



The Blotter

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

Message From Chief Williams



I can remember as a kid that most of us either wanted to be a police officer or fire-fighter when we grew up.

That thought helped shape behaviors. When we would play games like cops and robbers, everyone wanted to be a cop and no one wanted to be the robber or bad guy.

If we are successful in reaching our young people today with positive messages about law enforcement, and give them the opportunity to know the officers who patrol their neighborhoods, we can return to the days when none of them choose to be a robber or bad guy.

I am committed to giving our young persons that opportunity.

Follow me on twitter:
[@ChiefCWilliams](https://twitter.com/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.

RBPD Building Strong Relationships with Its Youngest Customers

Investing in Our Future

“Pay me now or pay me later.” This saying is used to describe many different products and services. It can also be used with regards to educating and training our youth.

From a criminal justice perspective, an estimated 80 percent of people in prison today lack a high school diploma. In 2010 taxpayers spent \$31,307 to incarcerate each inmate. This “pay me later” cost totals tens of billions of dollars every year.

A George Mason University survey asked police chiefs to rate various strategies in terms of their effectiveness in preventing crime. High quality early learning and care received the highest rating, by far.

The Riviera Beach Police Department invests time, money and resources for crime prevention programs through area elementary schools. National Red Ribbon Week, which focuses on drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention and takes place in October, is one of those programs.

Ms. Gwendolyn Taylor, counselor at Washington Elementary School (preschool through 5th grade), has high praise for Red Ribbon Week, which teachers support by wearing red each day.

“It’s a very exciting week for the kids,” said Ms. Taylor. “The RBPD is the big hit. They come with their Mobile Command Center and other equipment, like jet skis. I thought the kids were going to lose their minds in excitement when they brought out the police dogs.”

Washington Elementary also has three other programs during the year that involve the RBPD: the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance, Education and Training) Program, Shopping with Public Heroes, and Career Day.



RBPD Major, Leonard Mitchell and McGruff During Red Ribbon Week

The G.R.E.A.T. Program, for 4th and 5th grade students, addresses bullying and other issues affecting children. The two grades have separate six-week programs and conclude with formal graduations where parents are invited and kids receive certificates.

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In partnership with the Target Corporation, Shopping with Public Heroes sends students, through an essay contest (15 kids last year), Christmas shopping with police officers, firefighters and city officials. Each child, paired with a Heroes mentor, was told to first buy a gift for their parents and then one for themselves. Then Heroes went into their own

pockets and treated the kids to a special gift of their choice such as: bicycles, shoes, clothes, dolls, etc.

For Career Day, the kids are divided into two groups – kindergarten through 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade. “The kids asked questions like how long have you been a cop and what do I have to do

to become a cop,” said Ms. Taylor. “Detectives were there to talk with the older kids. The kids seemed to hang onto every word.”

“I believe the relatively small upfront investment that these programs require will pay off big time in the end,” Chief Williams said. “With that, we all win.” ■

RBPD 9-1-1 State-of-the-Art City’s “First First Responders”

9-1-1 – this telephone number is one that we all know, but hope that we never have to use. The 9-1-1 emergency phone system was established in the late 1960s, but at that time was only available in a very small percentage of the United States. By 1979, the service covered 26% of the U.S. population; 50% by 1987; and nearly 93% by the year 2000.

As you can imagine, in the early years 9-1-1 technology and service was pretty basic, and the training of 9-1-1 operators wasn’t nearly as extensive as it is now. Now, most 9-1-1 systems automatically display the caller’s phone and address information on the operator’s screen. And with today’s advanced level of training, 9-1-1 operators are capable of doing much more to assist callers.

In fact, 9-1-1 operators are now often referred to as the “first first responders.” All 9-1-1 operators in Florida have to be certified by the Florida Department of Health. They are trained to remain calm regardless of the situation. They gather essential information and determine what kind of help to send. A big plus in today’s 9-1-1 service is that operators now stay on the phone with callers and provide assistance until the emergency responder arrives.

Yvette Meriweather, RBPD Communications Supervisor and 27-year veteran with the Department, remembers a situation when she answered a 9-1-1

call from someone who was having problems breathing and could not talk. Not being able to determine the nature of the problem, Ms. Meriweather dispatched both police and paramedics.



Yvette Meriweather taking a call.

Ms. Meriweather stayed on the line talking to the non-responsive caller until police and paramedics arrived. “I found out later that the caller had a respiratory issue,” said Ms. Meriweather. “I actually received a letter from the caller a week or so later telling me that I saved his life. He called me his guardian angel. That made my day!”

Today, there are 6,050 primary and secondary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in the United States receiving emergency (9-1-1) calls. PSAPs receive an estimated 240 million 9-1-1 calls each year. RBPD Communications Department is one of the PSAPs in Palm Beach County.

The RBPD Communications Department, with a staff of 13 operators and one supervisor, receives over 25,000 emergency (9-1-1) calls and approxi-

mately 122,000 non-emergency calls each year. The Department works around the clock and is staffed heaviest during the peak call period, between the hours of 10am to 4am daily.

The Riviera Beach Police Department, as with most agencies in the county, partner with Palm Beach County for the radio and phone systems. This cost effective relationship enables local agencies to have the latest technology.

RBPD’s Communications Department has the state-of-the-art 9-1-1 communications system. An important part of this system automatically provides, with 99.9 percent accuracy, the location of callers using cell phones to report emergencies. Locating cell-phone callers had been a problem in the past, and still is in some areas / municipalities.

Riviera Beach Police Dept. Communications Department Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yrs. of Service</u>
Yvette Meriweather	27 yrs.
Edwina Saunders	22 yrs.
Catina Johnson	21 yrs.
Donna Wilson	21 yrs.
Tiwanda Goodwin	14 yrs.
Gerald Baker	11 yrs.
Verna Tomlinson	9 yrs.
Latosia Lockett	8 yrs.
Sabrina Smith	7 yrs.
Onzanikka Edwards	6 yrs.
Latasha Kingdom	6 yrs.
Jacquela Wester (P-T)	2 yrs.
Robert Hamn	under 1 yr.
Joshua Miller	under 1 yr.

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Being able to automatically locate cell-phone callers is a big deal since more than 60 percent of 9-1-1 calls today are made from cell phones.

In fact, more and more households have dropped their landline-phone and use a cell phone as their only phone. According to a 2011 study provided by the Cellular Telephone Industry Association (CTIA), 32% of households were cell-phone only, which was up from 8% cell-phone-only households in 2005.

The next big 9-1-1 capability for the RBPB Communications Department is texting. "The 9-1-1 texting project



RBPB Dispatch / 9-1-1 Operators
Edwina Saunders and Robert Hamm

is an active work in progress, but we don't have a firm date yet as to when it will be available," said Ms.

Meriweather. "When complete, we will be able to receive and respond to 9-1-1 text messages. This will be

particularly useful in situations where individuals find themselves in a situation where they can't talk."

Ms. Meriweather also spoke about how excited the entire Department is about the new police station that is scheduled to open in 2015. "Moving to the new station will be a refreshing opportunity and morale booster," Ms. Meriweather said. "The new police station will give us the space to expand, to take on new equipment as it becomes available and to optimize our efficiencies. "For me, it means doing our best to provide outstanding service and save lives." ■

The New RBPB Cruiser Chevrolet Tahoe Wins Hands Down



The Crown Victoria Police Interceptor car was the workhorse for police departments across the country for decades. When Ford announced that it was going to stop making the car, law enforcement officials around the country had to search for other options.

The Riviera Beach Police Department formed an eight-person Vehicle Selection Committee, consisting of police personnel along with staff from Riviera Beach procurement and fleet management.

"We narrowed our scope of work by only considering 'Police Package' vehicles made by the 'Big Three' U.S. auto manufactures – Chrysler, Ford and General Motors," said Assistant

Chief (A.C.) Michael Madden who served as the committee chairperson. Police Package vehicles, heavy-duty versions of consumer cars, are designed to meet the rigors of police work.

Five vehicles were evaluated: Dodge Charger, Chevrolet Impala, Chevrolet Caprice, Chevrolet Tahoe and Ford Taurus. The evaluation data was published by the Michigan State Police and the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center. "Their data is intended to help agencies make informed decisions," said A.C. Madden. "It's valuable information that most agencies could not afford to generate on their own."

The Committee recommended the Chevrolet Tahoe based on how it ranked in the Committee's evaluation of performance data, passenger compartment, cargo capacity, price, and lifecycle costs (maintenance). The Chevrolet Tahoe meets the needs of all police functions (patrol, canine, traffic, tactical teams, SRT) of the RBPB. ■

Decision Making Attributes Chevrolet Tahoe

- Comparably priced to similar, but smaller, sedan-style police vehicles
- Seating space / capacity
- Equivalent fuel efficiency for city driving
- Rear wheel drive - high performance ratings
- Meets requirements for all police functions (patrol, canine, traffic, tactical teams, SRT)
- Higher residual resale value
- Lowest lifecycle cost
- Higher ground clearance - less undercarriage damage
- Extended service longevity
- Low maintenance costs

Commission On Social Justice Youth City Government on the Horizon

The Commission on Social Justice (COSJ) set its first meeting with the Youth Board of Advisors for May 25th. The selection criteria for Youth City Government members and term lengths will be established at the meeting. Youth City Government members are to be selected in a balanced manner from the four City districts.

Currently, 18 slots on the Youth Board of Advisors, which is responsible for selecting members of the Youth City Government, are filled. The target number for the board is a total of 25 youths.

The approximately 16 positions on Youth City Government will mirror Riviera Beach's government, including mayor, five council members and other city officials such as city manager, police chief, fire chief, city clerk, etc. The Junior Council will meet monthly with a representative from City Council at each meeting.

Dr. Emma Banks, Principal of Inlet Grove Community High School and Mr. George Carter, President of the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy are advisors for COSJ's Youth City Government. The youth council is a project Mr. Carter has dreamed about for a long time.

"I believe the Youth Council will help transform some young people who were part of the problem into being part of the solution," said Mr. Carter. "I see the community getting behind this and, perhaps, even growing county-wide. This project could help shape communities as well as prepare our future leaders."

Contact COSJ about the Youth City Government or any other COSJ matters, by sending an email to: Commissiononsocialjustice@gmail.com or leave a letter with Ms. Tawanna Smith in Riviera Beach Police Department Headquarters.

COSJ Co-Chairs



Rev. Dr. Tony Drayton



Mr. Michael Sloser

COSJ Committees and Chairs

Committees

Health

Education

Employment and Business

Criminal Justice

Social Services

Youth Advisory

Committee Chairs

Timothy Page

President & CEO, Kindred Hospital The Palm Beaches

Dr. Camile Coleman

School District of Palm Beach County, Area 4 Superintendent

Steve Craig

President & CEO, Palm Beach Workforce Alliance

Michael Rodriguez

Executive Director, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission

Pastor James Lofton

Sr. Pastor, House of God International Ministries

Valerie Grimsley

Director of Youth Empowerment Program

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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

Hashtag: [#serviceisjobone](https://twitter.com/hashtag/serviceisjobone)

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