

Second District- Officer Kevin Wheeler

Officer Kevin Wheeler began his career with the New Orleans Police Department in December 2007, as a lateral officer from the Saint Louis, MO area.

Upon completion of the New Orleans police Department's Lateral Police Academy Officer Wheeler began his assignment in the 6th district, where he made several arrest for weapons and narcotics violations. Officer Wheeler then transferred to the 4th district where he worked on the second watch, task force. While in the fourth district Officer Wheeler made numerous arrests of subjects carrying weapons illegally, armed robbery suspects, carjackers, and burglars.

In the summer of 2008, Officer Wheeler received a report of a theft. Officer Wheeler learned the victim, a ten year old child, was at a local basketball court, when two teens took his basketball from him and refused to give it back. Officer Wheeler canvassed the area for the subjects, however met with negative results. Officer Wheeler purchased a basketball from a local sporting goods store and gave the victim the purchased basketball the next day.

While on patrol in the fall of 2008, Officer Wheeler spotted a stolen vehicle used in a drive by shooting/attempted murder. Officer Wheeler pursued the vehicle, however he disengaged as the vehicle fled at a high speed towards a school zone, as school was letting out. Just as Officer Wheeler disengaged the vehicle the driver lost control of the vehicle and struck several parked vehicles. Officer Wheeler pursued the driver on foot through an abandoned housing complex. During the foot pursuit Officer Wheeler observed the subject remove a firearm attempt to raise the weapon. Officer Wheeler fired at the subject, missing him. Officer Wheeler was able to positively identify the subject, who was charged for his crimes. The subject had prior arrest for aggravated assault on a police officer with a firearm, and attempted murder.

In the winter of 2008, at or about 3:00 A.M, while off duty, Officer Wheeler observed a young child attempting to cross Napoleon Avenue in a downtown direction on Freret Street. Officer Wheeler observed the child was only wearing a diaper and t-shirt, and the weather was cold. Fearing the child would get hurt or was lost he stopped to investigate. Officer Wheeler provided the child with his jacket and had him sit in his vehicle to stay warm. Officer Wheeler contacted NOPD Dispatch, who sent a patrol car to handle the incident. Officer Wheeler later learned the child was autistic and had wandered out of his families' residence while they slept.

While on patrol in the spring of 2009, Officer Wheeler spotted a vehicle taken in a carjacking one day prior. Officer Wheeler pursued the vehicle and lost sight of it due to its speeds. Moments later Sgt. Laurent spotted the vehicle and pursued it till it crashed. Officers were able to apprehend the passenger, who implicated the driver. Both subjects were charged with carjacking in this case.

While on patrol in July 2009, Officer Wheeler and Officer Laycock attempted to stop two subjects who were on foot in an area that experienced an increase of auto thefts. One subject stopped, and the other fled on foot, while clutching his waistband. Officer Wheeler pursued the subject and cut his path off. Once the subject observed Officer Wheeler in the rear yard of a residence he began to level a rifle at officer wheeler. Officer Wheeler fired his weapon, killing the subject. It

was later learned the deceased subject was a person of interest in a homicide in which shots were fired into a crowd attending a graduation party.

Shortly after this incident Officer Wheeler transferred to the 2nd district in September 2009. While in the 2nd District Officer Wheeler was paired up with several officers who were just released from their field training program to motivate and guide them. While in the 2nd District Officer Wheeler arrested over thirty subjects for illegally carrying firearms, seizing over forty firearms and the cases were prosecuted in Orleans parish criminal district court. Officer Wheeler has also arrested numerous subjects for burglary, possession of a stolen auto, and possession of stolen firearms. Several of Officer Wheeler's arrest linked several subjects to armed robberies, thefts, and other crimes.

While on patrol in 2010, Officers Wheeler and Devorak responded to a report of a carjacking that had just occurred. While canvassing the area officers spotted the vehicle and followed it. While waiting for back up the suspect vehicle came to a stop and the driver began to exit the vehicle. Officer Wheeler and Devorak were able to take the suspect into custody without incident, and recover the firearm used.

In the spring of 2010 Officers Wheeler and Devorak responded to a report of a subject flourishing a firearm. Upon arrival officers located the subject and took him into custody. The officers discovered the firearm in the subject's possession was a replica firearm. The officers arrested the subject and transported him to in-take. While returning from logging the replica firearm officers spotted a vehicle, which was taken in an armed robbery moment's prior. The officers pursued the vehicle until the occupants stopped and fled on foot. As Officer Wheeler attempted to pursue one subject over a fence the subject produced a firearm and began to level it towards him and his partner, who was about to jump the fence. Officer Wheeler fired his weapon at the subject, missing, causing him to lose balance. The subjects made good their escape.

In the summer of 2010 Officers Wheeler and Devorak responded to a report of a mentally disturbed subject. Upon arrival officers located the subject who had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and was not taking his medication. The subject was fearful of the police and believed people were after him. Officer Wheeler and his partner were able to calm the subject and take him into custody without incident. It was later learned the subject had recently been released from a state mental health facility for two counts of murder. The officers transported the subject to the hospital for a mental evaluation. Officer Wheeler recently learned the subject is back on his medication, seeing a psychologist on a regular basis, and attending college.

While on patrol in the summer of 2010 Officers Wheeler and Devorak conducted a stop of a suspicious vehicle. During the course of their investigation one subject fled with a firearm. Once officers were able to take the subjects into custody they discovered property on the subjects that was taken in an armed robbery earlier in the morning. The arrested subjects were identified as the perpetrators' of the robbery.

In the summer of 2010 Officers Wheeler and Devorak spotted a reported stolen vehicle. The officers pursued the vehicle through the second district, until the vehicle crashed. The officers

were able to establish a perimeter and with the assistance of canine, two out of three subjects were apprehended, and one firearm was recovered.

While on patrol in October 2010 Officers Wheeler and Devorak heard units broadcasting their intentions to stop a vehicle fleeing from a homicide. Officer Wheeler and his partner spotted the vehicle and pursued it at high speeds through the second and sixth district, till the driver lost control and crashed into a residence. Once the vehicle came to a stop the officers pursued the occupants. The subject Officer Wheeler pursued removed a firearm from his waistband and stumble, causing him to drop the weapon. As the subject attempted to pick up the weapon and flee again Officer Wheeler used his TASER to stop the subject and take him into custody. The officers were able to apprehend two out of three subjects involved at the time, and recover three firearms used in the murder.

During Mardi Gras 2011 Officer Wheeler responded to a call for a suspicious person who was wanted for a murder. Upon arrival Officer Wheeler observed two subjects standing next to a parked vehicle. Officer Wheeler observed one subject discard a firearm into the parked vehicle occupied by a young child, and flee the area. Fearing the young child would get a hold of the weapon and accidentally harm himself Officer Wheeler elected to remain with the vehicle and retrieve the weapon. Officer Wheeler broadcasted his observations and the subjects' direction of flight. Both subjects were detained moments later. Officers learned both subjects were wanted for attempted murder and armed robbery. Officer Wheeler later learned the firearm discarded was stolen during a carjacking. The subject was later identified and charged with the carjacking.

In the spring of 2011 Officers Wheeler, Sanjurjo, and several Second District officers elected to conduct an investigation of a narcotics sales/weapons violations due to numerous complaints received by residents. Officer Wheeler and assisting officers set up a perimeter around the area the subjects were known to flee. Officers entered the area and the subjects fled. Officer Wheeler observed three subjects armed fleeing through a back yard, and observed the subjects discard their firearms. The officers were able to arrest two out of three subjects and recovered all three weapons, including a sub-machine pistol. The two arrested subjects pled guilty in Federal Court to weapons violations.

In the summer of 2011 Officer Wheeler responded to a report of a triple shooting that resulted in a homicide. While assisting officers on scene Officer Wheeler canvassed the area. Officer Wheeler was able to locate a concerned citizen who informed him one of the subjects shot was indeed the perpetrator of the murder. Officer Wheeler passed along this information, which resulted in an arrest and indictment of the suspect.

In the summer of 2011 Officers Wheeler and Sanjurjo attempted to stop a subject on a bicycle for a traffic violation. The subject fled from the officers he discarded a clear plastic bag containing numerous pieces of individually wrapped pieces of crack cocaine (approximately four grams). The subject was taken into custody as he attempted to flee, again. Officer Wheeler obtained a search warrant for the arrested subjects' residence. With the assistance of Officer Sanjurjo and other officers, Officer Wheeler served the search warrant. The officers recovered a stolen shotgun that was altered (sawed off), approximately five grams of crack cocaine, and one thousand dollars cash.

In the summer of 2011 Officer Wheeler observed a subject riding a bicycle that fit the description of one of two bicycles stolen during a burglary. Officer Wheeler discovered the bicycle was indeed the stolen bicycle. Officer Wheeler also learned the arrested subject's brother was arrested on the victim's other bicycle a few weeks prior. Officer Wheeler was able to return the bicycle to the victim and instructed her on how to retrieve her other bicycle. Officer Wheeler obtained a warrant for the second subject's arrest.

In the summer of 2011 Officer Wheeler was conducting an investigation of a vehicle illegally parked in a marked handicapped spot. During the course of his investigation the passenger of the vehicle armed himself with a firearm loaded with an extended magazine. Officer Wheeler pursued the subject on foot. During the foot pursuit the subject turned and pointed the firearm at Officer Wheeler, however the subject did not or could not fire the weapon and immediately charged the weapon by racking the weapons slide. Fearing for his safety officer Wheeler fired his weapon. The subject discarded his firearm and made good his escape. Responding officers located the subject. The subject was a member of a New Orleans street gang known for narcotics sales, shootings, and homicides.

In the fall of 2011 Officer Wheeler responded to a call of a subject who sent his estranged wife a cell phone text photo of him with a firearm in his mouth. The caller could only provide minimal information of her estranged husband's residence. Officer Wheeler and responding officers canvassed the area for the residence however were unable to locate it. As Officer Wheeler left the area he located the residence. Officer Wheeler and responding officers knocked on the door and met with the male subject who sent the photo. Officer Wheeler took the subject into protective custody and confiscated two loaded firearms located next to where the subject was sleeping. The subject was transported to the hospital for mental evaluation. The subject's estranged wife later informed Officer Wheeler her estranged husband mentioned wanting to commit suicide due to their pending divorce.

Officer Wheeler received officer of the month for the months of March, April, and October 2010, officer of the first and second quarter of 2010, as well as officer of the first quarter 2011.

In June 2010 Officer Wheeler received the outstanding law enforcement award from the Victim and Citizens Against Crime Inc, and the Fraternal Order of Police Commander's Choice award in April 2011.