

# PROUD TO SERVE

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## Chief's Corner

Temple University Department of Public Safety's top priority is protecting our students, faculty, staff, visitors and neighbors. Traffic safety requires vigilance from both drivers and pedestrians. Together, we can prevent tragedies by remaining alert and following safe practices.

For pedestrians

- Always use designated crosswalks when crossing streets.
- Make eye contact with drivers before stepping onto the roadway.
- Even when you have the right of way, remain attentive to turning vehicles and confirm traffic has stopped before proceeding.
- Use pedestrian awareness lights and signals—and stay alert even if the indicator shows it is your turn to cross.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones or earphones.

For drivers

- Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections.
- Reduce speed around campus, especially in high pedestrian traffic areas.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones when behind the wheel.
- Be especially cautious during nighttime or low-light conditions.

Safety is a shared responsibility. By practicing awareness and respect on our streets, we can help protect one another and maintain a safer community.

-Jennifer Griffin, Chief of Police and VP for Public Safety



**Chief Griffin reminds the Temple community about traffic safety.**



**Temple Police Officer Natalie Decoratesworth and K9 Zaki participated in the Phillies' 'First Fetch' on First Responders Night, as many Public Safety members cheered them on.**

## Temple Police Participate in 'First Fetch'

In a heartwarming tribute to all who protect and serve, Temple University Police Officer Natalie Decoratesworth and K9 Zaki took center field at Citizens Bank Park on First Responders Night on 9/11, delivering a unique ceremonial moment that left the crowd cheering: the First Fetch.

At home plate, Officer Decoratesworth tossed the ball. With perfect form, Zaki fetched it, earning a standing ovation from the crowd. "We were honored to be a part of this special night that was about honoring all first responders who serve with the same loyalty, courage and heart as we do," Decoratesworth said. Many Temple Police Officers, Security Officers and Dispatchers attended the game in support. Great job to all!

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## OEM MINUTE



As the new academic year is now underway, Temple University's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been busy sharing important safety resources with students. OEM also had the opportunity to give Master of Journalism students from Klein College of Media and Communication a behind-the-scenes tour of Temple Public Safety. OEM is grateful they spent time with us to learn about keeping our campus safer.

Some of the safety tips and resources we highlighted that all students should know include:

- Be prepared both on and off campus.
- AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) are available in every building and are simple to use in the event of cardiac arrest.
- Blue Light Phones are located across campus and connect directly to our 24/7 dispatch center.
- TUSafe app offers tools like Virtual Walkhome, a panic button, crime tip submissions, and campus maps.

Safety is a shared responsibility. By working together, we can create a safer campus community.

## Temple Security Officer Earns U.S. Citizenship, Brings Heart to Campus

Temple Public Safety is proud to celebrate one of our own: Security Officer Gabriele Degrandi, who recently achieved a major personal milestone by earning his U.S. citizenship. Originally from Italy, Degrandi has been a dedicated security officer who is known for his professionalism, vigilance and his warm personality. Whether he's greeting students during the early morning or lending a hand at campus events, Security Officer Degrandi brings a sense of kindness and calm to everyone he meets. "Gabriele has a big heart and a natural way with people. You can see it in how students and staff respond to him. We're so proud of his accomplishment!" said Chief Jennifer Griffin. Be sure to congratulate Gabriele if you see him on campus!



## There goes that Community Engagement Van!

Temple Public Safety has a new community engagement van on the streets! Wrapped in Temple's iconic cherry red and proudly featuring the hashtag #ProudTUServe, the van will be used at events, outreach efforts, and neighborhood initiatives to help connect with the Temple and North Philadelphia communities and promote safety. Keep an eye out, you'll be seeing it around!



Temple University Police Officer Leroy Wimberly stands in front of the new Engagement Unit van.



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## Health and Wellness: Sit-Ups vs. Planks

Planks have become the go-to exercise for strengthening your core, and for good reason. Strong core muscles support posture, strength, and flexibility in everyday activities. Research shows that sit-ups can press the curved spine into the floor and may overwork the hip flexors. When the hip flexors become too tight or strong, they can pull on the lower spine and lead to discomfort. Planks, on the other hand, engage muscles on both the front and back of the body. By activating multiple muscle groups at once, your body can perform more efficiently.

Getting started with planks:

- Begin with 1-2 sessions per day.
- Hold a plank for 30 seconds.
- Each week, increase your hold time by 5 seconds.

-Chris Willard, Director of Tactical and Professional Development



## Welcome!



Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our team: Administrative Coordinator Dylanie O'Gorman (left) and Temple University Police Officer Nicholas Diberardo! Officer Nicholas Diberardo brings with him over 30 years of law enforcement experience, having recently retired from the Delaware County Park Police. With a strong commitment to community policing, he's excited to be part of the Temple family and is eager to support students as they start a new academic year. "I became a police officer to help people," he shared. "I want students to know they can come to me if they ever need anything." Officer Diberardo is also looking forward to the day his own children becoming Owls themselves in the future. We're equally excited to welcome Dylanie O'Gorman as our new Administrative Coordinator. She has already hit the ground running, and we are thrilled to have both of them on board!

## 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](mailto:Aajames@Temple.edu)



## Mark Your Calendar!



With October around the corner, we are looking forward to Public Safety's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Homecoming Cookout! It will be held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> in Parking Lot K. Food will be ready 2 hours prior to the start of the game. Come out to meet Public Safety members while learning about safety resources!

