



**SERGIO G DIAZ**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# RPD Happenings

Issue 2

May—June 2011

**Riverside Police Department**

## Message from the Chief

Over the next few months, I would like to use the “Chief’s message” to inform you about a number of programs and initiatives that your police department management team is working on. Several of these programs are not necessarily new but are efforts that RPD has previously participated in, however, for one reason or another have been abandoned or neglected. Most of these initiatives will focus on community outreach and safety. In this message I will discuss the Crime Free Multi-Housing program, the

Volunteer Program, and the Safe Parks program.

### Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH)

I believe the Crime Free Multi-Housing initiative is vital to our city. CFMH is designed to help residents, owners, managers, and anyone else associated with rental properties learn how to keep drugs and other illegal activity out of their residential community.

CFMH uses a three-phase approach:



**Chief Sergio Diaz**

**Phase 1** is an eight-hour training seminar presented by the Police Department and other City agencies, which focuses on teaching the managers and owners how to better **Cont. Pg 2**

## Police Personnel Honored

**By: Assistant Chief Vicino**

During this time of the year it is common for cities and government agencies to recognize their employees’

hard work. Recently and personally thank them for several of our employees their commitment to their received much deserved profession, their police recognition. I would like to department, and their take a moment to identify community. each of these employees

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### Tip of the Month:

- May is Bicycle Safety Month! Be Aware
- Always wear a helmet
- Watch for traffic, especially turning vehicles at driveways
- Be considerate, signal before making a turning movement

## Chief Message Continued...

screen their prospective tenants; how to strengthen rental agreements; how to develop safety awareness; the role of the police; crisis resolution; and civil liability and the eviction process.

**Phase 2** is an inspection and certification of the property after it has met the minimum safety requirements.

**Phase 3** is a management/tenant Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention meeting.

The CFMH program is not new to Riverside. At one time, the Riverside Police Department was nationally recognized for its CFMH efforts; however the program was neglected due to personnel shortages. In order to overcome this obstacle, we have reorganized the program's responsibilities to our Community Services Bureau, Neighborhood Policing Centers, and the Field Operations Division, making it a department wide effort. This new structure will allow greater flexibility an opportunity to improve upon the program's longevity.

Currently over 60 rental managers have attended the Phase 1 training and over 200 apartment communities have had safety inspections conducted. I am extremely proud of the enthusiasm and support our police employees have shown to revitalize CFMH.

### Volunteer Program

It is my intention to increase the number of volunteers in the police department. Over the last several months I've learned that the police department's Volunteer Program can be enhanced. Although we have a number of volunteers who have been very active with the Department, it's been brought to my attention that there are many more persons in the community who have unique skills and talents, and above all, the desire to help the community by working with the RPD's Volunteer Program. All that is missing is a higher level of commitment from the Department in terms of identifying meaningful and important work for the

volunteers. I intend to provide the focus and attention to expand our volunteering opportunities. Recently, surveys were sent out to the Department asking them to identify meaningful and job specific duties that volunteers could perform that would greatly enhance our ability to improve service to the community.

An example of new volunteer duties is my vision to create a Mounted Posse. Such a team of volunteers would be used to provide extra "eyes and ears" to the police department in the parks, downtown shopping areas, on hiking trails, and at various community events.

### Safe Parks Program

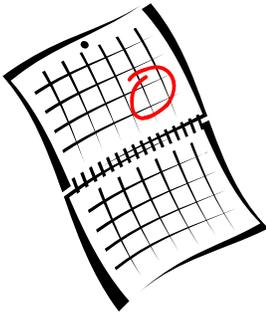
The Safe Parks Program is a team effort between our Police Department and the City's Park and Recreation Department. Over the past several months, we have placed increased emphasis on having our officers patrol City parks on a regular and ongoing basis to maintain the safety of these treasured assets so law abiding members of the community may enjoy them. Our RPD officers take great pride in making sure the parks in our city remain special places that all members of our community enjoy in safety. We believe that every child in Riverside is one of our children and we place great importance on keeping them safe.

Through these tough economic times we all must stay committed to each other and to our mission to provide effective and efficient police services to our community. I believe with the continued support of our elected officials and city government, along with the community and the men and women of this fine Police Department, we can and will continue to provide outstanding services to our specific duties that volunteers could perform that would greatly enhance our ability to improve service to the community.

Warm Regards,

Chief of Police Sergio G. Diaz

## Community Event Calendar



### May 9, 2011—Police Memorial Ceremony

Riverside Police Department - 4102 Orange St - 6pm

### May 21, 2011—Backyard Bash a Taste of Riverside

Orange Terrace Park— 10 am - 4 pm

### May 24, 2011—Small Business Resource Expo

Riverside Convention Center - 4:30 - 7:30 pm

### June 4, 2011—Riverside Neighborhood Conference

California Baptist University - 7:30am-1pm

## Have a question? ASK RPD

Do you have a police question you would like answered? Not sure why the police do things a certain way? Ask RPD. Please submit your questions to

[newsletter@riversideca.gov](mailto:newsletter@riversideca.gov) and we will review, answer and print as many questions and answers as possible.



## Every 15 Minutes Program at La Sierra High School

BY PSR Nicolle DeFries

On April 13-14, 2011, an *Every 15 Minutes* program was held at La Sierra High School. The program was named in the 1990's because *Every 15 Minutes* someone died due to an alcohol related traffic collision. The California Office of Traffic Safety supported the development of a program focused on high school seniors to challenge them to make wise choices.

15 seniors and their families participated while 700 seniors witnessed the mock collision and a follow up assembly. The students that "died" stayed overnight with staff away from family and friends. Guests at the assembly heard from students, parents, police, fire and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The impact of the program was apparent when students were crying in the bleachers as parent, Kim Labiaga, read her goodbye letter to her son. "I slept in your room last night, but not on your bed, hoping you would still come back" she read.

It is by working together that we are able to provide this strong program to our teens.



## Field Operations Division



**Captain  
John Wallace**

**What's New**— The routine operations at the Lincoln Station has been transformed with many significant accomplishments and change. Records Division personnel now occupy the old Sergeants offices; while the Sergeants have moved to the old NPC detectives area. The Report Writing policy was changed to a chronological narrative writing style and field officers welcomed this change as reports became more organized, easy-read, and less paper intensive. Field Operations was the beneficiary of new equipment. New IBIS machines were added to the inventory; for a total of 31 IBIS machines. Officers were trained and then issued these new machines. Officers consider this new technology a very effective tool to add to their crime-fighting efforts. Traffic officers were also the recipients of new equipment. They received five new Tasers to utilize in their field duties. Five more Tasers are still on order for Field Operations personnel use.

Currently, the Information Technology personnel are in the progress of conducting upgrades to the new License Plate Reader equipment for use in Field Operations. Two vehicles will eventually be field ready to read thousands of license plates a day to proactively recover stolen vehicles in our City. Auto thieves beware!

Field Operations personnel have continued to be instrumental to impacting Part I and Part II crimes in all areas of the City. Since January 2011, there has been a significant re-focus of efforts to work with detectives and officers in the Neighborhood Policing Centers to identify serial criminals and solve serial crimes. Officers Jeremy Miller, Grant Linhart, Nathan Asbury, Scott Levesque, Cory Oakes, and Eric Hibbard are a few of the many officers that have been recognized for outstanding leadership, diligence, and investigatory competence in the Field Operations crime-solving mission and collaboration with other divisions of the department.

## Investigations Division



**Captain  
Meredyth Meredith**

**Domestic Violence Unit** - The Domestic Violence Unit investigates all crimes involving domestic violence and Elder Abuse (of a non-financial nature). The Detectives work closely with the District Attorney's Office to ensure all of their cases are properly adjudicated.

The Domestic Violence Detectives are housed in the Family Justice Center located in the District Attorney's building. The Family Justice Center provides victims of domestic violence with numerous resources necessary to assist them in restoring their quality of life. Some of the resources include emergency vouchers for food, lodging, gasoline, clothing, and cellular phones; free access to an attorney to assist with the Family Court process; and free access to counselors from the Riverside Rape Crises Center and the Alternatives to Domestic Violence Center.

The Domestic Violence Unit consists of one Sergeant and five Detectives who efficiently manage and maintain an extremely heavy caseload. The detectives have received 1, 388 cases to investigate for the year-long time frame from April 4, 2010 to April 4, 2011. To date, 607 of those cases have resulted in an arrest or in an arrest warrant being issued for the suspect.

## Special Operations Division

*By Assistant Chief Vicino*—Community policing is an organizational strategy that allows the police and the community to work closely together to solve the problems of crime, social disorder, and neighborhood decay. This philosophy rests on the belief that law-abiding people in the community deserve input into the police process in exchange for their participation and support. It also rests on the belief that solutions to contemporary problems demand freeing both community members and the police to explore creative, new ways to address neighborhood concerns beyond a narrow focus on individual crime incidents. This integrated process involves citizens, police, and a host of private and governmental agencies. Each of these endeavors revolves around the concepts of community engagement, partnership and problem solving.

The Neighborhood Policing Centers were created and designed to carry out the functions described in the above paragraph. This structure has worked very well and our police department should be proud of its reputation for the way in which police services are provided to the Riverside community. However, there are a few employees at each NPC who I consistently see going above and beyond as they embrace their work with the community and I would like to publicly acknowledge their outstanding service.

Police Service Representatives **Nancy Castillo, Tina Shook, and Antoinette Alexander** consistently carry out their daily functions *in Cont. Pg 6*



**Captain  
John Carpenter**

## Support Services Division

**Personnel Bureau**—The Personnel Bureau is tasked with managing and coordinating the hiring process for all department employees. The bureau has been diligently working to bring aboard the highest quality police officer candidates. Our recent award of the COPS hiring grant allowed us to re-open recruitment for police officers, which has resulted in the recent hiring of one lateral candidate and two entry level candidates. On April 15, 2011, six additional officer candidates began the two week pre-academy session in preparation for the regular academy. Please join the Riverside Police Department in welcoming the following employees as they join the ranks of our finest here at the RPD:

Hired and sworn in on April 1, 2011 were Bryan Moulton, Shadee Hunt and Daniel Herbert.

Currently in the pre-academy program with an anticipated start date of May 1, 2011, for the commencement of the next regular academy session at the Ben Clark Training Center are:

Dana Vangorder, Robert Balisi, Joseph Cleary, Austin Barnhill, Tanner Paes, and Eric Gallagher.



**Captain  
Mike Perea**

## Management Services Division

This is the time of year when we submit our annual budget for review. The poor economic conditions, coupled with increasing costs, are presenting major challenges for the Department. The proposed operating budget for 2011-12 is \$81.7 million. To meet our "budget target" it was necessary to build a budget with an unusually high vacancy rate. There are 63 unfunded positions, or \$7.2 million in personnel reductions.

One of the hardest hit areas is in our support personnel. For example, other than dispatchers, no civilian has been hired by the Department in over four years. Currently there are forty (40) civilian vacant positions with another ten (10) positions leaving within the next 60 days. This represents a 27% vacancy factor and does not include the losses in temporary and contract employees. The high number of vacancies presents several challenges and every effort is being made to maintain service levels for both our internal and external customers. Our priority is to meet the myriad of legal mandates and reporting requirements.

To help bridge the gap in local funding, we are aggressively seeking out new grants and continue to rely heavily on seized asset forfeitures to purchase replacement vehicles and other vital operating equipment.



**Admin. Svs. Manager  
Karen Aquino**

## Special Operations Cont...

extraordinary fashion. I have personally worked with each of them during community outreach efforts and I have found their assistance invaluable.

While I have only been in Riverside a short time, I have come to realize the important role these PSRs play for the NPC's. All three have been assigned to the NPC's for many years and have performed practically every task imaginable. They act as a liaison between residents and the Department, making our jobs a bit easier. They meet with neighborhood watch groups, seniors and business organizations. Between meetings, they are often updating an e-mail tree with information and constantly answering questions about the department. They truly are the "jack of all trades" and are vital to the success of our NPC configuration, not to mention our community policing philosophy.

They are better known by the constituents in their policing areas than the Chief of Police. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to their community are outstanding. They are truly community policing at its finest and they are our departments "go to people." For most of us, they are the first people we contact when we need answers to questions or a quick history lesson.

Ladies, we thank you for your hard work and professionalism!

## Baker to Vegas Law Enforcement Run

**BY: Chief Diaz**

Please join me in congratulating the RPD 2011 Baker to Vegas Team. The team dedicated the race to our fallen brother Ryan Bonaminio and with honor, and in tribute to all the good that Ryan stood for. I cannot thank you enough for your dedication to training for the event, running with great pride and finishing with the **BEST TIME EVER!!** As many have already learned, our Riverside Police Department team finished 28th among 259 teams, and 5th out of 30 in our division. Amazing, but not surprising as I have come to learn that this department can come together and accomplish great things. Again, congratulations to the runners, alternates, support staff, and all who attended the



## Lincoln Police Facility Receives New Flag

**BY: Lieutenant Jaybee Brennan**

On May 1, 2011, Watch B and Watch C officers, Sergeants, and Lieutenants replaced the tattered American Flag that was affixed to the Lincoln Station outdoor flag pole. With respect to the military officers of this nation, the officers followed military protocol in not allowing either flag to touch the ground and folding the old flag in military folds; in the shape of a “tri-cornered hat” pattern as indicated in military protocol.

We ran into a snag in trying to fly the new flag; one of the metal flag clips had severed and the new flag would not line up properly on the flag rope. Sergeant Nelson, Sergeant Smith, and Lieutenant Phillips created new clip knots. There were not enough carabineers to affix the new flag holes to the flag rope, so Officer Jeremy Miller, Officer Suarez and Officer Runstruck donated their personal carabineers for the cause. After one hour, the new flag waved proudly over our station.



## Honored continued...

On March 24, 2011, Officers **Silvio Macias** and **Jessie Castro** were honored at the American Legion's 2011 Law and Order Award Ceremony for their extraordinary performance and community service. In addition, American Legion Post 289 presented the parents of slain Riverside Police Officer Ryan Bonaminio a Medal of Valor Award in recognition of Ryan's ultimate sacrifice for his community.

On March 26, 2011, Riverside Police Supervisor **Karen Haverkamp** was the recipient of the 2011 MADD California Hero Award for her work on the AVOID the 30 DUI campaign. Individuals, agencies and organizations from across the state were honored by MADD California and the California Office of Traffic Safety for their work and dedication to eliminate drunk driving.

On April 12, 2011, Volunteer **Shirley Wayne** was honored by the Mayor and City Council and was chosen as the City of Riverside Volunteer of the Year. Shirley joined the Volunteer team in 2007 and has donated hundreds of hours to the Department and the community.

Additionally, **Minta Ramirez** was selected as the 2010 Civilian Employee of the Year for the City. Minta was hired in 1982 and has voluntarily assumed the responsibility as an unofficial lead supervisor in the Records Bureau for several years. This past year has required an inordinate amount of time covering for the absences of fellow supervisors and handling complex research on projects assigned to her. Her continuous dedication and positive contributions to the Riverside Police Department and the community have earned her this recognition.

This year I also had the distinct pleasure and honor to attend the RPOA Award Gala. This was the RPOA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safe in His Arms Awards Gala and Officer Scott Levesque did a phenomenal job organizing the event. Scott demonstrated great leadership and commitment putting this spectacular event together for members of the Department. The Gala was held on March 26, 2011, and was attended by numerous people from the Police Department and from the City. Several employees were recognized by the RPOA and I would like to take this opportunity to identify them and thank them for their service.

Heroism Award - Officer **Everth Bercian**    Unsung Heroism Award - Sergeant **Russ Shubert**  
 Meritorious Service Award-Detective **Robert Tipe**

Sergeant of the Year - <b>David Ruddy</b>	Detective of the Year - <b>Ron Sanfilippo</b>
Officer of the Year - <b>Marvin Bruan</b>	Rookie of the Year - <b>James Mutuku</b>
Dispatcher of the Year - <b>Angie Soria</b>	Service Award - <b>Eddie Gonzalez</b>

I am continually impressed with our employees and the way they conduct themselves to provide services to our community. Each of these awards were well deserved and I offer my congratulations to each of these valued employees.



## Chief Participates in Community Events

**BY: Supv. Karen Haverkamp**



Sergio Diaz and Tera Harden

Photo courtesy of Michael J. Elderman  
Studio and Fine Art Gallery

On April 16, 2011, Chief Diaz participated in the Janet Goeske Foundation “Dancing with the Stars Inland Empire Edition” fundraiser. The event was held at the historic Fox Theater in downtown Riverside. Chief Diaz partnered with Attorney Tera Harden, with the Law Offices of Brian C. Pearcy. Chief Diaz and Ms. Harden were coached by Instructors Angie Quiroz and Jorge Lopez of Danzanna Productions.

The evening event also included a silent and live auctions, award presentations, and a tribute to the late Judge Victor Miceli. The event was well attended and fun for all.

Chief Diaz and Ms. Harden performed the Salsa to La Pantera Mambo which is the Latin version of the Pink Panther. While they didn’t take home the grand prize, they gave a wonderful performance and we are all proud of them!!!

**BY: Sr. Administrative Assistant Celeste Barden**

On Saturday, April 30, 2011, The Riverside Police Department joined the Crime Free Partners and participated in the YWCA’s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual “Men Who Cook” event.

Chief Sergio Diaz, Assistant Chief Chris Vicino, Lieutenants Bob Williams and Guy Toussaint along with (Retired) Officer John Start and Carrie Madrid served Arroz Con Pollo and Fried Plantains from our Cuban themed booth along with different flavored fruit drinks.

Awards were handed out at the end of the night and we were lucky enough to take home the awards for the Best Booth Decorations and Best Side Dish.



Being proactive for our community!

## Riverside Police Department

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