

PROUD TU SERVE

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief's Corner

Temple University's Department of Public Safety is proud to announce an update regarding our ongoing partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) and our shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. In partnership with PPD, we launched a new deployment initiative on January 5th in the Temple University patrol zone. PPD will assign additional PPD Bicycle Police Officers and a Sergeant to work directly in and around our patrol area. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Enhance integration and collaboration between Temple University Public Safety and PPD
- Improve hot spot identification and management
- Strengthen real-time communication and information-sharing
- Increase visibility and presence in key areas

Importantly, this additional PPD deployment comes at no cost to Temple University. Additionally, last month, Temple Public Safety and Philadelphia Police Department leadership came together to collaborate and strengthen partnerships that keep the Temple and North Philadelphia communities safer (below). We're proud of our shared commitment to improving safety for the Temple and North Philadelphia communities!

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



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



Temple University Police and Philadelphia Police met to collaborate together.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, which is celebrated every year on Jan. 9th, Temple Police Officer Andrew Venini received a handwritten appreciation card. It wasn't from a community member or a colleague, but from his daughter, Deanna Venini, who serves as a Temple Police dispatcher. In her role, Deanna is often the calm voice on the other end of the radio, guiding officers through tense and uncertain moments. That day, she chose to use her voice to say thank you to the man who inspired her to serve. For Officer Venini, the card meant more than any award. It was a reminder that the values he carries into his work, including dedication, courage, and compassion, have been passed on to the next generation. We thank you both for your service and dedication! The moment was captured by 6ABC.

Temple University Police Officer Andrew Venini with his daughter, Temple Police Dispatcher Deanna Venini (below).



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Ofc. Bawa Recognized with University-wide Award



Temple University Police Officer Arashdeep Bawa is proud to serve.

A big congratulations to Temple University Police Officer Arashdeep Bawa for being selected as an Outstanding Owl! We all know that Temple Employees are the best: Hardworking, collaborative and always willing to go the extra mile. The university's Outstanding Owls is a program that allows us to recognize the fantastic work that Temple University employees do every day. During the past round, the committee selected four winners. Ofc. Bawa won in the category of 'Above and Beyond.' Dedicated to building positive connections between law enforcement and the Temple and North Philadelphia communities, Ofc. Bawa has spent time getting to know local elementary school students by playing pick-up basketball games with them. This effort that inspired the "Cops vs. Campers" basketball game held over the summer. Officer Bawa also cares deeply about animals, having been among a group of Temple Police Officers who worked together to rescue several dogs and cats from a hot car during the summer months, showing that compassion guides everything he does. Always ready to lend a hand, he truly embodies both the university's and Temple Police's shared mission of giving back and making a difference in the community. He's truly an Outstanding Owl!

Know someone seeking employment?

Refer your friends to work with us and Public Safety will offer 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



Temple Police continue training

During the recent winter break, Temple University Police Officers continued their comprehensive active threat training program with a focused emphasis on preparedness and tactical readiness. Taking advantage of the quieter campus environment, TUDPS delivered immersive training scenarios designed to build upon officers' existing skills and experience. These sessions included active assailant response, room-clearing drills, and emergency tactics, while reinforcing de-escalation strategies and crisis intervention principles. The training ensured officers are prepared to respond effectively while maintaining empathy, professionalism, and restraint in complex situations. Sincere appreciation is extended to the dedicated planners, instructors, and role players who invested months of effort to develop and deliver this training. Their commitment ensured the curriculum was realistic, challenging, and fully aligned with broader university safety protocols. This collaborative work reflects a shared dedication to the safety and well-being of the Temple community.



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Ofc. Showcases Crocheting Talent on FOX29 with Sue Serio

Temple University Police Officer Rebecca Key-Gaskins was featured on FOX29's morning show recently during a segment that was hosted by Sue Serio. During the segment, Ofc. Rebecca shared her impressive crocheting skills and offered a glimpse into how she combines artistry with her everyday life. During the 'Whatcha Makin' segment, Serio spotlighted Key-Gaskins' passion for crochet, which is a craft she has developed alongside her dedication to serving the Temple and North Philadelphia communities. Ofc. Key-Gaskins also displayed several examples of her handcrafted pieces and shared about her inspiration behind her work, crediting her late-mother. Key-Gaskins' visit underscored how hobbies like crocheting can bring joy, foster connection and inspire others. "Crocheting is a great way to relax and unwind," she said. "I encourage police officers to find an outlet, especially in art or through another creative passion."



Police Officer Rebecca Key-Gaskins with FOX29's Sue Serio (above) and her doll (left).

Building bridges across campus

Autism advocate Alex Mann celebrated his 519th police department visit right here at the Nest! The Malvern, Pennsylvania-native stopped by Temple University Police to raise awareness about autism while also sharing powerful stories from his own journey. Over the years, Alex has taken his message across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and even California.

Before his presentation, Temple University Police Officer Jeremy Mask offered Alex a tour of campus.

Thank you for stopping by, Alex! Your friends here at Temple University appreciate the important work you're doing. Keep it up!



For several years, Alex Mann has been educating police about autism.

