

**ELSMERE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Monthly Report**  
**September 2017**

**Significant Events:**

On the following dates/times Elsmere Bureau of Police officers handled the below incidents and seized the following drugs, money and/or weapons.

**September 1, 2017:**

**SUSPECT IDENTIFIED AFTER OFFICERS USE NEW  
FINGERPRINT SCANNER**

On Friday, September 1, 2017, at 11:30 pm PFC Giles and Ptlm. Fortino stopped Jose Diaz, a 36-year-old male from the unit block of Barclay Hall, Newark, for not having proper lighting on his bicycle. While attempting to identify the subject, Ptlm. Fortino suspected he was giving a false name. Ptlm. Fortino asked several standard questions used to help verify a person's identity. Diaz had trouble answer all of these questions and PFC Giles used a newly obtained fingerprint scanner to assist.

While the officers returned to their vehicle to use the scanner, Ptlm. Fortino remained alert and observed Diaz attempting to throw items from his pocket in a grassy area. Diaz was detained and the items proved to be 6 bags of heroin, 1 bag of crack, and 1 bag of cocaine. When the officers told Diaz that they were waiting for conformation from the scanner, he bowed his head and stated, "OK, you got me". It was then learned that the New Castle County Police also wanted Diaz for Assault and New Castle City Police for Resisting Arrest where he ran from officers attempting to identify him after being stopped for bicycle violations on 08/31/2017.

In addition to his outstanding warrants, Diaz was charged with the following: Improper Bicycle Lights/Reflectors at Night, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Crack, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Criminal Impersonation. He was committed to Howard Young Prison after failing to pose cash bail.



**September 9-11, 2017:**

### **Multiple Thefts From Vehicles in Rosemont Area**

During the weekend of September 9-11, 2017, officers responded to several thefts from vehicles in the Rosemont Community. A reverse 911 was sent out to local residents to remind them to lock their car doors and put valuables in their trunks or take them in their residence. Residents were also reminded to call 911 or the non-emergency number (302) 573-2800 to report any suspicious behavior.

**September 12, 2017:**

### **Coffee for Cops**

As you all know on June 27, 2017, Natalie VanDzura and her mom, Carri stopped by the Elsmere Police station to drop off \$5 gift cards to the officers. Natalie wanted to do something special for all law enforcement officers after the tragic murder of Cpl. Ballard, so she started a lemonade stand to raise money. Natalie raised \$1,550.00, which resulted in **311 gift cards** from WAWA and Dunkin Donuts.

Yesterday, Natalie and her grandfather, George Tyler attended the Delaware Police Chief's Council's monthly meeting. Natalie thank all the chief's for making her community safe and handed out gift cards, so the chiefs could take them back to their officers.



**September 12, 2017:**

**YOU'VE HELPED US IDENTIFY HIM, NOW HELP US FIND HIM!**  
**(SUSPECT ID'D AFTER VIDEO POSTED TO FACEBOOK)**

On August 8, 2017, PFC Giles began investigating a vehicle break-in that occurred in the unit block of Brier Avenue in Greenbrier Village. Surveillance video was obtained and posted to the department's Facebook page. The Elsmere Police then received a tip, which led to the identification of Michael Sanders, a 20-year-old male from the 2600 block of Bowers Street, in the City of Wilmington. Sanders is wanted for Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup>,

Criminal Trespass 3<sup>rd</sup> and Theft in reference to this incident. If you have information on the whereabouts of Michael or observe him in the area, please call 302-573-2800 or 911. You may recognize the name Michael Sanders because he is the same suspect who was arrested by PFC Giles and PFC Wingate on 07/20/2017 for breaking in to vehicles in the unit block of Maple Avenue, Elsmere. His photo was not available at the time of that Facebook post. PFC Giles again arrested Michael Sanders with another juvenile suspect on 09/07/2017 for Night Prowling after he observed loitering in the area Greenbrier Village late at night. PFC Giles fingerprinted the juvenile suspect, which was later used to link him to 6 separate vehicle break-ins being handled by the New Castle County Police. As always, please report any suspicious persons/activity by contacting Non-Emergency 302-573-2800 or 911.



**September 20, 2017:**

### **ELSMERE RANKED 3rd SAFEST CITY IN DELAWARE**

It is not uncommon for our officers to hear comments of disapproval when dealing with people and performing their duties. A few of the things they hear most is "Isn't there something more important for you to be doing" or "There's more serious crimes out here you need to worry about instead of harassing me", etc. However, as you can see by our nice new certificate, there is a lack of more serious crimes in this town because of the tireless work our officers do. Through numerous "ridiculous" car stops, pedestrian stops,

and investigations our officers often interdict would be wrong doers which prevents larger crimes from happening. That combined with the invaluable help and support we receive from you, the citizen, have helped the Town of Elsmere climb to one of the safest places to live in our great state. Thank you ALL. Please visit the following link to read more about Delaware's safest cities.

**September 21, 2017:**

### **JUVENILE STOPPED ON A BICYCLE LEADS TO DRUG ARREST**

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, Ptlm. Macdowell stopped a 17 year old male from the 200 block Linden Ave. in Elsmere for numerous bicycle violations. Ptlm. Macdowell recognized the male from previous interactions and was aware that he had an active capias for his arrest. During the stop Ptlm. Macdowell located 25 individual containers of crack packaged for sale in the suspect's pocket. Ptlm. Macdowell obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence which was executed by Elsmere and Wilmington Police Officers. The 17 year old suspect was charged with the following: Failing to Have a Required Helmet (Delaware law requires persons under 18 wear a helmet while riding a bicycle), Failure to Signal a Turn While Riding a Bicycle, Failing to Stop at a Stop Sign, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Crack, and Possession with the Intent to Deliver Crack. He was released to his parent on \$1,300.00 unsecured bail. A name and arrest photo will not be released due to the defendant being a juvenile.





**September 26, 2017:**

### **Drug and Money Seizure**

As a result of a month long drug investigation, officers from the Elsmere Police Department were able to arrest Carl Harris (56 years old) and Shawn Marshall (23 years old) for drug dealing charges. Officer MacDowell was the lead investigator and acquired a search warrant for the unit block of Tamarack Ave. On September 26, 2017, the search warrant was executed with the assistance from the Wilmington Police Department's SWAT Team. Crack cocaine and marijuana that was packaged for sale was seized. \$1,371.55 in drug proceeds was also collected.

Both Harris and Marshall were charged with drug dealing and associated drug charges. Harris was released on \$8,050.00 unsecured bail on the drug charges. Marshall was released on \$3,000.00 unsecured bail on his charges.

If anyone would like to report any drug related activity in the Elsmere Community, please feel free to call the Elsmere Police Station and ask to speak to Sgt. Young (302-998-1173 ext. 201). This can be done anonymously!

