

New drug task force

Written by Sean Green
Tuesday, 02 October 2012 16:20 -

Bossier City Police, Bossier Sheriff's Office join forces to fight narcotics

As Bossier neighborhoods turned on their porch lights and spent an evening outdoors with officers and deputies during National Night Out Tuesday, the one-day-old joint drug task force was working in the spirit of the event.

The Bossier Sheriff's Office and Bossier City Police Department joined forces this Monday to create the Bossier Combined Narcotics Task Force to combat illegal drug activity throughout the parish.

This cooperative endeavor agreement between the Bossier Sheriff's Office and the City of Bossier City will combine the narcotics task force enforcement efforts of the two agencies into one organization to serve all of Bossier Parish.

"With this agreement, we are sending a clear message to those who wish to engage in the possession, manufacture, distribution or smuggling of illegal drugs anywhere in the parish. You will get caught, and you will go to jail," said Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington. "(BCPD) Chief (Shane) McWilliams and I are committed to that end, and this partnership will only strengthen that resolve."

"Combining the resources of our agencies will be a benefit to the citizens of Bossier," said Bossier City Chief of Police Shane McWilliams. "I share Sheriff Whittington's commitment to this enforcement approach and know that similar partnerships have been very successful in targeting illegal narcotics activity in other jurisdictions across the nation. We expect to see those same results."

One change the Bossier City Police Department will see with this agreement is narcotics officers are now commissioned by Sheriff Whittington to investigate and make arrests in drug cases within Bossier Parish.

New drug task force

Written by Sean Green

Tuesday, 02 October 2012 16:20 -

Prior to the merger, narcotics teams would work their cases — police within the city and deputies outside of the city — but narcotics agents would often see the investigations overlap.

Another change for both agencies is deputies and police officers now have additional resources at their disposal to more efficiently investigate narcotics cases throughout the city and parish by sharing information and intelligence.

The intention is this will create a thorough investigation and allow swift action against illegal drug activity across Bossier Parish.

As National Night Out intends to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and strengthen law enforcement-neighborhood partnerships, this new task force shows the level of cooperation among local law enforcement officials to protect their communities.

“This drug enforcement partnership is simply two law enforcement agencies combining their assets to more effectively fight a common cause — the war on drugs,” said Mark Natale, public information officer for Bossier City Police.

In 2011, the Bossier City Police Department made 1,983 adult drug arrests and 42 drug arrests involving juveniles.

In 2011, the Bossier Sheriff’s Office made 423 adult arrests and 44 juveniles.

So far in 2012, BSO has arrested 282 adults and 18 juveniles.

However, both agencies were quick to note that this new task force is not a reaction to a growing problem, just a proactive step.

New drug task force

Written by Sean Green

Tuesday, 02 October 2012 16:20 -

“While both agencies realize that Bossier has its share of illegal drug activity like any area in the country, the merger between the Bossier Sheriff’s Office and the Bossier City Police Department is not in response to a growing drug problem, but rather better utilization of law enforcement resources,” said Bill Davis, Bossier Sheriff’s public information officer.