



The Blotter

S E R V I C E I S J O B O N E

Message From Chief Williams



I am truly grateful to the people of Riviera Beach and want to thank them for their cooperation with our efforts to fight crime in our city. Their participation

is reflected in the dramatic drop in crime we have experienced in Riviera Beach.

Also, as I've said before, we are blessed to have a great executive staff and officers on the street who are committed to making a difference. Everyone is doing their part. Code Enforcement has even demonstrated how significant their role is in fighting crime. (See the Code Enforcement article in this edition.)

Thanks to a grant for more police officers, we are pleased to announce new efforts to address the school safety issues that have become a national priority. We well understand that by solving the problems at this level, our children will be able to focus their energies on education today, and not become problems on the street tomorrow.

Follow me on twitter:
[@ChiefCWilliams](#)

To be on The Blotter's mailing list, send your request to:
police@rivierabch.com.

Be safe! Remember, if you see something, say something.

Riviera Beach Continues to Make Significant Strides, Crime Down 52%

Could Not Have Done It without Help from Residents and RBPd Community Partnerships

Crime in Riviera Beach is down 52 percent over the last eight years. This dramatic drop in crime is due in large part to RBPd's technology-based, community-oriented policing (TOP) program, which began in 2006.

"At the core of the program is our customer-service approach to policing, which places our service to Riviera Beach residents, business operators and visitors at the forefront of everything we do as a police department," said Chief Williams. "This has greatly increased police / community relations and has played a major role in decreasing crime, through community participation."

The increase in community participation with RBPd is reflected in a greater number of residents reporting crimes and suspicious activities; RBPd partnerships with Homeowner Associations - giving RBPd greater access to their properties; and, cooperation

between RBPd and owners of private security cameras, which has led to the development of the department's Real-Time Crime Center with a network of over 200 private / public cameras, strategically located citywide.

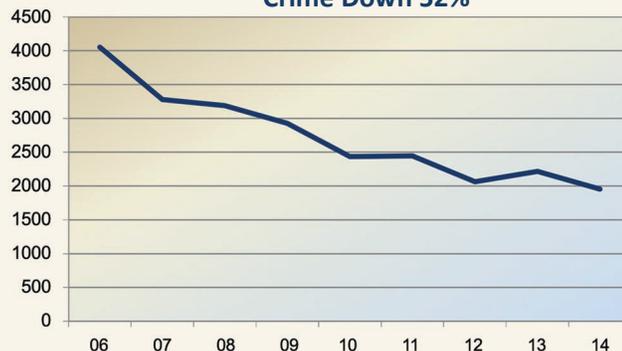
Other key elements of the TOP program include:

- District Based Policing, which means that officers are permanently assigned to work in a specific district and are familiar with the residents and businesses in their district
- Transformation of the RBPd Organizational Culture to one that values education / training and customer service
- Focus on utilizing cutting edge crime-fighting technology
- Establishment of public / private partnerships, including retail outlets as well as many other business entities and organizations. ■

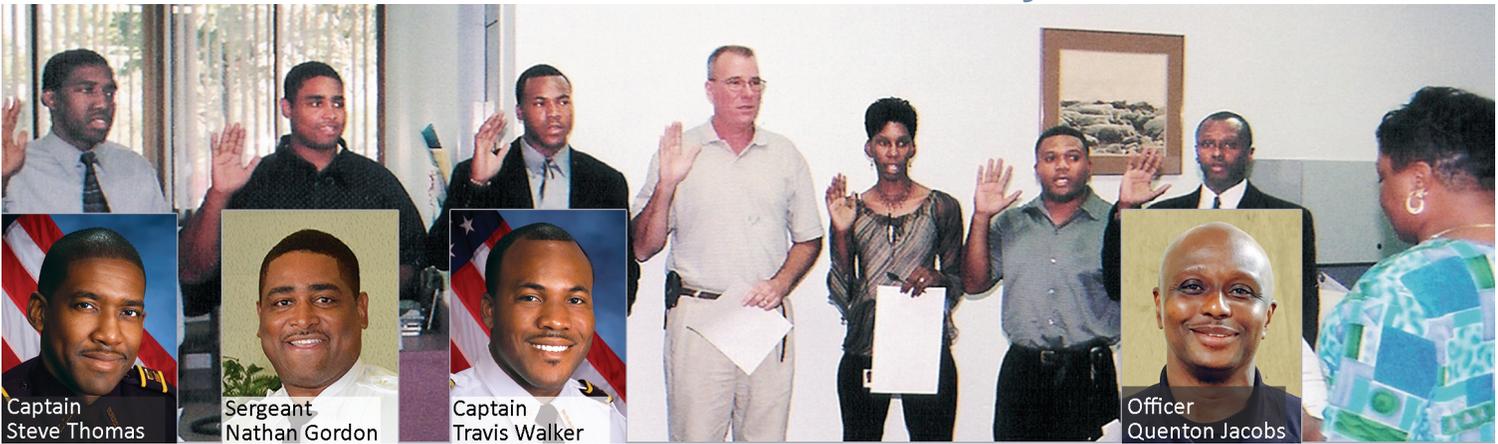
Crime Reports

The crimes that are included in the 52 percent drop are crimes that make up the Crime Index of the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report. The Crime Index report combines eight different types of criminal offenses – willful homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny (over \$50), motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Riviera Beach Eight-Year Crime Report
Crime Down 52%



13 Years Later - Where are They Now



On September 3, 2002, seven recruits (shown in the photograph above) were sworn in as police officers of the Riviera Beach Police Department. This was the first group of officers sworn in under Chief Williams, who also came on board in 2002. Four of the seven are still members of RBPD and all are recognized as highly skilled law

enforcement professionals.

Pictured above, left to right: Steve Thomas (Palm Beach County's 2011 Officer of the Year) is a Captain – over Support Services and serves on the Special Response Team (SRT); Nathan Gordon is a Sergeant - over road patrol in district three; Travis Walker is a

Captain – over specialized units and serves on the SRT; Quenton Jacobs is an Officer – community-oriented policing specialist, assigned to the Thousand Oaks Homeowners Association.

“I couldn’t be more proud of them,” said Chief Williams. ■

Code Enforcement Making Daily Strides to Improve the City

Flashing lights and sirens often serve as a reminder that police, fire, and EMS departments are on the job keeping us safe. The Code Enforcement Division is not as obvious, but they are also on the job promoting safe and well-kept communities.

In general, the Riviera Beach Code Enforcement Division enforces the city’s property maintenance standards and standards related to health and safety nuisances. “Property upkeep is not just a matter of appearance for the sake of appearance, it is also an indication that residents care about what happens in their neighborhood,” said Code Administrator Ms. Natalie Moore, Esq. “In other words, you are less likely to see criminal activity operating out of well-maintained communities.”

Code Enforcement administers the city’s nuisance abatement process. This is where civil penalties are imposed on property owners that have

had repeated arrests (drug sales, prostitution, stolen property, etc.) on their property. According to Ms. Moore, these properties are usually not well maintained, so the owner is also hit with citations for code violations.

“Working in partnership with the police, we’ve been successful in shutting down certain convenient stores through our nuisance abatement process,” said Ms. Moore. “In other instances, we reached agreements with retailers to install security cameras, enabling police to observe activities on their property.”

The Riviera Beach Code Enforcement Division has nine very dedicated professionals,

including five inspectors, two code technicians, a code field supervisor, and the code administrator, the division’s leader. (See the group photograph below.)

All five field inspectors are certified by the Florida Association of Code Enforcement. Each inspector is assigned to one of the city’s five zones. As part of their daily routine, they check their zones, street-by-street, *(Continued on page 3)*



Riviera Beach Code Enforcement, left to right - Back Row: Insp. James Easley, Insp. Karen Stokes, Insp. Jean-Louis “Joe” Plante, Insp. John Johnson, Insp. Norman Williams; Front Row: Code Technician Jewel Driver, Code Administrator Natalie Moore, Esq., Code Field Supervisor Cheryl Bostic, Code Technician Ernestine DeGale

Chief Williams - 2015 ASIS Chief of The Year



Chief Clarence Williams is the recipient of the “2015 ASIS Chief of The Year” award from the Palm Beach Chapter of ASIS International. The Palm Beach Chapter includes Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. All types of law enforcement entities – police, sheriff, FBI, DEA, US Marshals, etc. within the chapter are eligible for the award.

ASIS International, founded in 1955 and now with 234 chapters worldwide, is the leading organization for security professionals. ■

WELCOME NEW RBPB PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kimberly Boyle	Police Officer
Jethro Estavien	Police Officer
Michael Lopez	Police Officer

(Code Enforcement continued)

looking for code violations – infractions of city codes / ordinances consistent with Florida Statute 162. They work closely with neighborhood groups in their zones to resolve issues.

Additionally, the inspectors are required to follow up on all code violation complaints within two business days. The Code Enforcement Division works closely with homeowners and neighborhood associations to address every code violation in their areas.

According to Florida Statute 162, code violators must be given a ‘reasonable time’ to correct the problem(s). That deadline can be extended upon receiving a reasonable request for additional time. Extension applications are available on the City’s website or at the Code Enforcement office.

Monthly, the inspectors attend Code Enforcement hearings and present

cases of property owners who have not corrected violations despite previous notifications and warnings. “The greatest challenge in this area is absentee landlords, particularly those who live out of the city,” said Ms. Moore. Citizens are welcome to attend the hearings, which are held in council chambers at City Hall.

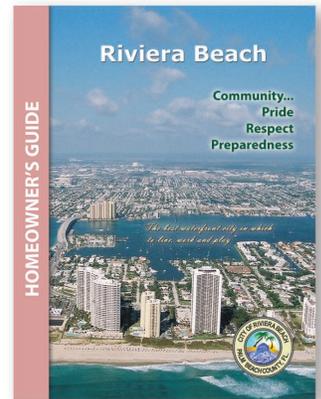
As one can imagine, there is an enormous amount of paperwork involved with code enforcement. Administrative support that keeps things moving smoothly is provided by the code technicians.

For property owners who qualify (meeting income guidelines), there is assistance through the City, CRA and various nonprofit agencies to help correct their code violations. The Solid Waste Authority provides free paint.

Code Enforcement has just completed their new 36-page homeowner’s guide,

designed to provide property owners with information on a variety of topics - city rules and regulations, Code Enforcement operations, general how-to tips on maintaining property, hurricane preparedness, and home fire safety tips. The guide also includes a listing of 37 frequently called numbers in Riviera Beach.

The homeowner’s guide will be available in August 2015. You will be able to pick up a copy of the book at Code Enforcement, City Hall, at RBPB Headquarters and through your homeowners association. ■



Admirable Attempt to Save Drowning Victim

On June 9, RBPB police were dispatched to a lake at Indian Trace. A 7-year-old boy had been seen go under water, but did not resurface. Residents searched the water, but were unable to find him.

The *first responders* on the scene were Detective B. Jackson, Officer K. Jones and Officer O. Prieto. All three

responders went into the water up to their necks and found the boy. They performed C.P.R. until paramedics arrived.

Unfortunately, the boy did not survive. However, we applaud Jackson, Jones, and Prieto for their heroic actions. They will be formally recognized at an upcoming City Council meeting. ■



Officer Jones



Detective Jackson



Officer Prieto

Recruiting to the Ranks of Riviera Beach City's Finest



Assistant Chief
Michael Madden

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the Riviera Beach Police Department began a recruitment campaign to fill 13 police positions. Filling these positions will bring RBPD's police count to 119.

Of the 13 positions to be filled, five are new positions. These new positions were made possible by a FY2014 COPS Hiring Grant, which RBPD utilized to fund School Resource Officers (SROs) - four officers and one sergeant.

The SRO program addresses the issue of school safety, a national priority in the law enforcement community. The program will incorporate drug education, and gang deterrence strategies in the city's seven public and four private school settings. Proactive bullying prevention is another key component of the program because instances of bullying in Riviera Beach public schools is twice the national average.

RBPD's recruiting efforts moved into high gear in January with the production of recruitment posters and brochures. These materials were sent to all police academies in Florida, regional

colleges and universities, and posted on social media sites to provide an overview of police opportunities at RBPD and to refer readers to www.rivierabch.com/PoliceCareers for more detailed information.

"We are not just looking for qualified applicants, we are looking for the best of the best," said Assistant Chief Michael Madden. "We want personnel with a high-level of commitment to service; who are team oriented; self-motivated; and who embrace technology. We are looking for 'good people' - people who genuinely care about the wellbeing of others."

RBPD hired Promotional Consulting Unlimited that specializes in screening and assessing the most suitable law enforcement candidates, to help with our screening process. "In addition to the skill sets and personality traits that we are looking for, our consultant is keenly aware of our commitment to diversity," said Assistant Chief Madden. "We are

an agency that reflects the community we serve."

As part of the search, RBPD is scheduled to participate in nine job/career fairs this year. Colleges,

universities and the military are key areas of focus. Pictured above are Detective Harold

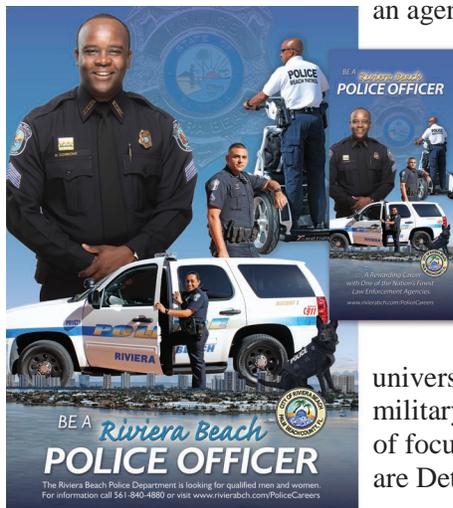
Elmore and Sergeant Glen Meyer at a 'Recruit Military' job fair in Miami.



RBPD officers are also given the opportunity to participate in the recruiting process. If an officer refers a candidate to the department and the candidate is hired and makes it through the probation period, the referring officer receives \$500.

After selection through the screening process, applicants are interviewed, a background check is done, and they take a civil service exam. The last step in the hiring process is becoming a recruit in the Palm Beach State College's Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Training program.

During the six month training period, recruits receive their entry level salary less 5 percent. "While our recruits are in the academy, our command staff begins making them feel at home almost immediately," said Assistant Chief Madden. "We often visit our recruits and have private lunches with them in the academy conference room to know them better, check on their progress and address any questions they may have about the department." ■



Riviera Beach Police Department

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phone us

561-845-4128

follow us

Instagram: @Rivierabeachpolice

visit us

www.rivierabch.com/police

friend us

Facebook: Riviera Beach Police Department

stop in and see us

Chief's Night In, every Tuesday
5:00 - 7:00 pm
600 West Blue Heron Blvd.
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

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Twitter: @RivieraBeachPd

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