



# The Blotter

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

## Message From Chief Williams



It's a great pleasure to be a part of the 2014 National League of Cities Conference and to have the opportunity to talk about my

City, Riviera Beach, Florida. Many call Riviera Beach a diamond in the rough. I just call it a diamond.

RBPD and our many community partners have been successful in significantly reducing crime in our City. Our model for success is one that I believe will work in most municipalities.

In this special edition of the RBPD newsletter, *The Blotter*, you will find information that could be helpful for other cities in their efforts to reduce crime.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us. Our contact information is on the back page of *The Blotter*.

You can also follow me on twitter: @Chiefcwilliams

If you would like to be on *The Blotter's* mailing list, send your request to [police@rivierabch.com](mailto:police@rivierabch.com)

Be safe!

## Riviera Beach Crime Down 49%

Incorporated: 1922  
Area: 9.8 sq. miles  
Population: 47,300\*  
Racial Makeup:  
67.8% African American  
25.8% White  
4.5% Hispanic or Latino  
Unemployment: 7.9% (July, 2014)  
Median Household Income: \$28,715  
29.6% of Families below Poverty Line

\*Includes seasonal population

Riviera Beach is a City with residential properties ranging in value from fifty thousand dollars up to several million dollars. Most of the more expensive properties are situated along the easterly side of the City, in the area known as Singer Island - named after Palm Beach developer Paris Singer, son of Singer Sewing Machine magnate, Isaac Singer.

Through the 80's and 90's, Riviera Beach experienced high crime in many areas of the City. Criminals seemed to claim certain areas of the City that were once safe havens.

### Dramatic Drop in Crime

Over the last six years, crime in Riviera Beach has gone down 49 percent. Both business operators and citizens have commented on the noticeable difference on the streets. This success story is due to the Riviera Beach Police Department's blend of traditional law

enforcement methods with the latest technology. The Department's district-based, problem-solving policing program also plays a key role.

RBPD coined and adopted the term, Technology Oriented Policing (TOP), to describe its method of policing.

TOP integrates the latest crime-fighting technology with a well designed and implemented Community Oriented Policing (COP) program.

TOP is a policing strategy and philosophy based on the idea that technological applications, procedures, methods, and knowledge can help prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime within a community.

Grants for technology, totaling \$1.625 million, have helped the Department create a cost-effective, master plan for tackling crime while also keeping pace with the expanding role of law enforcement.

(Continued on page 2)

## Key Milestones

**2002** - RBPB began its customer service approach to policing.

**2005** - RBPB implemented a major technology pilot project consisting of a wireless broadband network and four wireless MESH security cameras deployed in local hotspots.

**2006** - RBPB created geographic police districts and district-based, problem-solving policing.

**2010** - RBPB deployed ShotSpotter

**2010** - RBPB lost 10 percent of its police officers (from 127 to 114) due to the recession. Despite the loss of personnel, Riviera Beach continued to see a double-digit percentage drop in crime.

**2012** - RBPB established the Real-Time Crime Center.

## Customer Service Focus

Clarence D. Williams, III became Chief of the Riviera Beach Police Department in February of 2002. From his first day on the job, Chief Williams emphasized to all on his staff that first and foremost they are public servants. As a daily reminder, Chief Williams added "*Service is Job One*" into the Department's mission statement and placed this phrase on the rear bumper of every official police vehicle.



"In the days of neighborhood foot patrols, police officers had daily, face-to-face contact with people in the community," Chief Williams said. "Too often today, we move through communities in our 'boxes' (police cars), which makes it almost impossible to establish

positive relationships with people in the community. That makes it hard for officers to remember that the average person they meet is a law abiding citizen who deserves to be treated the way they themselves would like to be treated."

"When they're sitting in their 'boxes,' officers tend to lose the smile, the neighborly wave, the friendly hello and the cordial demeanor that I remember when I was growing up," the Chief said. "The result is poor community relations, lack of trust and eroding community involvement."

According to Chief Williams, traditional police training is part of the problem. "Approximately 90 percent of police training covers what officers do 10 percent of the time – dealing with crime; only 10 percent of that training covers what they do 90 percent of the time – interacting with decent, law abiding citizens."

Chief Williams and his executive team make themselves available to members of the community by participating in as many community activities as possible. RBPB is in partnership with over 50 community organizations. Chief Williams also has two outreach programs to personally meet with individuals and groups. One of these programs, "Chief's Night In," is held every Tuesday from 5 to 7 pm, when the Chief or members of his executive team

If you've called the Riviera Beach Police Department within the last five years, you've heard, regardless of who answers the phone, "Good morning/afternoon/evening, Riviera Beach Police Department, how may I provide you with outstanding service?"

meet individually with all who attend.

The other outreach program is "Chief on the Move." Chief Williams takes the Mobile Command Center for preannounced visits to many of the City's neighborhoods. Residents are able to meet with the Chief during these visits and can also tour the Mobile Command Center and learn about the crime-fighting technology used by the RBPB.

## RBPB Forms Police Districts

A major organizational shift occurred in 2006 with the creation of geographic police districts and district-based, problem-solving policing. District Commanders were established and each were held accountable for delivering police services tailored to the needs of their geographical third of the City.

Officers and supervisors were also assigned to one of the three police districts where long-term assignments and line-level accountability became the practice. Now, officers know their neighborhoods and have established personal relationships with the people in their areas.

The primary goals:

- Improve the quality of life experienced in geographically divided neighborhoods
- Provide the necessary services, identified by the community as important, to prevent crime, to reduce fear, and to enforce the law while protecting every individual's freedoms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution
- Maintain a balanced approach between the needs of residential neighborhoods and the needs of commercial businesses.

(Continued on page 3)

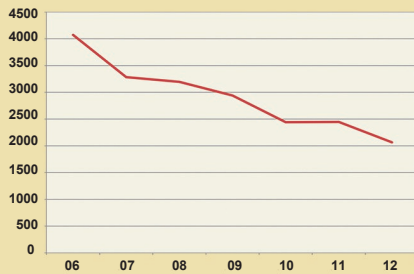


# Riviera Beach Crime Reduction Outpaced the State

Crime is down significantly, in terms of both numbers and how the streets look and feel. The reduction of crime in Riviera Beach has outpaced the rate of reduction at the state level. From 2006 to 2012, crime in Riviera Beach has dropped 49.1 percent, an average decrease of 10.3 percent per year.

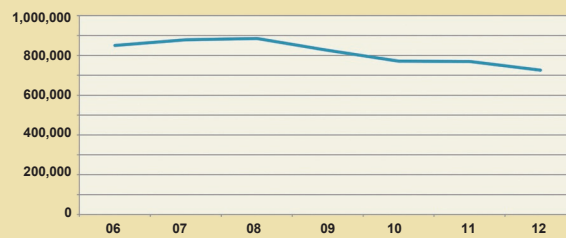
During the same period, from 2006 to 2012, crime for the State of Florida dropped 14.6 percent, an average decrease of 2.5 percent per year. The Riviera Beach and state crime statistics are shown on the charts below.

**Riviera Beach Index Crime**



Year	Total Offenses
2006	4052
2007	3279
2008	3187
2009	2925
2010	2435
2011	2446
2012	2064

**State of Florida Index Crime**



Year	Total Offenses
2006	849,879
2007	878,227
2008	885,199
2009	825,551
2010	771,004
2011	769,399
2012	725,940

## Technology

“For TOP to work, strong police / community relations must be in place,” said Chief Williams. “You have to have the confidence and support of your community. Also, police technology has to meet the needs of the communities it serves. Some of our technology requires the participation of our community partners, both businesses and residents.”

In 2005, the Riviera Beach Police Department deployed its first ‘new’ technology – a major technology pilot program that consisted of a wireless broadband network and four wireless MESH security cameras deployed in local hotspots. The pilot proved to the City’s police officers that real-time information was a very valuable game changer.

In 2008, the success of the pilot led to a 1 million dollar expansion of the wireless network and citywide deployment of this technology. The wireless project includes a point-to-point infrastructure, serving as the backbone for a vast deployment of security cameras that watch over key locations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In 2010, RBPB became one of fifty cities in the United States, and the first

in Florida, to deploy ShotSpotter. Acoustic sensors were installed across the City, giving police officers a “virtual ear” that listens around the clock for gunfire and reports its location within seconds with unbelievable accuracy.

## Real-Time Crime Center

With the citywide security camera systems and the gunshot location systems fully operational, the Riviera Beach Police Department had two, relatively uncommon, high-tech tools that provide real-time, actionable information. The need to monitor these real-time sources became immediately apparent, necessitating the development of the Riviera Beach Real-Time Crime Center. Initially manned by restricted or light duty officers, the RBPB Real-Time Crime Center became a specialized unit and a mission-critical resource for the Department.

Leveraging private and public resources, RBPB has a Security Camera

Registration Program where residents and businesses voluntarily share their security cameras with police. This gives RBPB a cost-effective network of cameras across the City – now over 200 cameras citywide.

ShotSpotter, coupled with our real-time network of cameras, provides amazing accuracy, not only identifying the location of the shots, but able to see and provide crucial information to field officers.

Because the real-time cameras are manned by police officers, the “fellow officer” rule is in play, which permits a police officer to rely upon information supplied by fellow officers when



**RBPB police officer monitoring real-time cameras**

(Continued on page 4)

making an arrest – a rule broadly recognized by the courts. The doctrine has its basis in the United States Supreme Court decision of *Whiteley v. Warden*, 401 U.S. 560 (1971). The Florida Supreme Court considered the fellow officer rule in *Johnson v. State*, 660 So. 2d 648 (Fla. 1995).

Along with video and audio sources of information, the real-time crime center has become a central distribution point for information coming from an increasing number of sources, including national crime databases, records management systems, data sharing exchanges, crime mapping systems, GIS databases, public records databases, social media, and criminal offender databases.

## RBPD and CRA Combine Forces

2014 - Riviera Beach Ambassadors is a program developed through the Riviera Beach CRA's Clean and Safe initiative in conjunction with the Riviera Beach Police Department. The dedicated team of more than a dozen uniformed and highly trained individuals from in and around Riviera Beach work to ensure that the area is a safe and inviting place for residents, business owners and visitors.

Public Service Ambassadors greet visitors, offer information and directions, while Clean Team Ambassadors are charged with keeping pedestrian areas clean and free of litter by using sidewalk sweepers and pressure washers. The Ambassadors are based

on Singer Island near Ocean Mall and work within the entire CRA District. The Clean and Safe Program was recently awarded the 2014 American Planning Association - Florida Chapter "Award of Excellence" for Best Practices.

The Clean and Safe Program has directly benefited the RBPD – providing \$250,000 to purchase hi-tech, crime-fighting equipment. Specifically, the money was spent to purchase the Automated License Plate Reader system and several cameras for the Real-Time Crime Center.

## The Eye

An example of RBPD's creative / cost effective use of technology came through a public/private partnership between the Riviera Beach Police Department and Brinks Inc. Periodically, Brinks has a surplus of equipment made available to law enforcement agencies.

RBPD received an armored vehicle from Brinks, and converted it into a surveillance vehicle, nicknamed "The Eye." Primarily used for nuisance surveillance, any resident or business owner can call the Riviera Beach Police Department Administrative Offices and request to have "The Eye" deployed to an area of concern.

## Latest Technology Initiatives

- Nuisance Abatement Vehicle (The Eye)

- K9 Bullet / Stab Proof Vests
- Automated License Plate Reader
- Automatic Vehicle Locator



- Body Worn Cameras
- Predictive Policing
- ShotSpotter
- Real-Time Crime Center

## Results

There are many success stories in RBPD's crime-fighting efforts. One of these stories is the private/public partnerships between Riviera Beach Police Department and three Home Owner Associations within the City. These communities, which each house at least 500 families, were once considered high-crime areas. The partnership, which RBPD often refers to as "customized policing" (giving police greater access to the property), has resulted in crime becoming virtually nonexistent at these properties. Home values are up as a result.



**T h e E y e**

### Riviera Beach Police Department

#### email us

police@rivierabch.com

#### 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

#### follow us

Twitter: @RivieraBeachPd

**Hashtag: #serviceisjobone**

Riviera Beach Police Dept.  
600 West Blue Heron Blvd.  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID