



The Blotter

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

Message From Chief Williams



I'm excited about our new Junior Peacekeepers program - featured in this edition of The Blotter. The program, in a tangible way, shows students

the way to a bright future and how they can make a difference in the community today.

It's great to see how well the students are responding to the program. Call me an optimist, but I believe the practical application of what they are experiencing in the program will be reflected at school and in the streets even more than we had anticipated.

A major objective of all law enforcement agencies is to make their community safer. Success requires leadership, planning, great teamwork and community involvement.

While success can be measured in many ways, recognition from your peers is always special. The Rocky Pomerance Award gives the entire RBPD team that recognition.

I can't thank the RBPD team and the community enough in helping us achieve our "safer-city" objective. Of course, there is more to be done, but I'm confident we will continue to make progress.

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.

RBPD Receives the Coveted Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award

The Riviera Beach Police Department has followed several common sense adages - "Do what's right. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Keep your nose to the grindstone. Think outside the box." This focus on doing what needs to be done and utilizing new, innovative solutions to policing problems has paid off.

On August 3, 2016, the Riviera Beach Police Department received the Florida Police Chiefs Association's (FPCA) 2015 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award. The award was presented at the FPCA's 64th Annual Summer Training Conference & Exposition in Bonita Springs, Florida. Chief Clarence Williams and Assistant Chief Michael Madden were there for the award presentation.

This award recognizes agencies for developing and implementing Innovative approaches to policing. The philosophy behind this award is to recognize excellence in policing and to encourage member law enforcement agencies to share with their peers, programs they've developed to address community problems. It is the premier award that a police department in Florida can receive.

The award was presented to three policing agencies in Florida - one small-sized, one medium and one large depart-

ment. RBPD received the award for a large agency (75 or more sworn officers).

In his award presentation remarks, Chief Butch Arenal, FPCA President acknowledged that Riviera Beach suffered from high crime rates during the 1980s and 1990s. He credited the City's 52 percent drop in crime by 2014 to the transformation of the department's culture - with its focus on customer service, education, training, and technology - and the implementation of the Department's "Technology Oriented Policing (TOP)" program.

In addition to the City's crime reduction, the award acknowledges other RBPD accomplishments such as its successful community relations initiatives; the fact that RBPD has led Palm Beach County agencies in BRASSTRAX submissions for the



Left to right: RBPD Assistant Chief Michael Madden, FPCA immediate past President Brett Railey, and RBPD Chief Clarence Williams

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past three years; and RBPB's homicide solvability rate, which has been above the national average for the past few years.

Chief Williams gives much of the credit to the men and women of RBPB, sworn and non-sworn, for their dedication and hard work. "We are a team," said Chief Williams. "Just like every successful team, it requires everyone on the team to play their position well. They've done just that. And every position on the team is important, regardless of

their job with RBPB."

Chief Williams also gives credit to the City's residents, businesses, and community organizations for their part in helping reduce crime, which he says couldn't have been done without them.

Personally, for Chief Williams, the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award is an indication that he has done what he set out to do, as he stated in a letter dated May 16, 2003. In the letter, written during his first year as

RBPB Chief, Chief Williams described his major goal as "making the Riviera Beach Police Department a model department for cities of our size and one of the top Police Departments in our state."

"There is more work to be done," said Chief Williams, "but, for now, it's great to be able to reflect on how far we have come, and it's nice to receive recognition from the Florida Police Chiefs Association for our accomplishments." ■

Police Handlers and K-9 Form Unique Bonds Invaluable Members of the RBPB Award Winning Team

After a long day on the job, many of us like to head home to a nice meal and a little relaxation with family and friends. The same is true for Police K-9s. While on the job, these dogs train hard (40 hours per month) and are ready for service at a moment's notice. But when their 10-hour shift is over, they go home with their police handlers and become family pets.

"I know it's hard to believe, but at home, it's like Police Dogs become different animals," said Sergeant Edgar Foster who heads up the RBPB K-9 Unit. "It seems like they understand that it's all right to relax at home, to be off guard and just be a pet. At

home, their bark is even different."

According to Sergeant Foster the reverse is also true. When the dog gets into the police vehicle the next day he said, "It's like a switch comes on and the dog goes into an alert mode,

ready to answer the call to service."

The RBPB K-9 Unit consists of four Police Officers (handlers), a Sergeant and four dogs, including:

- **Officer Cedrick Edwards** – 23 years of service with RBPB and joined the K-9 Unit in 2005. His dog is 6-year-old 'Herkules'.
- **Officer William Louden** – 11 years of service with RBPB and joined the K-9 Unit in March of this year. His dog is 29-month-old 'Milow'.
- **Officer John Vanderlaan** – 9 years of service with RBPB and joined the K-9 Unit in March of this year. His dog is 23-month-old 'Gin'.
- **Officer Justin Hawkins** – 2 years of service with RBPB and joined the K-9 Unit in March of this year. His dog is 26-month-old 'Perez'. Officer Hawkins, a former member of the U.S. Air Force, qualified for two RBPB specialized units (K-9 and SWAT) within his first two years of service.
- **Sergeant Edgar Foster** – 10 years with RBPB and 7 years of formal K-9 handling. Sergeant Foster's 10-year-old dog 'Amal' has been retired and is now owned by and lives with Sergeant Foster and his family.

You have probably noticed that most police dogs are German Shepherds. That's because they have a mixture of attributes that make them a superior breed for Police work. Their sense of smell and hearing are better than most breeds, their size is ideal, and they are extremely loyal and brave.

RBPB buys its dogs from Canine Extreme, a company that specializes in German Shepherds. They prescreen their dogs by putting them through a series of tests based on a set of specifications.

Police K-9s are primarily used in two roles - patrol (tracking, area searches, building searches and criminal apprehension) and detection (narcotic and explosive searches). Male dogs are usually considered suitable for both tasks because of their aggressive nature, which is an asset for the patrol aspect of the job. RBPB only uses male dogs for that reason. Often, seeing and hearing a barking Police K-9 discourages suspects from running.



RBPB K-9 Unit, L to R.: Officer Vanderlaan with 'Gin', Sergeant and Officer William Louden with

Pictured above in training exercise is Sergeant Foster and K-9 Milow

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Assistant Chief Coppin Retires After 29 Years of Service



Assistant Chief Robert Coppin retired in April of this year after 29 years of service with RBPB. He began his law enforcement

career right out of high school, when he joined the Riviera Beach Police Department.

As a sworn member of the Department, Assistant Chief Coppin has served in several different areas over the years, including Road Patrol, Investigations, Vice, Special Response Team (SRT) and Internal Affairs.

Recognized for his knowledge and successful work in narcotic investigations / apprehensions, Assistant Chief

Coppin was selected to serve as an agent on the Palm Beach County Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit (Man Unit). Perhaps his proudest accomplishment in law enforcement came in 1997 when he was selected to serve on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) task force. Assistant Chief Coppin was a member of this task force for 3 years and was recognized for outstanding achievement in Drug Enforcement.

Also in 1997, Assistant Chief Coppin was elected President of International Union of Police Association (IUPA) - a position he held until 2006.

Always seeking self-improvement, Assistant Chief Coppin earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Public Administration from Barry University while working fulltime.

He received specialized training from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Assistant Chief Coppin's professional affiliations include membership in the International Association of Chiefs' of Police and the Florida Police Chief's Association. He is also an active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated.

Acknowledged for his leadership abilities, Assistant Chief Coppin rose through the ranks over the years, even serving as RBPB Acting Chief of Police for a few months in late 2015 and early 2016.

Assistant Chief Coppin (retired) is already greatly missed. Please join me in wishing him well during this next phase of his life. ■

Chief Clarence Williams



Officer Cedrick Edwards with 'Herkules', Officer Sean Edgar Foster, Officer Justin Hawkins with 'Perez', and Officer Milow with 'Milow'

explosives, RBPB can call for assistance from one of its neighboring agencies.

Police K-9s are usually retired around 9 to 10 years of age, when dogs start slowing down in both movement and response time. At this stage, there are situations when the dog's age-related changes could result in harm to the dog and / or Police Officers.

When a Police K-9 retires, the City gives the dog's police handler the first chance to buy the dog. The price is usually

one dollar in order to remove the dog from the books. "I have never seen a handler decline the offer to buy his / her retired dog," said Sergeant Foster. "There is a special bond between the two after living together and working side-by-side for a number of years, not to mention possible acts of heroism." ■

RBPB K-9 Unit's Average Year of Performance	
Major events worked	12
Number of community events attended	25
Number of apprehensions made	30
Number of trackings made each month	10
Assist other agencies	15
Number of hours logged training each month	40
Number of narcotic detection deployments	20
Street value of narcotics detected	\$20,000

In the detection role, RBPB K-9s are only trained to sniff for narcotics. If the need arises for a K-9 to sniff for

WELCOMING NEW RBPB PERSONNEL

Name

Sullivan Maguire
Myers McCray
Mark Moriello

Position

Police Officer
Police Officer
Police Officer

Name

Latosha Phillips
Anthony Tejada
Samantha Wright

Position

Code Enforce. Tech
Police Officer
Police Officer

Junior Peacekeepers Answering The Call to be Change Agents Producing Positive Peer Pressure

The Junior Peacekeepers program was organized in May of this year. It was formed by the Riviera Beach Police Department (RBPd) in partnership with the Peacekeepers national organization, founded by Dr. Dennis Muhammad.

The program utilizes tried and proven classroom curriculum from the Peacekeepers national program in combination with hands-on training developed by RBPd and tailored to meet the needs of the local community.

Area students between the ages of 12 to 18 were invited to become a Junior Peacekeeper on a first come, first served basis. Formal classes include: cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, conflict resolution training, how to interact with Police, and more. Other agencies were also involved in the program. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Bomb Unit put on demonstrations,



Junior Peacekeepers at Florida State University

and tours were conducted by the Port of Palm Beach and the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.

Participating youths received a T-shirt, ID card, community service hours, public appearances, and a monetary incentive for completing the program. Classes, meetings and RBPd demonstrations such as K-9 tactics are held at the Riviera Beach Event Center.

The purpose of the Junior Peacekeepers is to promote and maintain Peace in communities with a high incidence of gun violence. The program is based on the idea that the community in general must take responsibility to help make their own neighborhood a decent and safe place to live. That also includes working in partnership with law enforcement.

The Junior Peacekeepers Rules are: 1) *Peace at all times*; 2) *Respect others, parents, and yourself*; 3) *No involvement in criminal activity or gangs*; 4) *Do not commit any acts of violence*.

With an annual budget of \$49,000, a total of 90 students have been accepted into the program this year. The budget is supported by the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Plans are to maintain the same level of support next year.

In addition to the formal classes, the students have had a very active summer. In July, all 90 students boarded two chartered buses for a two-day trip to Tallahassee. The trip included visits to Florida State University, Florida A&M University, the State Capitol Building, and the Florida Historic Capitol Museum, as well as a dinner and pool party at Attorney Sean Pittman's residence. Mr. Pittman is from Riviera Beach.

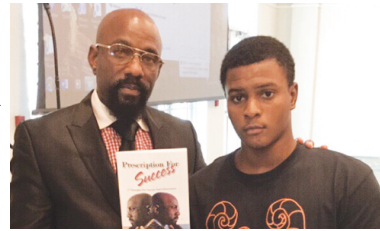
Both universities welcomed the Junior Peacekeepers with opened arms. Teams - comprised of students, faculty and ad-



Junior Peacekeepers at "new" Capitol building with the dolphin statue in Tallahassee

ministrators - conducted tours, gave presentations and answered questions. The visit to the State Capitol Building featured a tour and the opportunity to see a Mock Legislation Session, which demonstrated the steps involved in passing laws.

One of the guest speakers this summer was Mr. Hardge from the Miami / Ft. Lauderdale area. Mr. Hardge is an entrepreneur, motivational speaker, author, artist, marketing guru, and philanthropist. He also wrote a book, *Prescription for Success: 17 Principles for Success and Achievement*. Mr. Hardge told his story to the students, explaining how he had made some bad decisions and was involved in criminal activities in his early years, and how God had shielded him from disaster and helped him turn his life around. Each student received a copy of *Prescription for Success*.



Mr. Hardge and Junior Peacekeeper

Throughout the year, students will meet monthly with School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned to them and come together as a group every three months to participate in various outreach activities. The students were already called into action once in support of 2016 National Night Out - a community-Police awareness-raising event.

These Junior Peacekeepers are putting into practice the principles of "keeping the peace" that they learned earlier in the year. ■

Riviera Beach Police Department

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561-845-4128

Hashtag: #serviceisjobone

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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