



Captain's Corner

Welcome to Captain's Corner, your semi-regular column devoted to expanding awareness of your Neighborhood Watch program.

Do you wonder about safety in our northwest area neighborhoods, or Albuquerque in general? Do you ponder crime trends, and what the APD is doing to address them? Do you know who your APD contacts are, or how to engage them for suspicious activity or emergencies?

Del Webb Mirehaven is very fortunate to have compassionate residents that are engaged with the APD and regularly attend APD-sponsored meetings and conferences.

One recent event was the 2026 Spring Block Captains Conference on April 25. Del Webb Mirehaven had multiple attendees at this conference.

What follows are the APD Contact List provided at the conference, and conference notes provided by one attendee.

Del Webb Mirehaven



Neighborhood Watch

Del Webb Mirehaven Neighborhood Association

Contact information from the speakers, Area Commanders, and Crime Prevention Specialists is listed below:

Speakers

Deputy Chief Luke Languit, llanguit@cabq.gov, (505) 768-2200

Commander Jose Sanchez, Valley Area Command,
josesanchez@cabq.gov, (505) 761-8800

Lt. Lawrence Monte, Metro-Traffic Division, lmonte@cabq.gov

Acting Sgt. Elliott Padilla, elliottpadilla@cabq.gov

Area Commanders - <https://www.cabq.gov/police/area-commands>

Foothills: Richard Whitten, rwhitten@cabq.gov, (505) 332-5240

Northeast: Amy Sedler, aisedler@cabq.gov, (505) 823-4455

Southeast: Josh Richards, jrichards@cabq.gov, (505) 256-2050

University: Ray Del Greco, rdelgreco@cabq.gov, (505) 768-4994

Valley: Jose Sanchez, josesanchez@cabq.gov, (505) 761-8800

Northwest: Christopher Patterson, cpatterson@cabq.gov, (505) 768-4850

Southwest: Rene Barraza, rbarraza@cabq.gov, (505) 831-4705

Crime Prevention Specialists -

<https://www.cabq.gov/police/crimeprevention-safety/crime-prevention-personnel>

Foothills: Samantha Martinez, samanthaamartinez@cabq.gov, (505) 768-2598

Northeast: Angie Casias, acasias@cabq.gov, (505) 823-4455

Southeast: Laura Kuehn, lkuehn@cabq.gov, (505) 768-2006

University: Laura Kuehn, lkuehn@cabq.gov, (505) 768-2006

Valley: Brittany Martinez, brimartinez@cabq.gov, (505) 761-8805

Northwest: Pete Gelabert, pgelabert@cabq.gov, (505) 768-4873

Southwest: Ron Kemp, rkemp@cabq.gov, (505) 831-4705

Spring Block Captain Conference

Summary for Community Members

This document summarizes key points from the Spring Block Captain Conference featuring presentations from DC Languit, Commander Sanchez, Motors Division, and the Office of Emergency Management. Below is a breakdown of topics discussed, updated statistics, and actions you can take in your community.

Crime Statistics & Positive Trends

2024-2025 Crime Data

- All crime categories are DOWN year-over-year
- Homicide clearance rate: 100%
- 43 additional officers added to field operations

Perception of Crime

- Managing perception of crime is a priority for 2026 – even as crime statistics improve, community perception remains important

Addressing Community Issues

Not All Problems Are Police Problems

A key takeaway from the conference: the police department works with other city departments and resources to address community challenges. If you report an issue:

- Police will assess whether it's a law enforcement issue or a community/social services issue
- They will connect you with appropriate resources (ACS, health services, etc.) when applicable
- Data drives 90% of police department decisions; community input is the remaining 10%

Unhoused Community

- Police will enforce ordinances if unhoused individuals are violating city rules
- When possible, police will refer individuals to Albuquerque Community Services (ACS) for deeper support

Auto Theft & Vehicle Security

Where Theft Is Happening

- Southeast (SE) Albuquerque has the highest auto theft rate

Firearms Stolen from Vehicles

- 7 firearms were stolen from vehicles in a single week
- Thieves are typically individuals already engaged in other criminal activity

What's Working to Reduce Theft

- Technology: Doorbell cameras, License Plate Readers (LPRs), and bait cars
- Bait cars are monitored closely and followed to safe locations if a thief is caught
- Building community relationships with officers – knowing your local area commander (AC) and providing information about suspicious vehicles, times, and patterns

How to Help

- Report suspicious activity to your local Area Commander
- Provide details: vehicle descriptions, times of activity, people involved
- Always lock your car and remove firearms, valuables, and other targets

Motorcycle Racing & Street Racing

What Constitutes Racing

- 'Meet-ups' with motorcycles are not classified as racing
- Racing and street racing incidents begin when high-speed driving or racing occurs

Enforcement & Penalties

- Noise ordinance enforced from 10 PM on weekdays
- Citations are issued to both racers and spectators
- Spectators face up to a \$500 fine
- 2025: 700 citations issued
- 2026: 1,750 citations issued (due to increased staffing)

Hotspot Times

- Friday, Saturday, and sometimes Sunday evenings/nights

Enforcement Tools

- Undercover (UC) officers focus on bad driving violations and speeding
- Marked units serve as a deterrent
- License Plate Readers (LPRs) can identify vehicles even without visible plates
- Air support is used for monitoring
- Social media helps police stay aware of planned racing events
- Vehicles can be towed for no insurance or no license (but not for modifications alone)

How to Report

- Call in when you hear or see racing
- If safe, try to capture the license plate number

Special Cases

- E-bikes: An ordinance is being developed by the city council
- Motorcycles are not permitted to lane split

Community Emergency Preparedness

CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team)

- All training is FREE
- 8-hour full training or 4-hour training on your choice of topic
- Training available at the neighborhood level
- Covers response to emergencies such as fires **Collaboration &**

Coordination

- Office of Emergency Management maintains a physical Collaboration and Coordination Center
- Partnership with the Department of Homeland Security **Upcoming**

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer event at the Albuquerque Museum - Thursday, 2-5 PM

What You Can Do

- Attend free CERT training to prepare for emergencies
- Build relationships with your local area commander and police officers
- Report suspicious activity using specific details: vehicles, times, people

- Secure your vehicle: lock doors, remove valuables, don't leave firearms unattended
- Report racing, speeding, and street activity when you witness it
- Stay informed through police community newsletters and meetings

Together, community awareness and police partnerships create safer neighborhoods.