INEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last few months two promotional lists have been established; one for the rank of Sergeant, and one establishing the first ever civil service list for the rank of Investigator.

These positions are fundamentally important for our organization and how we develop our employees. It is crucial that we select the

types of officers that will advance departmental goals, objectives and philosophies upon assuming these positions. As your Chief of Police, I am looking for individuals that reflect the service delivery to which I believe our community is entitled. Simply put, "Policing in the Spirit of Service". Proudly, I look through the promotional lists and see the familiar names of good, proactive police officers, as well as officers who have chosen to proactively engage with youth and members of our community.

For those who have been, and will be, selected for promotions to Sergeant or Investigator, I am excited about the next chapter of your careers and what it means for the Rochester Police Department. When I look back on our department's rich history and the legendary supervisors and investigators that have risen through the ranks and have left such an indelible imprint on both our department and the Rochester community, I am honored to be your Chief of Police. I am also honored knowing that I am promoting what may become the future legends of the Rochester Police Department.

Policing in the Spirit of Service

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RPD

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RPD TEAMS WITH WDKX FOR "SHARE THE WARMTH" GIVEAWAY

For two weeks in December 2012, Sergeants Deidre Hammond and Sam Lucyshyn led a Department-wide coat drive for needy families in the City of Rochester.

Members of the Rochester Police Department were encouraged to drop off new or used coats at one of the four drop boxes placed in RPD offices. Over 300 coats were collected, including 25 new coats donated by retired officer John Nobrega and his wife Evelyn. All of the coats collected were then donated to 103.9 WDKX FM's "Share the Warmth" coat giveaway.

On December 15th, RPD officers, along with WDKX and multiple community organizations, distributed the donations at the Salem United Church of Christ, located at 60 Bittner Street. Coats, hats, and gloves were given away, and children enjoyed having their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

The event was in conjunction with Senator Joe Robach's office, the Snap Foundation, the NBA, the Rochester West Indian Festival Organization (RWIFO INC.), and the Federation of Social Workers (FSW).





OFFICER WEECH NAMED "TOP COP"

Congratulations to all of the RPD officers who were honored on March 6th at the Monroe County STOP DWI Program/Traffic Safety Board Awards Luncheon.

Honored at the event was Officer Albert Weech as the "Top Cop". The award is presented to the officer who exemplifies a well-rounded commitment to the DWI arena. Officers Weech, Jason Lathrop and Nickolas Isler each received a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding commitment to the on-going issues related to DWI. Officers Lathrop and Matt Gonzalez were presented with a Certificate of Merit for efforts in traffic safety.

SAVE THE DATE

The Inaugural Event of the Rochester Police Foundation will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at ONE Restaurant and Lounge.

The 32nd Annual Rochester Police Department Awards Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, 2013, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

BLACK HERITAGE MONTH

RPD Celebrated Black Heritage Month through a variety of events, providing entertainment and engagement opportunities for the community, as well as within the RPD.

TALENT SHOW

On February 12th, in celebration of Black Heritage Month, the Rochester Police Department hosted an engagement event in conjunction with some of the students from School #39. The Master of Ceremonies was Investigator Marvin Patterson. The show was well attended, and the student performances were excellent.

GAME TIME EVENT

On February 14th, Chief Sheppard, along with other police officers, spent their afternoon engaging with students from Ms. Collins' 6th grade class from School #42. The students were at the Public Safety Building for two hours, challenging RPD in board games, going on a tour of the building and having lunch together. These students were invited by Chief Sheppard to celebrate Black Heritage Month with the RPD, after winning a poster contest to help create public awareness to combat bullying. The students and officers both benefited from the experience.

LUNCHEON WITH THE LAW

On February 5th, the RPD hosted the 2nd annual "Luncheon with the Law" event at the Public Safety Building. The luncheon provided an opportunity

for citizens and employees of the RPD (sworn and non-sworn) to enjoy lunch together, while listening to live music from musical sensation, "Northeast Funk". One of the band members is our very own retired officer Glen Beard (Pictured on the bass guitar). This year, the famous "Unkl Moe's Barbeque" had an expanded menu, which was delicious as always.







NEWS

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RPD AND G2 PARTNERSHIP

The RPD joined a partnership with Generation Two (G2) to allow children to get to know police officers outside of enforcement situations. Twelve RPD members have committed to young children in Schools 3, 4, and 36 for the 2012-13 school year. G2 creates intergenerational friendships between adults and young students to foster the wellness required to provide the foundation necessary for learning. Along with 75 other adults from the community, each officer is paired with three children in kindergarten, first or second grade, for 30 minutes of one-on-one child centered play during school every week. G2 is universal in that all children in a participating classroom attend, not just those identified as having a deficit, risk or special need. The materials are simple; toys, games and craft items. The tools are play and conversation.

For the first several weeks the officers did not wear uniforms, and the children did not know they were police officers. After the children got to know their new friends and began to look forward to the time together, it was revealed that their friends were police officers. Most began wearing uniforms to school. The children reacted very positively. Some said they want to be police officers when they grow up. Others spoke of interactions their families have had with the RPD. One child asked her officer friend if he had been at her house the night before when the bad men were outside and mommy called the police.

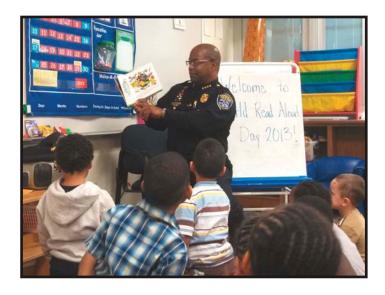
The intent of this partnership is twofold. First, for the RPD it provides a rewarding opportunity for officers to see children at their finest, not in the types of circumstances usually encountered while on duty. The children are relaxed, happy and engaged in what they do best; play. Second, the children simply get to know police officers as their friends and positive

role models. The friendships created in G2 persist. Children remember and seek out their adult friends beyond the duration of the one year play experience. It is hoped that because of this, future relationships with officers will be based on memories of trust and friendship. The children will look to the police as people who are there to help them.

G2 is very pleased with our partnership this year and wishes to expand participation with the RPD next year.

"WORLD READ ALOUD DAY."

On March 6th, Chief Sheppard and several officers joined other community members at School #33 for 'World Read Aloud Day." Participating officers included Ted Wilson, Keelin Kenny, Andrew Bostic, Denny Wright, Mike Grabowski, Adam Harden and Kyron Graham.



PAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



CHIEF SHEPPARD THANKS OFFICERS FOR VOLUNTEER WORK

Chief James Sheppard took time recently to thank his officers who, in the past year, have embraced his "Policing in the Spirit of Service" campaign and spent their off-duty time trying to make connections in the communities they patrol.

Nearly 170 officers were invited to three separate ceremonies at which Chief Sheppard told them that their efforts, while perhaps not the traditional police work they signed up for, are important and are making a difference in their communities. The Chief said, "My hope is that this is something we are renowned for in law enforcement; our volunteer engagement activities and reaching out to youth to establish good relationships." He has also made it clear that volunteering would be a component in his consideration for promotions.

Officers have participated in more than 20 different activities in the past year, such as the Cops & Kids Madden Video Game Tournament, Fish with a Cop, street hockey challenge, Skate with a Cop, book drive, reading to kids, Golisano's Children's Hospital at Strong programs, NBA 2k12 video game basketball tournament, and Buffalo Bills training camp youth engagement events. Others have participated in events such as Hispanic and Black Heritage Months. These outreach events, including PAL, are part of Chief Sheppard's "Policing in the Spirit of Service" campaign, which is the hallmark of his administration.

Aside from the officers, several community members were invited to three recognition events. The events featured video highlights of officers engaging with kids in the past year. Angel Alicea is president of the Rochester Youth Hispanic Baseball League, in which officers volunteer their time, and a member of the PAL board of directors. "One of the things is, the kids feel safe having an officer around," Alicea said. "For them, it's probably the first opportunity they've had to interact with a police officer. Doing something that they love to do, while at the same time interacting with a police officer, gives them a great experience."

Excerpts reprinted from Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.

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KUDOS TO THE RPD

The following kudos are excerpts from phone calls received by the Chief's Office, commending officers on courtesies that were greatly appreciated.

Betty called the Chief's office today to compliment Officer Eric Grillo. She was in a car accident at Lake and Stutson around 6 p.m. Saturday, and Officer Grillo was the officer in charge at the scene, he also came to her house after she was home to drop off her car keys to her husband (she had left them at the accident scene) and asked her husband how she was doing. Betty says they feel that Officer Grillo is a fine young man and they appreciate how he treated them.

Ms. Ciara La Piana called the Chief's office today on behalf of herself and her mother, Lisa La Piana, to compliment Officer Todd Wassinger for doing a great job assisting them when they were recent crime victims.

Mr. Win Lewis called the Chief's office today to give a compliment to PSA Johanna Rodriguez. He said he called 311 & dealt with her and he felt she was very professional. He said she really listens to make sure she has the right information to determine if the problem is civil or criminal and that she has the right temperament for the job. He said he would hire her to be a representative in any department he was running.

Ms. Patricia Millon called the Chief's office today to say that on 12/20 an officer saved the life of her 4 month old grandson. She said she thought the officer's name was LaRue or Labeau, the closest name in RMS was LaRuez. The baby has a respiratory problem and wasn't breathing when the officer arrived, but he performed CPR and got the baby breathing again, the

baby did have to spend weeks in the hospital after that, and is in the hospital now, but is alive thanks to the officer. Ms. Millon said she would like the Chief to give this officer special recognition and a pat on the back, she feels officers don't get the recognition they deserve, especially on the west side.

RPD ON FACEBOOK

On February 4th, the RPD launched the official Rochester Police Department Facebook page. This announcement is a testament to the Department's ongoing commitment to engage all segments of the Rochester community. The RPD will use all of social media as an investigative tool, for community outreach, to send time-sensitive notifications, and to enhance our recruitment efforts.

Visit the official Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rochester-NY-Police-Department/403845733028894



POLICING IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE



RPD'S OWN "GOLDEN APPLE AWARD" WINNER

Officer Dom Paz is a recent recipient of News Channel 8's "Golden Apple Award" for excellence in teaching.

Officer Dom Paz was recently honored as News 8 Golden Apple Award winner. Dom is a 29-year RPD veteran that has been teaching a Criminal Justice class at the Everest Institute for eight years. He also serves as the Investigative Coordinator for Patrol Division East.

Officer Paz was nominated by a former student, and Everest graduate, Brenda Hernandez. She said that Officer Paz taught her that hard work pays off. She said that the nomination was a way to thank him, quoting "I do have determination thanks to him. I have patience thanks to him. Because if it wasn't for patience and determination, I would not be where I am right now. I nominated Officer Paz because he inspired me to continue my education."

Congratulations, Dom!

"MEET THE RPD"

In this section, we will feature individual members of the Department, highlighting their careers and interests, both on and off the job.



MICHELLE COWART CLERK II, CIS MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

My Career:

I began my career with the RPD as a civilian Clerk Typist on third platoon in November 1991, where I was assigned to the Central Investigation Division, Youth Services Section. At that time, I performed record checks and data entry on juvenile crimes for the city and surrounding police agencies. I was cross-trained in the processes of the Missing Persons

Unit and Juvenile Warrants. Back then, the unit also included FACIT and the Child Abuse Unit (now IMPACT). During the years, I have been promoted on three occasions, and am now the Clerk in the Central Investigation Section, Major Crimes Unit, which I thoroughly enjoy.

Why did you want a career with the Rochester Police Department?

When I first received the letter to interview for the position at RPD, I had mixed feelings. Being raised in the city, I wasn't sure what to expect while working at the police department. The police are not always well received in the city by some citizens. But I knew that by not taking the risk, I would not know the outcome. I am glad to say that looking back, twenty-one years later, I am glad for the opportunity.

Tell me about a time in your career when you were most proud to be a member of the RPD?

First, during my interview, there were several people involved: A Sergeant (now retired), and three civilians. At that time, they seemed to have such a connection. They were there to support one another. When I saw the interactions between the sworn and non-sworn members, I could see the value of the family. Second, my mother-in-law recently passed away. My unit was very supportive during this time of bereavement. Several members from my unit (CID/MCU) took time out of their schedules on a Friday evening to pay their respects to a woman they had never met. I was proud because of the compassion exhibited by them.

What are some things you like to do when you're off duty?

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my husband. Our children are adults, so we have more free time. We attend a church that is lead by Retired Chief of Police, Pastor Sammie Drayton Sr. My husband Joe and I like to fish and travel. I even tried ice fishing. I also enjoy watching the Food Network, camping, going to sporting events and overall, just being with my family.

WE PRODUCE LEADERS

Over the years, the Rochester Police Department has developed a national reputation for excellence, due in large part to the tremendous talent, commitment and innovative thinking exhibited by those who have worn the uniform of the Rochester Police Department. The "We Produce Leaders" series highlights RPD alumni who have gone on from the Department to continue serving the community in a variety of leadership roles. We hope these articles inspire current RPD members and demonstrate the many ways that the skills and professionalism gained as a RPD officer benefits the community for a lifetime.



RET. CHIEF DELMAR LEACH Served: 9/23/53-8/31/85

Delmar Leach served in the Patrol Division, Accident Investigation Section, Traffic Section (Solo Motorcycle), Internal Affairs, Research & Evaluation, and as Range Supervisor at

the Training Academy. He was later appointed Deputy Chief of Operations, then Chief of the Rochester Police Department.

DESCRIBE A HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER IN RPD AND HOW THAT SHAPED YOUR FUTURE:

There is no single assignment that can be highlighted. The entire experience in the combination of assignments had great impact. For the relationships with the persons served with, to those of the community that one serves throughout a career, remain in memory. To separate one event or assignment would seek to neglect the others.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT:

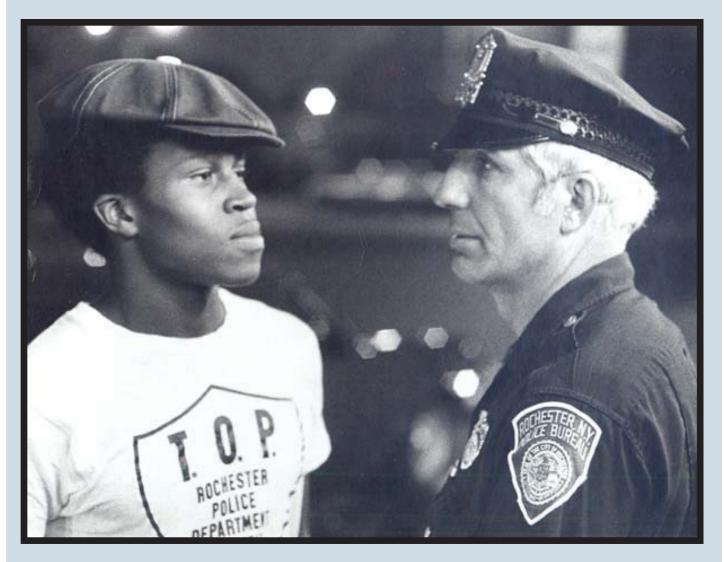
In September of 1985, I accepted the appointment as Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Monroe Community College, where I taught for eight years. Since then I have been enjoying a quiet retirement.

ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO THE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON THE JOB:

If a single word could sum it up, it would be "aspire". That is, to perform in each assignment to the best of your ability. Strive to serve the community in a like manner. Continue to seek improvement, and never "settle" for the status quo.



A HISTORY OF ENGAGEMENT



TEENS ON PATROL: Officer Al Piacelli and member of Teens on Patrol, circa 1970's.