As Public Safety is Challenged, We Seek the Best Solutions

South Salt Lake has a passion for public safety. We started our own police and fire departments decades ago because we knew our community cared and wanted to be involved. We have thrived with your support, creating programs for community policing, business watch and neighborhood watch, Community Emergency Response Team, and more. I appreciated talking with many engaged citizens at last month’s Night out Against Crime and Emergency Preparedness Fair. I know you want to be part of the solution, and today, we need your help as we tackle the issue of homelessness head on.

My fellow mayors are all expressing their concern at how the homeless problems have spread throughout the entire Wasatch Front. No city is immune. South Salt Lake is on the leading edge in finding long-term solutions. Every city department is part of the discussion. We are identifying the impacts to our city and implementing strategies to mitigate those impacts. Our top priority is protecting and supporting residents and businesses. I believe firmly our increased efforts should not come at a cost to our citizens. Our approach is multi-faceted, collaborative and is becoming more sophisticated, but it takes time.

South Salt Lake is a compassionate city that believes this issue merits our attention and best efforts. We will continue to address the core problems of drug abuse, mental health, physical health, victimization, joblessness and poverty. We are working with many partners to ramp up our prevention efforts. We have to be vigilant even as our compassion is extended to those suffering. Please help your community by contacting us if you see a problem or have a solution to offer. Your support truly makes a difference. Please read the “Homeless Issues Update” in this newsletter and respond to the Calls to Action. Join me in standing up for South Salt Lake.

Fire Chief’s Message

Professionalism refers to a level of competence and expertise which applies equally to all members of our local SSL Fire Department. We are honored to serve our community and take great pride in the services we provide. These men and women put tremendous time and effort into developing their knowledge, skills and abilities in order to assist you, our community, when the need arises. We are constantly seeking ways to improve service to our citizens while minimizing the costs to provide these services.

South Salt Lake Fire formally organized December 2, 1943, making 2018 our 75th anniversary. We value the history and tradition of our department, an organization built upon the strong shoulders of our past leaders. Our mission has always been to provide professional and competent emergency medical, fire and rescue services to our customers, the citizens of the City of South Salt Lake. In addition, we provide fire and safety education programs so if fire should strike, citizens may save themselves from injury or death.

Our department has 50 career, 25 part-time and three civilian support personnel ready to serve. South Salt Lake Fire is the busiest department in the state per capita. Approximately 80% of the calls we respond on are medical related. Our firefighters and firefighter/paramedics abilities are among the most skilled in our industry.
Police Chief’s Message

I would like to thank the community of South Salt Lake for their support and involvement in making our City a better place to live and do business. Each year we see improvement, through crime reduction strategies, new programs being initiated and increased numbers of community participants getting involved. It is the partnerships forged with our community that make us an effective police department.

The South Salt Lake Police Department offers several programs to the community, which provides education and support to deter crime. Our officers are continually reaching out to our residents, businesses and schools with programs such as DARE, RadKIDS, Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, Coffee with a Cop and the P.A.L Program. Our department also offers several resources that include CPTED Inspections, Extra Patrol checks, and a crime tip hotline. However, none of these programs would be successful without the involvement and support of our community.

It is the goal of the South Salt Lake Police Department to provide you, our customers, with quality service. In 2007, the police department implemented the motto P.R.I.D.E. which stands for Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence. P.R.I.D.E. is the foundation of the service we provide our community. “P.R.I.D.E. in our Community” is a mantra that our department embraces. Our officers and civilian employees are each committed to the South Salt Lake Community and have a passion for professional law enforcement.

South Salt Lake’s police and fire departments work closely together to identify, respond and strategize solutions to our community’s biggest safety issues. Often, the problems are beyond one department’s scope, training or jurisdiction. In the last decade, we have tackled the problems of gang violence, youth crime, environmental crimes, unsafe housing and victim protection. Today, our city is ramping up efforts on homelessness. Our public safety professionals are learning, training, planning and executing strategies to the best of their abilities to deal with this challenge.

Homelessness is often a symptom of a deeper problem such as mental or physical health, addictions, abuse or poverty. Our dedicated officers are trained to deal with these issues and we are confident we can succeed, if we have sufficient staffing and support. However, our community needs more funding and resources so that everyone is protected and supported. I feel strongly this is a statewide issue that merits funding from every community. Thus I am part of a critical request for Utah State funding for additional public safety personnel for South Salt Lake.

Robert F. Kennedy said “Every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on.” I insist that our community deserves more. Please read the article “Homeless Issue Update” to the right and join Mayor Cherie Wood in insisting on more public safety resources for our community. Thank you for standing up for South Salt Lake.

Homeless Issues Update

“Homelessness is not a crime, but the activities that often surround it are illegal. We must balance services and enforcement. Our entire city staff is working on identifying and responding to problems, while we proactively work toward permanent solutions.”

—Chief Jack Carruth

Current focus areas for South Salt Lake include:

1. Proactive enforcement
   - Participating in Operation Rio Grande as a local partner. This coalition of police forces includes Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah Highway Patrol, South Salt Lake City, and County Sheriffs from neighboring counties.
   - This enhanced enforcement effort is to remove the criminal element to create a safer environment to provide homeless resources.
   - Operation Rio Grande is clearing out the criminal activity in public areas around Rio Grande.
   - South Salt Lake is focused on handling the problems with individuals booked and released into the Salt Lake County Jail, as a result of Operation Rio Grande.
   - Booking offenders into jail, and keeping them in extra jail beds in Salt Lake and surrounding counties.
   - This effort has been a training ground for our city to deal with increased presence of homeless and implementing service and enforcement principles.
   - Clearing out encampments – working with Salt Lake County Health Department.
   - Call to Action – See something, say something – call Dispatch at 801.840.4000.

2. Pedestrian safety - Roadside donations
   - Recent legislative amendments to Utah Code 41-6a-1009, through House Bill 161, now prohibit donations from a vehicle on certain roadways, to include: Off-ramps, on-ramps, state routes, medians and other described road ways.
   - Both driver and pedestrian can be cited and fined.
   - Better ways to make donations. Seek out social service providers — slco.org. Help the homeless not the addictions.
   - Call to Action – Refrain from handing money to people on the street from your vehicle, it is dangerous and counterproductive.

3. Requesting funds to increase public safety force
   - We need more public safety staff to manage the problems. We are formulating a budget and request to the State of Utah for funding directly to South Salt Lake. Our city is putting this request to the legislature.
   - It is not fair for South Salt Lake to bear this burden alone. We are asking the State of Utah for a permanent appropriation to cover this.
   - The State Homeless Coordinating Committee said they would find ways to mitigate the impact of the shelter.
   - Call to Action – Contact your Utah State Legislators and let them know South Salt Lake needs this funding. Contact House Speaker Greg Hughes, Senate President Wayne Niederhauser, Rep. Steve Eliason, Rep. Mark Wheatley and Sen. Gene Davis.
Meet Your School Resource Officers

**Officer Amanda Gencarella**

Officer Amanda Gencarella has worked for the South Salt Lake Police Department for five years. In that time, she has been in the patrol division and her current assignment in the Community Resources Division as a School Resource Officer. Officer Gencarella teaches the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and Kearns-Saint Ann Catholic school.

In addition to the programs she teaches during the school year, she also facilitates a child safety and empowerment program called radKIDS. Some of the safety topics covered are bullying prevention, preventing/stopping predator tricks including physical resistance strategies against abduction, internet safety, good, bad and uncomfortable touch.

She runs the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Camp program. This is a free summer camp that is available for South Salt Lake kids going into sixth and seventh grades. This year the kids went fly fishing, hiking, swimming and to the Hogle Zoo.

Officer G, as the kids call her, says “being a positive role model for the children in our community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career” and she looks forward to many more years of being a part of the community.

**Officer Chad Leetham**

Officer Chad Leetham started with the South Salt Lake City Police Department in 2005 where he began his career as a patrolman. After eight years he transferred to the Detective Division where he worked property crimes, violent crimes and was sworn as a US Marshall as part of a fugitive task force. In 2016 he was placed into the Community Resources Division and is currently assigned as the School Resource Officer at Granite Park Junior High. He helps with youth in the Police Athletic League Program (PAL), G.R.E.A.T Summer Program, radKIDS and afterschool programs through Promise South Salt Lake.

During his tenure Chad has held several certifications including Crisis Intervention Officer, Field Training Officer, Accident Reconstruction Investigator and Hostage Negotiator. He has also held a board position for the Utah Pawn Board and the Utah Organized Retail Crime Association.

Chad is passionate about Honor Guard and has honorably attended hundreds of fallen officer’s funerals, throughout the United States. He is an active member of Concerns of Police Survivors and on a yearly basis attends police week in Washington D.C. to help escort widows and family members of those fallen officers.

Throughout his career Chad has been awarded several commendations and awards such as the Medal of Merit Award in 2008, the Medal of Distinction in 2015 and the Life Saving Award in 2016.
Promise Program Spotlight: Bud Bailey/Moss Elementary

Promise South Salt Lake partnered with the Utah Housing Authorities Bud Bailey apartment complex to hold summer programing. The amazing afterschool staff from James E. Moss Elementary; including program manager Jordan Wood, prevention specialists Sam Abdelaouf, Janice Acosta, Maxine Erickson, Noor Khudhair, Niraj Sanyasi, and program coordinator Kaylee Milliner, hosted the program with support from Bud Bailey. Staff held reading and math specific programing to ensure the children would not only do well in school this fall, but that they would exceed expectations. To reward the youth for working so hard all week and being committed to their education, they were treated to educational field trips each Friday. They ventured to magical places such as the Loveland Aquarium, Red Butte Gardens, Natural History Museum, Wheeler Farm and the Family Research Center. Promise South Salt Lake staff will hold closely in their hearts all of the moments shared with the Bud Bailey children this summer. We look forward to continuing our work throughout the 2017-2018 school year at James E. Moss.

Youth City Council

The City of South Salt Lake City Council is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year! Become the next generation of leaders through active civic engagement, meaningful service, and learning about local government. Make friends, have fun, and be a youth on the move! If you are in grades 9-12 and live in South Salt Lake, visit sslc.com or sslnighbors.com for more information and to apply. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2017.

Honesty

Definition: the condition of being honest; sincerity or fairness

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

- Thomas Jefferson
SSL Capital Improvement Highlights

3300 South Trail and Landscape Improvements at I-15: The new gateway signage and landscape are complete as is the Mill Creek Trail from TRAX to the Jordan River. This is the first segment of the trail, which was master planned in 2009. The City will be building the next segment through Fitts Park in 2018.

Sunset Avenue Waterline – State Street to 200 East: Crews are replacing the water main and service laterals on Sunset Avenue between State Street and 200 East. The project has been delayed by some unforeseen conditions, but crews are back on track. Work restarted in early August and should be completed by early September.

State Street Lighting – 3300 South to 3900 South: Crews are installing new street lighting. Conduit and wiring has been installed under State Street and the new light poles are being placed. The project will be completed late fall of this year.

Central Park Restroom – 2797 South 200 East: The new restroom facility is under construction. Foundations are poured and sewer and water lines are in place. The building will start shaping up in the next month, then concrete pavement in October. Landscaping will happen in November.

Central Park Playground – 2797 South 200 East: New swings and spinner bowls are coming to the Central Park playground. These will open at the same time as the restroom in the fall. Thank you to Bimbo Bakeries for donating the swings.

Parley's Trail: A new crosswalk was installed on 300 West close to RC Willey to make it easy for pedestrians and bikes to cross here and travel on Parley’s Trail. This segment from 300 West to 900 West is now complete and plans are being drawn up for the West Temple to 300 West portion.

Rock Star – Anthony Pappas

Firefighter Anthony Pappas took his commitment to South Salt Lake to a new level, becoming the Fire Department’s Rock Star this year. He led the task of providing the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician course for our newly hired firefighters, which was anything but easy.

Firefighter Pappas did it all from, start to finish. This is a big deal! By conducting this course “in-house” it allowed us to tailor the instruction to meet the mission of our Fire Department and offer this training to our community.

He devoted countless hours to this task, scheduling the course, instructors, supplies, location, finances, all logistics and recruiting the students! Anthony’s willingness to undertake this time-consuming assignment speaks volumes about the caliber of individual he is and his commitment to our community. Thank you Anthony for being a Rock Star!

We are saving water YOU CAN TOO!

Time to cut back for fall:
Water once a week:
- Apply 1/2” of water.
  (typically 20 minutes with pop-up heads).
- Check your heads for clogs, damage or breaks.
- Mow to 3” - 3.5” high for healthy turf & deep roots.
- Follow the “Weekly Lawn Watering Guide” at conservewater.utah.gov

The South Salt Lake Justice Court is now providing civil fingerprinting services for the general public. Walk ins for this service are available on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. There is a $10.00 fee for the printing services which includes two fingerprint cards. Payment needs to be made at the City Finance Office on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

The receipt along with required paperwork to process your fingerprints will then need to be brought to the front counter of the Justice Court, west entrance on the ground level of City Hall. Keep in mind this is on a first come first served basis and there may be a short wait time. Any questions can be answered by calling the Justice Court at 801-483-6072.

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Coffee with a Cop is part of a national initiative to create a place for community members and police officers to come together. There are no agendas or speeches; just the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and the chance to get to know the officers in their local neighborhoods. The South Salt Lake Chamber supports the program to help businesses increase their involvement in the community's safety. The event takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 9-10 a.m. at Village Inn, 2929 S. State St. The next session is Wednesday, September 6.

Help place a service animal with a veteran in need!

Help us Sound the Alarm about fire safety
October 7 - 10:00 a.m.

Install 400 smoke alarms in South Salt Lake!

On October 7, the Red Cross will team up with fire departments, volunteers, and partners to Sound the Alarm with home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events.

In South Salt Lake, 225 volunteers will reach out to 250 households and install 400 alarms

Kick-off 10:00 a.m., at LDS Church 1510 Parliament Ave. West Valley City UT.

Help us prevent needless tragedies in South Salt Lake

Visit SoundTheAlarm.org/utah to learn how you can make a difference.