

PROUD TO SERVE

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief's Corner



Congratulations to our new Police Officers!

Please join me in warmly welcoming Temple University Police Officers Lucas Dekaney, Connor Fennell and Ian Proctor, who officially graduated from the Temple University Police Academy. Completing the 6-month police academy takes discipline, resilience and a deep commitment to service. Over the next three months, our new officers will continue training on Main Campus alongside experienced, certified field training officers, who will help guide them as they put their academy training into practice. This hands-on phase is critical in building confidence, sharpening decision-making skills, and reinforcing our community-focused approach to public safety. You'll learn more about each of our new Police officers on Pages 3 - 5. We are proud to celebrate this important milestone and excited to welcome them to the Temple Public Safety family and confident they will serve with integrity, professionalism and care as they begin their careers.

-Jennifer Griffin, Chief of Police and Vice President for Public Safety



Peer Support Training

Congratulations to Sgt. Elijah Lewis, Police Officers Jacky Tran and Gloria West and Security Officer Jane Phillips for successfully completing the Philadelphia Police Department's Peer Support Training Program. This specialized training equips officers with the skills to support one another through the unique challenges of law enforcement, emphasizing mental health awareness, effective communication, and peer intervention. Programs like this play a critical role in strengthening the overall wellness of a department. Congratulations again on this wonderful achievement!

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Temple University Public Safety & Students Recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Temple football, Temple University's Department of Public Safety and the group Student Activists Against Sexual Assault (SAASA) teamed up to pack more than 200 lunches on Wednesday, April 1, for a nearby women's shelter to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month. "I think coming together to do this incredible event is really making a difference in our community," said Jacqueline Hill, a sophomore marketing major with SAASA. "It's showing that no one is alone and at the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I think it's so incredible Temple Police put this together and get everyone together to help our North Philadelphia community." Everyone worked together to make the lunches in a fast-moving assembly line. "It's wonderful, because you can really see the impact that Temple has on the community," said Rameir Hardy, a Temple football wide-receiver and first-year economics major. The lunches were packed with sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit, snacks, bottled water and cookies, which were donated by The Fresh Grocer. "It's a simple meal but it goes a long way. It shows the community we care about them," Hardy said. Jennifer Griffin, Temple's chief of police and vice president for public safety, added the event turned awareness into action. "We're providing a meal today, but we're providing a promise of support to our neighbors every day," Griffin said. "For those who are receiving the lunches, it's our hope that they see how much we care about them and that we are here to lift them up." Many of the student-athletes have taken Temple Police Officer Leroy Wimberly's self-defense class, called Rape Aggression Defense, or RAD. "It's important that we empower our community and that we all learn how to protect ourselves, especially women," Wimberly said. "I often tell my students that together, we must say 'no!' to sexual violence." Wimberly has been teaching RAD to students for more than a decade. "Hopefully, my students will never have to use the skills they learn in my class. But they walk away feeling empowered and knowing how to protect themselves. These are skills they will remember for a lifetime," he said.

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Meet our new Police Officers

Lucas Dekaney, 23, originally from Syracuse, New York, recently finished his collegiate career last May at La Salle University, where he studied political science with a minor in leadership and global understanding. Dekaney said a former professor who had worked in law enforcement encouraged him to explore policing as a career path. He began researching departments and said one stood out.

"I came into the process not knowing anyone, but Temple University's Department of Public Safety was the most attractive to me because of its commitment to community engagement," he said. "Community engagement is paramount in policing. You have to know the people you serve, and it's clear that Temple is supporting both its campus community and North Philadelphia neighbors. I'm excited to become a part of that."

Dekaney added as he met the other cadets in this class, he realized they're the kind of people he wanted to work with.

"My fellow cadets are the kind of people who I know would have my back. They're people who I can rely on, and I'm a support for them, as well," he said.

Dekaney is a former Division I student-athlete and competed as a diver while balancing the demands of academics and athletics. "Being a student-athlete meant having a full plate," he said. "We were practicing about 20 hours a week while keeping up with schoolwork, so it really taught me time management and discipline."

Even after graduation, Dekaney has remained connected to athletics and currently serves as an assistant diving coach at La Salle.

"Being a student-athlete gives you an advantage in this job because you're used to being active, communicating with people and working as part of a team," he said. "Whether it's a traffic stop or engaging with students, we want to bring our best every day and be someone the community can turn to."



Know someone seeking employment?

Public Safety employees who refer friends to work with us will be offered a \$500 referral payment for eligible positions through TERP. The referral payment amount will be paid after the referred employee successfully completes 90 days of employment. Contact Amber James, Associate Director of Administrative Operations, for more information: Aajames@Temple.edu



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Meet our new Police Officers

Connor Fennell, 25, of Northeast Philadelphia, most recently worked as a probation officer in Montgomery County. Before that, he graduated from Penn State Abington in 2022 with a degree in criminal justice. Additionally, Fennell has served as a military police soldier in the United States Army National Guard for six years, including a yearlong deployment to Cuba. The experience, he said, shaped his values. "It taught me about respect, integrity and loyalty, and what it really means to be part of a team," Fennell said. After graduating from college, Fennell said he knew he wanted a career centered on service.

"I knew I wanted to help people," he said. "Temple Police felt synonymous with the city. I love the sports, the culture and the energy of the campus environment."

Fennell also plans to take advantage of Temple's tuition remission program to pursue a master's degree.

"Being in the police academy has been a great journey," he said. "I'm excited to get into this career field, however, the learning experience is just beginning."



Ian Proctor, 23, of Southampton, Bucks County graduated in May 2025 from Temple University with a degree in criminal justice.

During his time as a student, Proctor was involved in Temple's Law Enforcement and Government Services Club and initially considered a career in federal law enforcement. However, a ride-along with a Temple police officer helped solidify his path.

"I did a ride-along with Temple Police Officer Marquice Williams, and it gave me an up-close look at the safety side of the university and North Philadelphia," Proctor said. "Being able to come back after graduating and serve a community I spent years in really feels like a homecoming." Proctor said service has always been part of his family's tradition.

"I always wanted to be involved in a career that helps others," he said. "My dad's side of the family served in the Navy and my mom's side in the Army. That mindset of service has always been around me."

He said he is eager to begin working on Temple's Main Campus and continue learning alongside experienced officers.

"I'm looking forward to working with my field training officer and interacting with the community," he said. "Being back on campus and supporting the Temple and North Philadelphia communities will be incredibly rewarding."



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Dolores Bowers, 27, of Bucks County, made a career change to become a police officer to follow a lifelong dream after serving the country for eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps and two years as a Philadelphia Phillies ballgirl. "Serving our country was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life," Bowers said. "During my time in the Marine Corps, I was stationed in Hawaii, in Japan and in several other locations. I worked as an inventory management specialist, helping ensure bases across the United States received the supplies they needed. It was incredibly meaningful," she said. Bowers also held another role she was passionate about. "For the past two years, I worked as a ballgirl for the Philadelphia Phillies. One of the best parts was interacting with the fans. Many of them traveled from across the country and even around the world to experience Citizens Bank Park," she said. "It was also thrilling to be up close to the players. Whenever there was a foul ball, we had to sprint to grab it and quickly get it off the field. "I joined Temple Public Safety because here, we're more than law enforcers," she said. "We're community builders."

Temple Police Recognized

A joint criminal investigation involving Philadelphia Department of Prisons, Philadelphia Police Department and Temple University Police Department was recognized. While there will be more details announced at a later date, we're grateful for our strong law enforcement partnerships as we continue working together to enhance safety across Philadelphia.



Outstanding Owl!

Amber James, Associate Director of Administrative Operations, has been selected as an Outstanding Owl! The university-wide recognition happened after she was nominated by Deputy Police Chief Guy Sava due to her leadership within Temple Public Safety. He wrote: "Amber consistently brings an infectiously positive attitude to her work each and every day. She is constantly volunteering to assist with outreach and charitable activities including the annual children's holiday party and veterans' drive. Amber is also part of the Owls on Board program; she is second generation Temple employee and Temple Made! She works tirelessly to recruit new employees and makes sure that each new employee is welcomed to the Temple family!" If you know of a Public Safety team member who exemplifies the qualities of an Outstanding Owl, please connect with Communications Director Matt Petrillo!



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Honoring Temple Public Safety's Dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, held annually during the second week of April, we honor the telecommunications personnel here at Temple Public Safety and thank them for serving the Temple and North Philadelphia communities. This year's celebration starts April 13 and runs through April 19. Working around the clock, 24/7/365, our Dispatchers serve as the vital first point of contact for the entire Temple community. Whether coordinating emergency responses or providing peace of mind through the TUSafe app, Temple's telecommunicators are the calm voice in each call they handle every year. In 2025 alone, they handled 15,858 calls for service. Our Dispatchers also play an essential role on the other end of the TUSafe app. When the Temple community utilizes TUSafe, it's our wonderful Dispatchers who are keeping students, faculty, and staff connected. Throughout 2025, they facilitated:

- 94 Virtual Walkhomes
- 212 Chats with Dispatch
- 350 Friend Walks
- 644 Walking Escort Requests

Beyond the app, our dispatch team served as the essential first line of support for thousands of critical incidents. They answered the call for:

- 607 Fire Alarms
- 479 Arrests
- 331 Auto Accidents
- 165 Wellness Checks

To our dispatchers: Thank you for your unwavering vigilance, your professionalism under pressure, and your dedication to the safety and well-being of the Temple community. You are the heartbeat of our operations.

In the media

Temple Police Captain King, Ed.D., was the featured guest of the TUTV show, TUGether. The 30-minute episode highlighted his career and educational journey. Watch the show [here](#).

Additionally, Capt. King was quoted recently in The New York Times about his previous work as a deputy chief in the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. Read *How Camden, N.J., Cut Its Murder Rate to a 40-Year Low* [here](#).



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Temple University's Bike Tour on April 26

Join us for the 2026 Temple University Bike Tour. It's less about personal bests and more about community connections. It's a greenway journey of discovery and taking the time to regain that sense of wonder for the world around you. Temple's Bike Tour, according to Sean Starosta, Lead Administrative Specialist with the Temple University Office of the Provost and one of the lead coordinators of the tour, "is a bike tour for people who don't think that they can do a bike tour."

The 3rd Annual [Temple University Bike Tour](https://ambler.temple.edu/biketour) will be held on Sunday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register online at <https://ambler.temple.edu/biketour>.

Temple Police will be on hand to help guide Bike Tour cyclists during the first stretch of the ride. "As people become more and more reliant on vehicles, people have forgotten what a greenway is, which is using the trails and the different trail systems in our area to travel," said avid cyclist Chris Willard, Director of Tactical and Professional Development in Temple's Department of Public Safety, who is planning to ride in 2026 after taking in the 2024 and 2025 Temple bike tours. "I hope that participants see what they're capable of doing on a bike, and they discover other organized rides or even just make it a regular activity for their family. I hope they also see how much Temple is working to be an important community resource throughout the region."

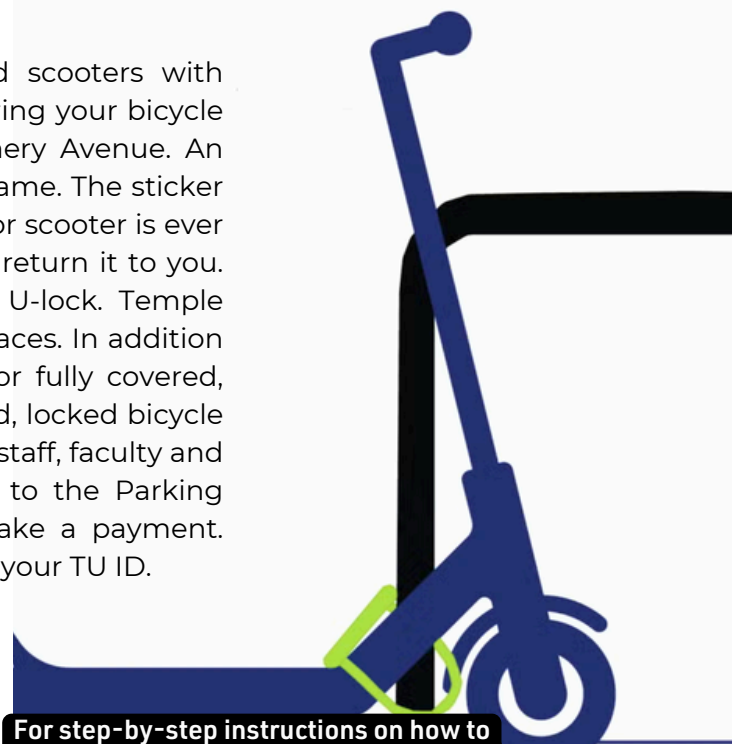


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Safety Tip - Free U-locks!

Students, faculty and staff can register their bicycles and scooters with Temple University Police to receive a free U-lock! To do so, bring your bicycle or scooter to Public Safety Headquarters, 1101 W. Montgomery Avenue. An officer will inspect it and place a registration sticker on the frame. The sticker links your bike to your file in the police database. If your bike or scooter is ever lost or stolen, this record helps Temple Police identify it and return it to you. Once your registration is complete, you'll be given a free U-lock. Temple University boasts more than 2,000 bicycle/scooter parking spaces. In addition to outdoor bicycle/scooter parking, there are two options for fully covered, locked bicycle parking on Main Campus. There is fully covered, locked bicycle parking located behind the Engineering Building available to staff, faculty and students for \$10 a semester. To gain access, you must go to the Parking Services Office located in the Montgomery Garage and make a payment. Once you do, you will be able to access the bicycle locker with your TU ID.

Additionally, all residence halls have an in-door bicycle storage room for student resident use. For step-by-step instructions on how to properly use a U-lock, go to Safety.Temple.edu.



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