



The Blotter

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

Message From Chief Williams



Wow, it seems like only yesterday that I was sworn in as Chief of the Riviera Beach Police Department. Fifteen years, where have they gone?

There is an article in this edition of The Blotter about my retirement. I must add that it's been an absolute pleasure serving this great city. And I've made so many good friends along the way. I have many people to thank for helping RBPD achieve its goals – people from just about every background imaginable.

Most importantly, I thank God for strength, guidance and protection over the years and for my wonderful wife, Ethel, who has been by my side every step of the way.

The men and women of RBPD are the best that can be found anywhere. They are smart, dedicated and hardworking and are second to none. This edition's article on Hurricane Irma provides a quick snapshot of the amazing women and men who have made the RBPD what it is today. They are truly an impressive group of people, and I will surely miss them.

I will remain a resident of Riviera Beach and plan to work hard at improving my golf game.

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.

National Night Out in Riviera Beach Help Strengthen Police / Community Relations

National Night Out (NNO), an annual community-building campaign, was introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). The campaign was implemented by a combination of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and volunteers across the nation.

The aim of the campaign is to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. National Night Out is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. Municipalities across the country from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide take part.

The Riviera Beach Police Department fully embraces National Night Out – making it a major part of the Department's ongoing community outreach program. "RBPD uses National Night Out as an occasion to bring the entire police department out to connect with the community under positive / nonoperational conditions," said Officer Cedrick Thomas of RBPD.

Riviera Beach National Night Out 2017 consisted of a full day of activities with something of interest for all ages. Much of the Department's high-tech, crime-fighting equipment was on display with police specialists there for

a show-and-tell. The SWAT team, K-9, and traffic unit put on demonstrations, showing various tactical maneuvers. Chief Williams and his entire executive team were there to meet and greet and answer any questions. There was also food and plenty of giveaways.

Youth from the community were there in force. In addition to all the police equipment, tactical demonstrations, food and giveaways, the kids were also treated to a bounce house and, for older youths, the RBPD gaming truck.



SWAT team demonstrates tactical maneuver

The newly formed RBPD Explorer unit was there serving as ambassadors. They helped with giveaways and interacted with the youth who, in many instances, were their age. "No doubt, the RBPD Explorers will pick up some recruits through the exposure," said Officer Thomas. "Ultimately, maybe we'll see a few of them even join the RBPD ranks in a few years."

Chief Williams took special interest in the NNO campaign this year. He said, "This year, the National Night Out

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campaign has taken on a heightened level of significance for me because of the police / community tension that has been displayed in various cities across the country. It's very disturbing. Hopefully, National Night Out has aided in the healing process."



State Senator Bobby Powell and Chief Williams at National Night Out

Customer service is at the core of RBPB's mission. Chief Williams explained that the Department will continue to practice what it preaches about RBPB's role of serving its customers – the City's residents, businesses and visitors. "Police / community partnerships are vital if we're to keep our communities safe." ■

Chief Williams Announces His Retirement Received Urban League's Lifetime Achievement Award



Chief Williams announced at the Urban League of Palm Beach County's 43RD Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Luncheon in May that he will be retiring on December 5, 2017. Although the national average tenure for police chiefs is 3 to 5 years, Clarence D. Williams III has been chief of the Riviera Beach Police Department for 15 years.

Williams' lifelong career of service began in Cincinnati where he was with the Cincinnati Police Department for 27 years. His impressive resume includes being a senior partner of a law firm; and also serving as president / CEO of a multimillion-dollar nonprofit corporation. His many achievements and awards demonstrate that Chief Williams has always been a man who put his heart into his efforts to make the world a better place.

Williams has left an impressive record of accomplishments in every area of his career. With the Riviera Beach Police

Department, he brought sweeping changes to a police department that prior to his arrival had many challenges, including high crime rates during the 80s and 90s.

Chief Williams transformed the Department's culture by putting customer service as its core mission and focusing on education, training and technology. He brought accountability to the Department – measured top to bottom. He took a personal interest in mentoring and encouraging officers to grow to their fullest potential. During Williams' tenure as Chief of the Riviera Beach Police Department, the City has experienced a 52.8 percent drop in crime (2002 – 2016).

Over two million dollars in grants to purchase new crime-fighting technology were secured through Chief Williams' efforts. RBPB coined the term Technology Oriented Policing (TOP) to identify the Department's new approach to policing, which integrates the latest crime-fighting technology with a well-designed Community Oriented Policing (COP) program – establishing police / community partnerships as a major part of the plan.

In recognition of the Riviera Beach Police Department's deployment and effective use of advanced crime-fighting technology, Chief Williams was a guest speaker at the 2014 National League of Cities Conference in Austin, Texas.

Of Williams' many awards and acknowledgements while with RBPB, the one he says means the most is the Riviera Beach Police Department being awarded the Florida Police Chiefs Association's (FPCA) 2015 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award. This is the premier award that a Florida Police Department can receive.

The Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award is also an indication that Chief Williams has accomplished what he set out to do as stated in his letter in the 2002 RBPB Annual Report, "to make the Riviera Beach Police Department a model department for cities of our size and one of the top police departments in our state."

At the Urban League of Palm Beach County's 43RD Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Luncheon, Chief Williams received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He will be missed! ■



Urban League Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, Chief Clarence Williams and Beatrice McKoy. Also in picture on the right is business owner Ricky Wade

RBPD Prepared for Irma – Keeping the Public Safe



Captain Glen Meyer, RBPD

On Sunday, September 10, Riviera Beach felt the punch of Hurricane Irma and her wind gusts of 70-80 mph. When early storm models predicted a direct hit from Irma, the City was prepared. RBPD went on their Alpha Bravo schedule, which means no days off for its officers. This enabled the Department to provide double coverage around the clock.

In many cases, the normal 12-hour shifts became 14, 16 or even more hours per shift. “There was a period when we had a crew of police officers bring in their bedding and equipment and some were on duty for 36 straight hours,” said Captain Glen Meyer of RBPD, Daytime Watch Commander during Hurricane Irma period. “As you can imagine, it’s tough on the officers and their families to be away during these times. But the brave men and women of RBPD made sacrifices and put service first, making sure the safety of the public was met.”

Following the storm, RBPD officers went through the city making damage assessments and blocking off roads where power lines were down to prevent cars and pedestrians from passing over them. They produced a grid of each neighborhood, mapping where signs were down and where trees and debris blocked roadways. Then work orders were sent to Public Works.

Before the hurricane, RBPD purchased 50 portable stop signs with flashing lights in anticipation of power failures. These were stationed in the middle of intersections as four-way stops to replace traffic lights that had lost power. This action undoubtedly prevented many accidents because it was almost impossible to see the intersections at night without power.

The Department worked extensively with Palm Beach County Traffic Operations (responsible for traffic lights in the county), documenting all the signals that were out and with FP&L for power restoration. According to sources, Riviera Beach was one of the first cities in Palm Beach County to have its traffic lights become fully operational.

When Stonybrook’s roof was damaged by the winds, Riviera Beach Police and Riviera Beach Fire-Rescue worked together to evacuate 70 people from the property. RBPD used its SWAT vehicle (shown in photograph) to transport Stonybrook residents to local shelters.

“There were occasions when we went door-to-door to check on the elderly and sometimes doing something as simple as going to buy a bag of ice for one of them who asked,” said Captain Meyer. “It really felt good to see how everyone stepped up their game to help those in need. The whole effort was much bigger than what you typically think about when you think of police work. It was truly a team effort. There isn’t anything we can’t accomplish together.”

Captain Meyer said he was impressed with how well the multi-agency response team – Fire-Rescue, Public Works and Police - worked together to bring Riviera Beach back to its normal activities. ■



RBPD SWAT Vehicle transporting Stonybrook residents to shelters



Portable stop signs used to make four-way stops due to power outages



A “Thank You Cake” to RBPD from Publix for its response during and after Irma

CONGRATULATING PROMOTIONS

Russell Byrd To Sergeant of Police

Brian Jackson To Sergeant of Police

WELCOMING NEW RBPD PERSONNEL

Name

Aird Cajuste
Shawn Delhomme
Glenda Diop
Kimmarley James

Position

Police Officer
Police Officer
School Crossing Guard
Evidence Supervisor

Name

Tonrica Johnson
Tamiaka Marc
Rohan Westcarth

Position

Police Officer
Records Supervisor
Police Officer

Riviera Beach Police Explorer Program

Getting off to a Great Start

The Riviera Beach Police Explorer program (known as a post) was officially launched in July of this year. In August, the Explorers were involved in their first community event – National Night Out.

Exploring, a national coed affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America, was developed to teach important life and career skills to young people through career experiences and mentoring provided by community and business leaders.

Exploring consists of several different specialty programs such as Law Enforcement Career Exploring, which the Riviera Beach Police Explorer Post falls under. Police Explorer is for young men and women between the ages of 14-20 who are interested in law enforcement as a career. Police Exploring is designed to build character, increase self-esteem, and teach citizenship skills while giving the youth opportunity to participate in community service activities.

The Riviera Beach Police Explorer Post started with 8 youths in July and is now up to 14 young adults – 6 girls and 8 boys. “For the first year, the program limit is 20 youths,” said Sergeant Rochelet Commond of RBPD. “This will enable us to maintain a good ratio of police advisors to the number of Explorers, which is necessary for a quality program.”

There are currently six RBPD police

advisors in the program. These are police officers who have demonstrated a passion for working with youths, an essential quality for an explorer advisor. The police advisors always work in teams. At no time do advisors work one-on-one with any of the young people.

Youth qualifications are: 1) Must have a sincere interest in law enforcement, be of good moral character and be willing to participate in the activities and meetings of the post; 2) Must be at least 14-years-of-age and have completed the 8th grade. Membership may be continued up to 20th birthday or until graduation from the Police Academy; 3) Must maintain an average of 2.0 GPA; 4) Must pass a background investigation, and reside in Riviera Beach.

Once accepted into the Riviera Beach Police Explorer program, the Explorer is issued a uniform and duty belt, which includes a plastic practice pistol and holster, flashlight and pouch, and handcuff pouch (no handcuffs).

The Riviera Beach Police Explorer Post meets on the first and third Monday of each month from 6 – 8:30pm. During this time, there is physical fitness training; Explorers practice

traffic stops (done in secluded areas) with police officers serving as the bad guys; they go on ride-alongs with police advisors; and, have classroom time with guest speakers such as judges.

“Later in the program, the RBPD defensive tactics instructor will take the Explorers through various drills,” said Sergeant Commond. “But for now, the training is basic in teaching the Explorers formation and how to conduct themselves.”

There are three primary things that RBPD expects to gain from its Explorer program: strengthen the Explorers’ resolve to become police officers and hopefully, join RBPD ranks; help build positive relations between youth in the community and police; and, help with community events such as the Martin Luther King Parade by serving as RBPD ambassadors. ■



RBPD Police Explorer Advisors and Sergeant Commond with seven members of the RB Police Explorer Post, wearing the gray uniform shirts.

Riviera Beach Police Department

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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