

City of University Place
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Coffee with the Chief

Stop by Happy Duo Café in the Village at Chambers Bay on March 27 to enjoy a cup of coffee (and maybe a sweet treat, too) with U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke and other members of the UPPD team. Ask questions and share any concerns you have about public safety in U.P.



Thursday, March 27, 2025

10 a.m.

Happy Duo Café, 3609 Market Place W.

And be sure to check Headlines and follow the City on Facebook and Instagram to get updates on future Coffee with the Chief dates as they are scheduled.

City Council Contacts

Mayor Javier Figueroa	253.682.7379
Mayor Pro Tem Ed Wood	253.677.5707
Council Member Frank Boykin	253.566.5656
Council Member Steve Worthington	253.565.4855
Council Member Denise McCluskey	253.566.5656
Council Member Stan Flemming	253.566.5656
Council Member Melanie Grassi	253.566.5656

Want the Newest Info?

Don't rely on the grapevine. For the most accurate and straight-from-the-source updates on police activity and arrests in U.P., scan the QR code to read the bi-weekly Police Blotter.



BLOTTER

UNIVERSITY PLACE BETWEEN THE LINES

MARCH 2025

A City of University Place Publication

A Message from Your Chief

It's hard to believe, but I have had the privilege of serving as your chief of police for nearly two years now. My predecessor, Greg Premo, told me when I got the job that I was going to love it ...and he was absolutely correct.

Over the last two years, I have had the honor of getting to know so many of the residents and business owners of University Place. With each encounter—whether at a community event like National Night Out, through our Coffee with a Cop outings or on a call for service with one of our patrol units—I continue to be impressed by this community's commitment to public safety.

Your support is most evident in the passage of the public safety levy that has enabled us to hire more staff to meet the demands of U.P.'s growing population and resulting policing needs.

In April 2024, we hired retired UPPD Sgt. Cory Shears as the City's Community Outreach Officer. His experience in law enforcement and in U.P. allowed him to "hit the ground running" to tackle lower-level nuisance issues, preventative park safety patrols and resources for people without housing.

Then last November, we brought on three additional patrol officers. With the addition of COO Shears and the new patrol officers, we are now able to deploy our resources in targeted ways that allow us to focus on career criminals in U.P. while also engaging in more proactive policing, including in our business corridors.

YOUR PUBLIC SAFETY DOLLARS AT WORK

During 2024, UPPD Reported:



7,636
DISPATCHED
CALLS



1,696
PROACTIVE
POLICING



1,074
TRAFFIC
STOPS



53
FELONY
ARRESTS



218
MISDEMEANOR
ARRESTS

Sgt. Ray Readwin also joined our team in November. He has 17 years of experience in law enforcement, including extensive work with juveniles, both as an investigator and school resource officer.

These five new positions provide additional coverage and have allowed us to significantly reduce the department's overtime costs.

But we're not done yet. We are working with the Pierce County Sheriff's Office to invest in the process to recruit, screen and train the four remaining voter-approved positions to our team. These will include three additional patrol officers and a dedicated traffic officer. Watch for updates on our hiring progress in future issues of the City's bi-weekly e-newsletter, Headlines.

One of the greatest benefits of working in a community the size of University Place is that we can truly establish relationships with the people we serve. So I know I speak for the entire department when I say we really do appreciate it when you share positive feedback on the work we are doing—or let us know that something concerns you. Let's keep those lines of communication open as we work together to make U.P. the best it can be.



U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke



Who's on First (Shift)?

Residents and business owners in U.P. are seeing a few new faces in the U.P. Police Department these days. Thanks to voter support for the 2023 public safety levy, the City has been able to bolster its 24/7 police services by hiring additional officers for each of its three shifts.

As of February 2025, the department now consists of one chief, two sergeants, 17 deputies and one non-commissioned Community Outreach Officer (COO). Together, the 20 commissioned officers represent a combined 225 years of law enforcement experience.

These officers bring a wealth of expertise in different areas of policing to University Place. Some have worked on the SWAT, Search and Rescue, and Marine Services units. Others have served as active shooter, firearms and patrol tactics instructors. Several are experienced investigators and have school resource officer experience.



Get to know the dedicated members of the UPPD who work every day and night to keep U.P. safe:

Day Shift - 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UPPD's seven officers on the day shift bring a combined 122 years of law enforcement experience to the community. They have expertise in a variety of specialized areas, including SWAT negotiations, active shooter response, crisis intervention, domestic violence investigations, K9 teams and hazardous device squads.



The team includes (pictured left to right) Deputy Chris Rather, Deputy School Liaison Officer Doug Maier, Sgt. David Rose, Sgt. Zach Bregel, Deputy Jason Smith and Deputy Greg McClendon. Not pictured, Deputy Brian Saechao.

DID YOU KNOW?

Officer Chris Rather on UPPD's dayshift is the department's most senior officer, having served in U.P. for more than 25 years.

Swing Shift - 2 p.m. to midnight

With a combined 62 years of law enforcement experience, the six members of UPPD's swing shift have targeted experience in areas such as traffic enforcement and DUIs, Search and Rescue, SWAT response and negotiation, and juvenile investigations.

Your swing shift officers are (pictured left to right) Deputy Ian Carpenter, Sgt. Ray Readwin, Deputy Sydney Davis, Deputy Tesla Turner and Deputy Brent Johnson. Not pictured, Deputy Jakob Yandle.



DID YOU KNOW?

Officers on UPPD's swing shift include three former collegiate athletes who competed in soccer, football and baseball, as well as a drummer. Next time you see them on duty, ask them about it!

Graveyard - 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

While the rest of us sleep, members of UPPD's graveyard shift are out patrolling our neighborhood streets and business areas. With a combined 27 years of law enforcement experience, the team responds to calls for service and also keeps a watchful eye on our community to help deter and prevent crime.

The team includes (pictured left to right) Deputy Rasheen Farrell, Deputy Tyler Reid, Deputy Dustin Markholt, Deputy Ali DeMarinis and Investigator Chris Coffin. Not pictured, Deputy Matthew Heath.



Deputy Reid transferred to the UPPD from the Juneau, Alaska Police Department where he had extensive experience in DUI patrols and arrests.

DID YOU KNOW?

Administrative Team

Every good leader needs a strong support staff to keep things running smoothly. UPPD Police Chief Pat Burke relies heavily on the experience, institutional knowledge and professionalism of Public Safety Director Jennifer Hales, Office Manager Leslie Wheeler and Community Outreach Officer Cory Shears to do much of the critical "behind the scenes" work that is essential to public safety in U.P.



Pictured left to right, Leslie Wheeler, Chief Patrick Burke, Cory Shears and Jennifer Hales

Jennifer Hales has been with the City for 27 years and manages many public safety programs and events in U.P. She also oversees emergency management training and response as well as all of the City's public safety contracts including police services, U.P. School District, the courts, Pierce County Corrections (jail) and Animal Control.



Office Manager Leslie Wheeler has been with the City of U.P. since its incorporation in 1995. She manages the front desk, sex offender verifications, protection orders and animal licensing. Patrol officers rely on her to order the supplies and equipment they need to do their jobs.

Community Outreach Officer (COO) Cory Shears retired from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office with nearly 30 years of service, including his last nine as a sergeant in U.P. His commitment to public safety made him the perfect fit for the City's new COO. Since assuming that role in April 2024, his impact has been immediate. COO

Shears has addressed 23 homeless encampments, 15 unhoused citizen contacts, 89 abandoned auto tags, 18 abandoned auto tows and 40 cases of graffiti/vandalism.

University Place has the largest individual neighborhood participation among all communities in Pierce County during National Night Out festivities with 40 registered neighborhoods.

DID YOU KNOW?



Got questions about Public Safety in University Place? Your law enforcement team is ready to respond. Send your questions to UPPublicSafety@cityofup.com.