



# The Blotter

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

## Message From Chief Williams



When I think about the various departments and groups of professionals who make RBPd what it is today, I can't help but realize how fortunate we are.

Over the past 14 years, Riviera Beach has had a 52.8 percent drop in crime. Through their dedication and hard work, each individual on the RBPd team has played a key part in improving public safety, despite the many special challenges facing law enforcement today.

This edition of The Blotter features an article about our Communications Department. They are the people who receive the emergency 911 calls for RBPd. Their skills in getting crucial information from distressed callers makes a tremendous difference to dispatched officers arriving on the scene. Our team of telecommunicators are among the best!

I can't thank former NBA stars Jayson Williams and Charles Oakley enough for putting on their Basketball Camp in Riviera Beach. It was very well done. I've said it before - it's these types of programs that help point our young people in the right direction.

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

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

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

## Riviera Beach Youth Get a Taste of the NBA

The Jayson Williams and Charles Oakley Basketball Camp was held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Dan Calloway-Tate Recreation Center. What a memorable day it was - not only for Riviera Beach youth and their parents, but for the entire City of Riviera Beach.



Jayson Williams talking with Camp teenagers

There were over 100 kids from the ages of 9 to 17 who participated in the camp and a total of 250 people attended, including parents and helpers. Former NBA basketball stars, Mr. Jayson Williams (NBA from 1990 – 99) and Mr. Charles Oakley (NBA from 1985 – 2004) personally interacted with the kids, giving them pointers to sharpen their skills on the basketball court.

The idea of having the camp began with conversations between Tanya Franklin and Jayson Williams about a year ago. Ms. Franklin is RBPd Senior Office Assistant to Acting Assistant Chief Leonard Mitchell. Riviera Beach City Officials loved the idea. The Riviera Beach Parks & Recreation Department and Police

Department were all in too. Joining the team as presenting sponsors were The Rebound Institute (rehabilitation organization) and the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy.

"As the idea of the camp began taking shape, our sights were set on making it happen this year, during spring break," said Acting Assist. Chief Mitchell. "The actual push began in December with Mr. George Carter, President of the Maritime Academy and Ms. Franklin visiting local schools to let the kids and their parents know about the camp. The response was great."

It was a fun-filled day for the kids. They received basketball jerseys, shorts, socks, and a backpack. And not only did they learn from two former NBA greats, participating youths were also treated to an exhibition of basketball skills by special guest, Guy Dupuy, the "World's Best Dunker" — funded by Jayson Williams and Charles Oakley.

Guy Dupuy performing an amazing dunk

Chief Williams pointed out that the benefits from the camp will go far beyond the basketball skills the kids

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learned. “The positive experience will be translated into positive actions at home, at school, on the playground and in the streets,” said Chief Williams. “Jayson and Charles gave them some real character-building principles, through both words and actions, and these lessons will help shape their futures.”



Jayson Williams praying with youth from the camp

## Cellphone Use Reaches a Milestone RBPB Communications Meets 911 Cellphone Challenge

Cellphone usage rates have reached a milestone. A recent National Health Interview Survey shows that 50.8 percent of homes and apartments have no landline and rely solely on cellphones for phone service. The study also found that 39.4 percent have both a wireless phone and a landline, 6.5 percent of homes have only a landline, and 3.2 percent have no phone service.

In the past, 911 dispatchers had problems pinpointing the exact location of incoming cellphone calls and had to rely on verbal directions from callers. Now, technology improvements have made it possible to track calls within 50 feet of the caller, depending on the wireless carrier, phone, and cellphone tower locations.

Callers traveling from place to place during the 911 call are now easier to locate and track thanks to new technology, said Ms. Yvette Meriweather, RBPB Communications Supervisor. “The caller’s phone generates the longitude and latitude point of where the call is coming from. Then, as long as the phone line is open, we are able to track the caller’s movement and relay the information to police.”

The next breakthrough for 911 capabilities will be Text-to-911. Upgrades to the system, necessary for Text-to-911 implementation, are taking place this month and the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department will begin testing the texting feature in July. “After the system

has been fully tested by the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department, they will work with regional PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) managers to decide on a release date,” Ms. Meriweather said.

RBPB 911 phones are manned 24/7, 365 days a year by a highly experienced, 15-member team, consisting of a manager, supervisor, and 13 operators. Ms. Meriweather pointed out that there is no real peak period for 911 calls, and there are always at least three 911 operators answering calls.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, honoring our dedicated telecommunications personnel was April 9-15, 2017. RBPB Major Steve Thomas reminds us of what a great team of professionals we have in the RBPB Communications Department.

“Remaining calm while trying to gather important information from a person who, in many cases, is in panic mode, is no easy task,” said Major Thomas. “There are instances when operators are yelled at and called very unflattering names because callers feel emergency responders aren’t arriving fast enough. But, despite all of that, our operators remain calm and get the job done.”

Ms. Meriweather emphasized how important it is for callers to give operators all the information they request. It’s not that emergency responders won’t be dispatched until they get answers to their

The day was rounded out with a basketball game between the Delray Beach and Riviera Beach Police Departments, plus a BBQ rib cook-off, featuring Charles Oakley against Acting Assist. Chief Leonard Mitchell. The game was close, but the win and bragging rights went to Delray Beach. The cook off was a draw. But don’t tell that to Mitchell... Lol. ■

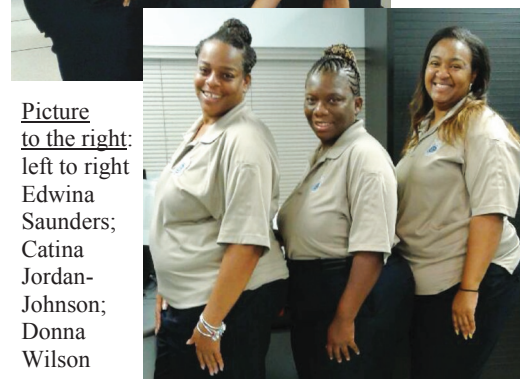
questions. In fact, in many instances, emergency responders have already been dispatched while questions are being asked. The prearrival information helps the emergency responders determine what they need to do when they arrive, which means better service. ■

### RBPB Communications Team

Kathy Ribeiro (39 yrs. of ser.)  
Yvette Meriweather (30 yrs. of ser.)  
Edwina Saunders (25 yrs. of ser.)  
Catina Jordan-Johnson (24 yrs. of ser.)  
Donna Wilson (24 yrs. of ser.)  
Tiwanda Edwards-Goodwin (17 yrs. of ser.)  
Gerald Baker (14 yrs. of ser.)  
Verna Tomlinson (12 yrs. of ser.)  
Latosia Lockett (11 yrs. of ser.)  
Latasha Kingdom (9 yrs. of ser.)  
Onzanikka Edwards-Hayes (9 yrs. of ser.)  
Evangela Thomas-Balom (2 yrs. of ser.)  
Deneikqua Howard (2 yrs. of ser.)  
Nereida Cintron (1st yr of ser.)  
Udricka Frederick (1st yr of ser.)



Picture to the left:  
left to right  
Deneikqua  
Howard;  
Tiwanda  
Goodwin;  
Evangela  
Thomas-  
Balom



Picture to the right:  
left to right  
Edwina  
Saunders;  
Catina  
Jordan-  
Johnson;  
Donna  
Wilson





Major Spencer Rozier  
Foundation RBP  
Representative

## Foundation Provides Vital Support For RBP

RBP has made tremendous progress in the fight against crime. Between 2002-16 (14 years) the crime rate in Riviera Beach has decreased nearly 53 percent.

However, with the challenges facing modern law enforcement today, the need to stay current with training, technology and equipment is paramount. It is also costly – a financial burden that most cities can't afford. Unfortunately, it's a problem that Police Departments across the country are encountering.

The Riviera Beach Police Foundation was established to help RBP obtain the extra tools that enable the Department to meet the changing needs of fighting crime. The City's budgeting process covers basic law enforcement, and the RBP Foundation helps supplement this funding. Foundation funds are also used by RBP in support of various community outreach initiatives.

The RBP Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations made to the Foundation are tax deductible. Through your donations, the Foundation gives everyone an opportunity to play a greater role in working with RBP to improve public safety.

All donations count. No donation is too large or too small. For information send an email to [rbpfoundation@RivieraBch.com](mailto:rbpfoundation@RivieraBch.com). ■

## RBP Wins Trophy For Beating RBFR In Wawa Contest

Wawa Riviera Beach had its grand opening on March 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. As part of their grand opening ceremonies, new Wawa stores hold a **Hoagies for Heroes Contest** between the local Police and Fire Departments.

This contest is judged on the number of hoagies prepared and the complexity of the hoagies. The Wawa Corporation gives both participating departments a \$1,000 check; in addition, the winner receives a trophy.



The faceoff between RBP and RBFR was intense, including stare-downs and an occasional piece of lettuce being thrown. The competition was tough, but the trophy and bragging rights went to RBP.

"It was all done in fun," said RBP Major Steve Thomas. "RBFR is great – one of the best fire and rescue agencies anywhere. It's always nice when we get the rare opportunity to kid around with each other." RBP donated its \$1,000 check to the RBP Foundation. ■

### CONGRATULATING PROMOTIONS

**Nancy Aspenleiter** To Captain of Police

**Melvin Menard** To Sergeant of Police

### WELCOMING NEW RBP PERSONNEL

#### Name

#### Position

Christopher Cade	Police Officer
Nereida Cintron	Communications Operator
Rickiee Dowe	Police Officer
Udricka Frederick	Communications Operator
LaQuoya Green	Code Enforcement Staff Assistant

#### Name

#### Position

Alexander Hardrick	Police Officer
Carl R. Johnson	Police Officer
Anwar Lambert	Police Officer
Cherise Phillips	Police Officer

# Riviera Beach Crime Steadily Declining

## RBPD Leads the Largest Cities in the County in Crime Reduction

Throughout the 80s and 90s, Riviera Beach struggled with many challenges. But since the early 2000s, the Riviera Beach Police Department (RBPD) has made tremendous progress in its fight against crime.

Between 2005 and 2015 Riviera Beach has experienced a 34.5 percent drop in crime and over the last 14 years (2002 – 2016), crime has dropped by 52.8 percent. In terms of crime reduction, RBPD leads Palm Beach County in the fight against crime. (See the charts on this page.) Last year, crime in Riviera Beach fell 9 percent compared with 2015.

Much of this success is attributed to RBPD's cultural change that focuses on customer service, education, training and technology, as well as the Department's reorganization and implementation of its new crime-fighting plan. This innovative plan integrates the latest crime-fighting technology with a well-designed Community Oriented Policing (COP) program. Riviera Beach began seeing its steepest decreases in crime beginning in 2006 when the plan was implemented.

Private / public partnerships between RBPD and businesses and residents has been a key part of the program, and has led to increased reporting of crime and installation / acquisition of some of the Department's new crime-fighting technology. An example of this technology is the Department's real-time crime center.

Leveraging private and public resources,

RBPD's real-time crime center has a Security Camera Registration Program where residents and businesses voluntarily share their security cameras with police. This gives RBPD a cost-effective network of cameras across the City – now over 200 cameras citywide.

Coupled with ShotSpotter technology, RBPD's real-time network of cameras are able to identify the location of shots with amazing accuracy and quickly provide crucial information to field officers.

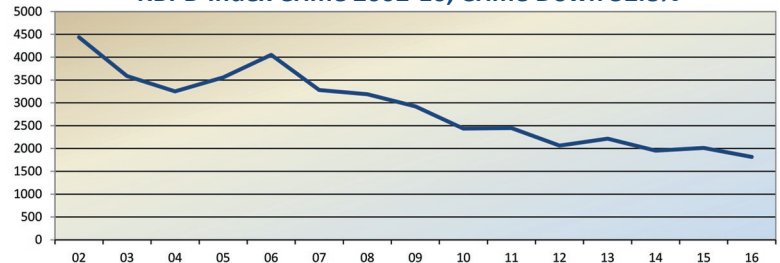
The Riviera Beach Police Department has been recognized by a variety of national, regional, and local organizations for its success in fighting crime. One such recognition is the Florida Police Chiefs Association's (FPCA) 2015 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in

Policing Award that RBPD received last year. This is the premier award that a Florida Police Department can receive.

The award is also an indication that RBPD has accomplished what it set out to do as stated in RBPD's 2002 Annual Report - to make the Riviera Beach Police Department a model department for cities of its size and one of the top Police Departments in Florida.

"While there is much more work to be done, I am thankful to the dedicated men and women, sworn and non-sworn, of RBPD for the strides we've made in our fight against crime," said Chief Williams. ■

**RBPD Index Crime 2002-16, Crime Down 52.8%**



**Crime Reduction Rates in Palm Beach County 2005-2015**

CITIES	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	% Crime Reduction
Boca PD	3085	3189	3677	3464	3304	2683	2854	2717	2467	2233	2421	19.2%
Boynton PD	3905	4072	4308	4376	4255	3789	3732	3387	3373	3257	3657	8.5%
Delray PD	3865	4010	4272	4203	4036	3930	3787	3407	3594	3165	2874	27.3%
Jupiter PD	1514	1516	1975	1599	1522	1190	1259	1311	1221	1175	1298	5.5%
Lake Worth PD	3623	3520	2982	2773	2586	2126	2250	2189	2521	2401	2465	33.5%
PB Gardens PD	1992	1956	1781	1737	1758	1686	1760	1659	1586	1523	1547	24.3%
<b>Riviera PD</b>	<b>3557</b>	<b>4052</b>	<b>3279</b>	<b>3187</b>	<b>2925</b>	<b>2435</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>2064</b>	<b>2217</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>34.5%</b>
West Palm PD	8403	8506	8413	6812	6270	5841	6152	6225	5564	5637	6017	29.8%
Grand Total	29944	30821	30687	28151	26656	23680	24240	22959	22543	21345	22292	27.8%

### Riviera Beach Police Department

**email us**  
police@rivierabch.com

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Instagram: @Rivierabechpolice

**friend us**  
Facebook: Riviera Beach Police Department

**phone us**  
561-845-4128

**Hashtag: #serviceisjobone**

**follow us**  
Twitter: @RivieraBeachPd

**visit us**  
www.rivierabch.com/police

**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