



The Blotter

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

Message From Chief Williams



I have always known what a great team of professionals we have here. That fact was once again reinforced at our management retreat last month. Each member

stepped up to the plate with their thoughts and ideas and knocked it out of the park. This is a very talented, hard-working team that I can count on to get the job done.

Particularly rewarding is seeing individuals grow over the years. At times I feel like a doting father, having seen various management team members who have worked hard and risen through the ranks – some of them from entry levels.

The outcome of good management is high performance at the tactical levels. An example is the RBPDP Special Investigations Division that's featured in this edition of *The Blotter*. The Division is comprised of a smart, dedicated team of detectives who deliver case-closure rates higher than the national average.

I'm proud of all of them!

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.

RBPDP Leadership Team Takes Time for an Organizational Retreat

There are many reasons business operators (in both profit and nonprofit sectors) say they can't afford to take time out of their busy work schedule for a retreat. The response to that is, you can't afford not to take time out of your busy work schedule for a retreat. Most successful organizations understand this, and they make the time.

Perhaps Yogi Berra said it best, *"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."*

Things are changing around us every day – the environment in which we operate, technology, customer needs, regulatory issues, cultural issues, etc. Management teams need quality time together, offsite – away from phones, e-mails and anything else that can be a distraction to the team's focused time together.

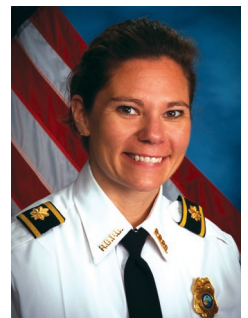
Coordinated by RBPDP Major Vanessa Snow, the Riviera Beach Police Department had a two-day "Team Building / Critical Thinking Retreat" this past February. The retreat was held in the Marquee Room at the Tierra Condominiums, a space donated by Tierra property management for the event.

There were 18 RBPDP participants: sworn personnel included Captains and up (including Chief Williams); non-sworn personnel included the Records Supervisor, Code Enforcement Administrator and Manager, Crime Analyst, Public Information Officer, and the Communications Supervisor.

Noteworthy are the education levels of the management team: three have Law Degrees, one has two Master's Degrees, three have Master's Degrees and the remainder have Bachelor's Degrees.

The agenda featured sessions on: Building Effective Teams; Community Perceptions; Moving Team Building – Strategic/Critical Thinking into the Culture of the Organization; Goal Setting; Technology Overview; and Generational Diversity in the Workplace (facilitated by special guest, Chief Jeffrey Katz of the Boynton Beach Police Department).

"Bringing our management team together under one roof, enabling us to hear the same management principles, fostering open dialogue between all of our managers was very worthwhile in and of itself," said Major Snow. "It helped ensure that we're all on the same page in our efforts to deliver the best level of service to our customers – the community and our staff."



RBPDP Major V. Snow

According to Major Snow, based on the enthusiasm in the room and responses from the participants, there is 100% commitment to moving RBPDP to excellence. ■

Salutes for Jobs Well Done

Major Lewis' CPR Saves a Life



Major Josh Lewis

Police training is multifaceted – covering everything from methods of criminal apprehension to life-saving CPR training. On February 6 of this year, RBPB Major Josh Lewis was able to put his CPR skills to use by saving a man's life at Lemongrass in Boynton Beach. Major Lewis was dining at the restaurant where he observed a man choking. Major Lewis

snapped into action and performed the Heimlich Maneuver to dislodge the object from his throat.

CPR skills are something that we should all have. Classes are offered by both the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association. ■

Detective Poteat Receives Award



Detective Warren Poteat

RBPB Detective Warren Poteat was assigned to the United States Marshals Service Regional Fugitive Task Force (RFTF) in February 2014. In a short period of time, the Task Force, composed of 95 law enforcement officers, apprehended over 150 area fugitives, classified as some of the most violent subjects. There were 47 fugitives from the City of Riviera Beach arrested during the program.

For exemplifying the core values of the Riviera Beach Police Department and the United States Marshals Service, the award for the 2014 Detective of the Year for Palm Beach County was presented to RBPB Detective Warren Poteat. ■

On the Case - RBPB Special Investigations Division

Some of the more popular television shows over the years have been fictional police / detective programs. Today, it's NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigations Service) with Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs (played by Mark Harmon). Back in the 50s, during the early years of television, it was *Dragnet* with Sergeant Joe Friday (played by Jack Webb) – famous for his line, “just the facts, ma'am.”

While these are fictional shows, one thing that is true is that crime happens every day, no matter where you live. Whether it's a stolen bicycle, a white-collar crime, or a homicide, it's Criminal Investigations' job to solve the case.

“The Riviera Beach Police Department has not always had a fully staffed Special Investigations Division,” said Assistant Chief Robert Coppin, a 29-year veteran of RBPB. “In fact, from 2002 to 2005, the Department farmed out its violent crime investigations to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Violent Crimes Unit. Today, we have one of the most effective investigations

divisions in the area, with a solvability rate that is higher than the national average, and a team of detectives that are second to none – they get the job done.”

A testament, this year, to the quality of its team members is RBPB Detective Warren Poteat receiving the award for 2014 Detective of the Year for Palm Beach County. (Read the story about Detective Poteat in this edition of *The Blotter*.)

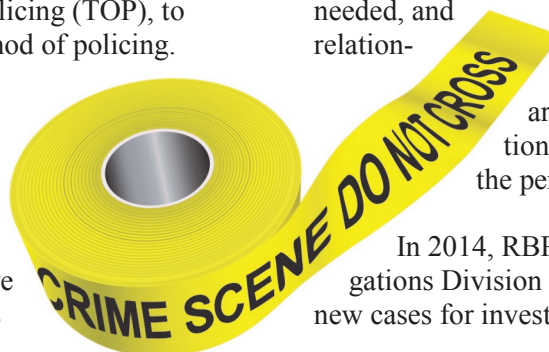
In addition to a great team of detectives, the Division also attributes much of its high case-closure rate to its investigative process, use of cutting-edge technology, and strong community / police partnerships. In 2010, the Riviera Beach Police Department coined and adopted the term, Technology Oriented Policing (TOP), to describe its method of policing.

According to Assistant Chief Coppin, new technology has helped the Department solve crimes within its

jurisdiction, and also to more effectively cross boundaries to team up with other law enforcement agencies in sharing information. “With today's technology, criminals may be able to run, but they can't hide,” said RBPB Major Leonard Mitchell. “Suspects have fled to various parts of the country, only to find themselves tracked, arrested and extradited back here for prosecution.”

“A key part of the RBPB process in solving serious crimes is that we work hand in hand with the prosecutor's office from the ground level, meaning that we contact the State Attorney within 24 hours of the crime,” said Assistant Chief Coppin. “We are then assigned an attorney, who becomes familiar with the case in the early stages. This enables the attorney to provide us with timely assistance when needed, and vice versa. This relationship remains through the arrest, trial, conviction and sentencing of the perpetrator(s).”

In 2014, RBPB Special Investigations Division opened over 600 new cases for investigations, with a



closure rate with arrest, or inactivity of 90 percent. “Every criminal report written by road patrol officers is turned over to the Special Investigations Division,” said RBPB Captain Travis Walker. “We then determine how to move forward in the investigation of each case. There are cases where there is enough information in the report for direct filing, and others that require the detectives to follow leads, compile all evidence to establish Probable Cause for an affidavit or an arrest warrant.”

Captain Walker explained that nonviolent cases are closed out within 180 days. This means that detectives effect an arrest, based on the evidence, within 180 days or investigate the criminal offense until all means have been exhausted to identify the perpetrator(s), and there is not enough evidence for an arrest. When there is no arrest, the case (cold case) is closed and placed on inactive status until more information / evidence becomes available.

“The commitment and dedication to excellence and hard work displayed by members of Special Investigations Division is bar none,” Captain Walker said. “Our detectives take each case, each victim and each witness and make them a priority during the course of the investigation and until the offender is prosecuted.”

“How the public can help is by reporting suspicious activities to the police and by recording serial numbers of their property,” Captain Walker continued. “Our new database system called R.A.P.I.D. (Regional Automated Property Information Database) provides tracking information through pawn shops that

aids in the recovery of stolen property and the identity of the thieves.

As part of RBPB’s community relations program and continual public education, RBPB’s Special Investigations Division partners with the community through various community meeting and events, and RBPB activities. ■



RBPB Special Investigations, left to right - Back row: Major L. Mitchell, Detectives - B. Jackson, B. Weiner, W. Saunders; Captain T. Walker; Front row: Detectives - B. Russo, F. Aguirre, J. Nubin, W. Ramsey, W. Poteat, E. Davis



Inlet Grove Nursing Students Checking on RBPB Staff

It’s commonly known that there is a national shortage of nurses, which is expected to extend to the year 2020 and beyond. Inlet Grove High School has a nursing program that enables students to become a Licensed Practical Nurse upon graduation.

Students in the program along with Paramedic / Field Training Officer Leigh Cottrell of Riviera Beach Fire Rescue, spent a day at The Municipal Complex taking the vitals of RBPB staff. Pictured to the left are Ms. Cottrell, with a Registered Nurse and Inlet Grove students who provided the much appreciated service. ■

WELCOMING NEW RBPB PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Benjamin Smith	Police Officer
Robens Delva	Police Officer
Javares Harvey	Police Officer
Marc Elysee	Police Officer
Luca Jurac	Police Officer



Graduation Night RBPB Recruits Added to the Roll

Congratulations to RBPB Officers Shaundra King, Michael Ferazzoli and Victor Blackwood Jr. on their graduation from the Police Academy. They are pictured to the left with Assistant Chief Robert Coppin. ■

Commission On Social Justice Youth City Government

COSJ Co-Chairs

What started as a Youth City Council has grown into a full-fledged Youth Government, with students from Inlet Grove and the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy serving as the initial core of this project undertaken by the Commission on Social Justice.

With more than a little help from former Council Chair Judy Davis and City Clerk Claudene Anthony, the meeting got off to a good start. All of our young people, whether on the Dias or called as Department Heads to address issues before the Council, made us all proud.



Members of the Youth City Government with former Council Chair Judy Davis

As everyone gets more comfortable in their roles, you can look forward to the Youth Council being a force



Rev. Dr. Tony Drayton



Mr. Michael Sloser

for good in our community. The Co-Chairs of the Commission on Social Justice feel the same way and urge young people throughout the community to volunteer for the next term. Their community service represents an excellent way to learn more about how our government works and what the people in government do, whether police, fire, administration or elected officials.

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please send an email to michaelsloser@gmail.com. ■

Riviera Beach Police Department

email us
police@rivierabch.com

follow us
Instagram: [@Rivierabeachpolice](https://www.instagram.com/Rivierabeachpolice)

phone us
561-845-4128

visit us
www.rivierabch.com/police

friend us
Facebook: Riviera Beach Police Department

follow us
Twitter: [@RivieraBeachPd](https://twitter.com/RivieraBeachPd)

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID