Just think how horrible it would be to have a family member have some type of medical emergency, but could not get to a medical facility because an ambulance could not get to them.

The HMMWV solves this problem.

The other role of this vehicle is to participate in the Governors' eradication task force. This opens the agency up to more state money and equipment to ease the tax burden on the city.

So what is the cost?

For under \$400 the vehicle is ready to be used. Several items were donated by surrounding agencies at no cost. The paint and body work were done by Nightmare Armor Studios for just the cost of supplies, with the labor being done by the company owner and our own reserve officers.

Additionally, we have a large quantity of spare parts available at no cost. This includes glow plugs (\$400 per set) tires, relays and lots of other misc. parts.

I think that it would almost be a violation of the oath I took to not have this vehicles ability to use as another tool to serve all of you.

## **Bible School Parade**

The Nelson Baptist Church will be holding it's yearly bible school parade on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am so come on out and participate.

## **Home Owners Associations**

I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know that I would like to come to some of your meetings.

This was something that I did regularly when I was a shift commander with the sheriff's office as it is an important way to establish and keep contact with residents. In doing this I can answer questions and relay important information.

Feel free at any time to contact me so I can attend your meeting.

Well that is all I have for this month. Be sure to keep your vehicle and residences locked and if you see any type of suspicious activity be sure to call 911 so we can respond and investigate.

Chief Jim "The Priest" Koury