



The Blotter

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

Message From Chief Williams



The RBPD is blessed to have in its ranks some of the best and most committed people that can be found anywhere. That

includes both sworn and non-sworn personnel.

In May, during National Police Week, I have the opportunity to thank them all collectively for the fine job that they do, day in and day out. It's a time of the year that I really look forward to.

Please take time to read the entire article on the RBPD Traffic Unit in this edition of The Blotter. Traffic violations are up and so are the number of accidents. It's an area that needs improvement. Make sure that you obey the traffic laws and talk with your family members about the issue as well.

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 We Are Family National Police Week



In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. It's a period when the Nation pauses to honor law enforcement officers serving communities across the country, and to remember those law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.

Through June of this year alone, there were 67 law enforcement officers across the country who lost their lives in the line of duty, according to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This represents a 31 percent increase in the number of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty through the same period in 2013.

We continue to remember Riviera Beach Police Officer, Meredith Stanley Runck, Jr. who died in the line of duty on April 5, 1974.

In acknowledgment of National Police Week this year, Chief Williams chose the theme 'We are Family' for the Riviera Beach Police Department. "Keeping our community safe is the long and short of what we do as law enforcement officers," said Chief Williams. "The only way we can effectively do our job is by working together, cohesively, as a 'family' unit. We watch out for each other, acknowledge our successes, and review and correct areas for improvement – holding ourselves and each other accountable for our actions."

"It all begins with our very simple Standing Order: (1) Show up to work, and (2) Follow the rules," Chief Williams continued.

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RBPD, Volunteer Joanne Thompson and Sr. Staff Assist. Susan Rosen

Pictured below left - right, Assist. Chief R. Coppin, Officer C. Edwards, Officer J. Hoffman, Officer E. Foster, Officer C. Bahruth, Officer M. Menard, Sergeant M. D'Andria, Chief C. Williams



Several events served as a way to say, 'thank you for your (RBPD) service,' including a BBQ at headquarters, a night out at the Palm Beach Ale House, and an Awards Ceremony held at the Riviera Beach Municipal Complex. These events were sponsored by Cheney Brothers, Coca-Cola, and Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



Assist. Chief David Harris
Major Vanessa Snow

Below, Police Tech. Charrin
Hanson and Officer Al Smith

Many members of the community honored RBPD officers through their smiles, waves, fist bumps, and out stretched hands. "It feels good for residents to thank us for our service," said Sergeant Glenn Myers. "It helps make the day!" ■



Assist. Chief (Ret.) David Harris

We Wish Him the Best Assistant Chief Harris Retires

Loved and never to be forgotten, RBPD Assistant Chief David Harris retired from the Department in June of this year, after 34 years of service. To many, he was affectionately known by the nickname 'Curly Top,' because of his thick curly hair.

Assistant Chief Harris began his law enforcement career in 1979 as a patrol officer with the Riviera Beach Police Department. Rising through the ranks, he received numerous commendations for outstanding service. Serving over seventy thousand hours of service throughout his career, his professionalism has been recognized by local,

county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

He earned respect for being a strong leader who led by example, often appearing in person at crime scenes and in-progress calls. Known as being a tough, but fair leader, he was all about helping his fellow officers become the best they could be. This was echoed in Assistant Chief Harris' favorite saying – "Guys, this is about you learning what is right. I already know."

Assistant Chief Harris loves Riviera Beach, not just by serving in his official capacity, but also by devoting personal time and resources to help the people of the community. He has served the elderly on special occasions, and spent time with the youth in coaching little league sports.

Reverend Dr. Tony Drayton, Pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, RBPD Chaplin, and Co-Chair of the Commission on Social Justice, was Assistant Chief Harris' college roommate. They were also on the college wrestling team together. "I've always known David to be a fantastic guy with high morals and great integrity," said Dr. Drayton. "I'm not surprised to see how well he has done in his career. He's a trusted friend who I would do anything for."



Dr. Tony Drayton

From the entire Riviera Beach Police Department, we wish Assistant Chief Harris the best in his retirement.

Chief Clarence Williams ■

CONGRATULATING 2014 PROMOTIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Promotion</u>
Robert Coppin	Assistant Chief
Michael Madden	Assistant Chief
Josh Lewis	Major
Vanessa Snow	Major
Steve Thomas	Captain
Travis Walker	Captain
Rochelet Commond	Sergeant
Nathan Gordon	Sergeant

WELCOMING NEW RBPD PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mitchell Avila	Police Officer
Erika Burton	Crossing Guard
Devon Edwards	Police Officer
Ossel Harrison	Police Officer
Justin Hawkins	Police Officer
Torrence Kerney	Police Officer
Jennifer Lagomasino	Police Technician
Sondra Millman	Code Enforcement Technician
Kimberly Rogers	Police Technician
Doretta Valentin	Crossing Guard

Mission to Keep Roadways Safe

The RBPB Traffic Unit

What are the responsibilities of the Riviera Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit? They respond to citizen complaints regarding traffic violations in neighborhoods, conduct commercial vehicle inspections, monitor traffic and respond to traffic violations. Their mission is to keep our roadways safe, and they accomplish this mission with education and enforcement.

RBPB provides traffic safety education through community outreach – officers speaking at driver education classes, schools, community organizations, and other events. The Department also educates the public via social media, public service announcements, and various publications, including The Blotter.

When all else fails, it's usually the flashing lights of Riviera Beach police vehicles that come into play. For motorists caught breaking traffic laws, enforcement can be a very expensive proposition. The average cost of a speeding ticket is \$150.

Traffic citations also hit the pocket hard in terms of higher car insurance premiums, which could cost an individual hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars per year, depending on the type and number of citations on a driver's record.

For instance, according to an analysis

conducted by Insurance.com, a reckless driving citation

could increase a driver's car-insurance premiums by as much as 22 percent. (See the box on this page with the complete list of traffic violation and average insurance-premium increases.) Insurance premiums increase with each citation. Multiple citations and accidents could result in a driver becoming uninsurable.

The Riviera Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit consists of three police officers (including a DUI/Drug Recognition Expert Officer and a sergeant) and two Community Service Aids (CSA). CSAs are non-sworn personnel responsible for assisting with accident reports and issuing parking citations. There are also 19 School Crossing Guards assigned to the Unit.

Despite all the effort to get motorists to slow down and obey the speed limits, the number of speeding citations in Riviera Beach are up to an average of 30 tickets per day. "Our primary trouble spot for speeding is Broadway, ever since the new road was put in," said Officer Michael Brown of the RBPB Traffic Unit. "At times, it's like a grand prix race track. Another trouble spot is Blue Heron Boulevard, westbound from Singer Island."

Face it, traffic accidents are caused by someone(s) not obeying one or more

traffic laws. In 2013, RBPB recorded a total of 1,198 crashes, involving 2,285 vehicles, 140 injured, and a total cost of damages \$7,009,463.

List of citations and average car insurance premium increases. Analysis provided by Insurance.com:

1. Reckless driving: 22 percent
2. DUI first offense: 19 percent
3. Driving without a license or permit: 18 percent
4. Careless driving: 16 percent
5. Speeding 30 mph over the limit: 15 percent
6. Failure to stop: 15 percent
7. Improper turn: 14 percent
8. Improper passing: 14 percent
9. Following too close/tailgating: 13 percent
10. Speeding 15 to 29 mph over limit: 12 percent
11. Speeding 1 to 14 mph over limit: 11 percent
12. Failure to yield: 9 percent
13. No car insurance: 6 percent
14. Seat belt infractions: 3 percent

"School is back in session. As a reminder, there are school zones on Blue Heron Boulevard, Australia Avenue, and Congress Avenue. They are well marked. Make sure that you obey the 20 mph school-zone speed limits during the posted hours. The flashing yellow traffic lights are there to caution you," said Chief Williams. "There aren't many thoughts more troubling to me than a car hitting a child on their way to or from school." ■



RBPB Traffic Unit left to right, Officer Cornelius McGriff, CSA Dana Glorit, Officer Eli Jackson, CSA Elizabeth Davis and Officer Michael Brown

Do you know the real Riviera Beach?

The following commentary by Chief Clarence Williams appeared in the Sunday, August 17, 2014 edition of the Palm Beach Post.

The Commission on Social Justice article *The Focus on Youth* will appear in the next edition of The Blotter.

We applaud The Palm Beach Post for its recent story recognizing the efforts by the Riviera Beach Police Department to fight crime in the city, but we also want to point to several larger issues at play here.

As evidenced by the spate of shootings between a small group of criminals that took place in our city on Aug. 9, our residents recognize that it will take a community-wide effort to remove these thugs from our streets and evict them from our neighborhoods. Through use of high-tech crime-fighting tools and other strategies, Riviera Beach has reduced its crime rate by 68 percent in the past 16 years. These are the official FDLE statistics, not some over-simplified and inaccurate, computer-generated list designed to generate clicks on a website, and often misinterpreted by local media outlets.

Despite a tendency by some to slap stereotypical labels on Riviera Beach, gangs and violent crime are not the essence of who and what we are here, any more than gang violence in West Palm Beach or Delray Beach to our south would define those great cities.

The Palm Beach Post story detailed the technology we are using very successfully to prevent crime, but we know that nothing works better than the attention of parents, pastors, teachers, neighbors and friends to help our kids from being recruited by gangs in the first place. We're fortunate to have many concerned, engaged citizens and several good programs that help keep kids on the right track, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy — founded by Viking Yachts and its owners, the Healey family. The academy gives our children a hands-on education about waterfront-related industries and activities so they can better understand and appreciate one of the defining characteristics of Riviera Beach.

The root of most crime problems is, of course, poverty. Riviera Beach urgently needs to solve the unemployment or underemployment of its citizens. Our city government and city staff have proven themselves to be fully committed to achieving this goal. If you ask Kelly Smallridge, head of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, what Palm Beach County cities are most responsive to her needs when it comes to recruiting and retaining businesses, she'll cite Riviera Beach as one of the best. While more jobs are always our priority, job training is the key to steering these jobs to our own residents. Our city is home to several Fortune 500 companies such

as FPL, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, FedEx, UPS and Lockheed Martin. Other high-profile employers include Rybovich, Baron Signs, Sysco and Red Bull.

Local businesses such as Cheney Brothers have experienced so much success here that they're looking to further expand in the city, bringing both construction and permanent jobs. Rybovich is about to launch a major expansion. As our city marina undergoes its own \$375 million transformation into a vibrant waterfront village, many more jobs are coming our way. We need to be ready to fill them with our own citizens through the addition of substantial and targeted job training programs, especially in the areas of transportation logistics and advanced manufacturing. The city manager's office is working to find the funding for a training center that will accomplish this important goal. If you watch what's really happening in Riviera Beach, you'll see a city in an exciting transformation, with unprecedented forward momentum and opportunities of historic proportions. Look closer at our citizens, as well. We care for our people, neighborhoods, neighbors, schools and churches. We care about how we are viewed by our friends and neighbors within the larger Palm Beach County community.

Chief Clarence Williams

Riviera Beach Police Department

email us

police@rivierabch.com

follow us

Instagram: @Rivierabeachpolice

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

phone us

561-845-4128

visit us

www.rivierabch.com/police

follow us

Twitter: @RivieraBeachPd

Hashtag: #serviceisjobone

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