

"Martinez PD is committed to building community partnerships one contact at a time"

Department Newsletter

EDITION #1

Martinez Police Department

January 3, 2013

Message from Chief Gary Peterson

The police department's newsletter is intended to reach employees, city staff and elected officials. Hopefully, it will help fill in information gaps that currently exist. I want to start by recognizing the hard working men and women of the Martinez Police Department. This past year was more of a transitional year than any of us really expected. You all did a fabulous job providing quality police services.

We hired eight (8) new employees in 2012 and they are deployed to different areas within the department. Several people contributed to getting us up to full staff. Thank you all...



This past year the department was heavily involved in the community. We took on several projects that improved conditions for our employees and functionality for the department.

We are excited about several budding partnerships that are on the horizon. We look forward to forging some intra-governmental partnerships that can help us improve how we can deliver law enforcement service to this community.

In the next Newsletter, we will highlight departmental training and crime trends and strategies moving forward.

"While our budget appears to be stable, the police department will continue to explore possibilities and opportunities that will allow us to be more flexible if financial conditions worsen."

New Sworn and Civilian Employees

Ofc. Bill Kruta retired after more than 28 years of service and the department was able to fill his position, as well as other vacancies created when some less tenured officers left for other departments and Officers Steve Caldera and Kristi Buelna medically retired.

Three of our new officers Matthew Allendorph, Rodney Brinser III and Jason Quon have successfully completed the departments' field training and are deployed to patrol.

Three other new officers, Garrett Pock, Michael Lincoln and Ricky Vasquez, were recently hired and are in our FTO program. We are at our authorized strength of 37 sworn officers.

This past year, our reserve program grew under the leadership of Cpl. Tyson Muncher. New reserves Jeff Boyce, Matt Castillo and George Tucker were sworn in this past year. With these additions our reserve contingent is up to nine (9) reserves.

Reserve Officer Matt Smith has left the department to take a full time officer position with Pacifica PD.

Like most agencies we struggle to find solid police dispatchers, so we were excited when we found and hired lateral Dispatcher Autumn Turnage, formerly with Richmond PD.

Autumn completed an abbreviated CTO program and has helped greatly with our dispatch staffing needs.

We filled the vacant police assistant position with Jenny Green, who has already made a name for herself downtown. A special thanks to Dave Brown for returning to the department to help out with our parking enf. needs.

Recognizing Our Employees

In November, we honored department personnel at an awards ceremony in the city council chambers for commendable acts performed in the year 2012.

Officer Bill Kruta received the department's Life Saving Award for being the first on scene at an apartment fire, entering the smoke filled building and notifying several residents on the first, second and third floors to evacuate the building. Officer Kruta also went to the source of the fire on the third floor and notified the adjacent neighbors who were unaware that they were in grave danger.

In that same incident the following personnel were awarded the Chief's Commendation for their actions: Lt. Aaron Roth, Detective Nick Voyvodich, Officer Kevin Busciglio and Officer Craig Schnabel.

Corporal Mike Estanol and Officer Matt Allendorph received the Life Saving Award for reviving a resident who had suffered a heart attack and prolonged his life.

Life Saving Award after 10 years

Officer Dirk Miller received the Life Saving Award after being nominated under a provision of the awards policy that covers past acts gone unrecognized. In 2001, Officer Miller saved the life of a resident who was being assaulted with a metal pipe.

Officer of the Year 2012

Corporal Tyson Muncher, a 24 year veteran of the department was named our "Officer of the Year" for his work in his neighborhood policing area and his leadership with the reserve and firearms program. It was nice to see several residents from Tyson's NPA show up and support him at the officer of the year dinner.

Civilian Employee of the Year 2012

Dispatcher Kelly Taylor was honored as the department's civilian employee of the year. Kelly is a solid dispatcher and our CLETS trainer.

Community Involvement

Several members of the department participated in public outreach activities during the year, including school presentations, visits to local civic groups, business organizations, schools, community festivals and many other public events such as the "Sgt. Brian Carter Memorial Blood Drive" and "Truck Day in the Plaza." Several of our officers participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run. The MPOA also sponsored a golf tournament that raised money for Special Olympics.

The department participated in the "National Night Out Against Crime" campaign on August 7th. NPA officers hosted neighborhood events including an ice cream social, a fingerprint event at a church for children, a social at Les Schwab Tires and several block and house parties. Police Administration made it out to most locations and were impressed by the turn out. By all measures, we considered our 1st National Night Out Campaign a success. We plan on participating again next year with additional enthusiasm.

Department Projects

We completed several projects that improved working conditions for employees and functionality for the department.

Fitness Area

In order to help decrease injuries and provide employees with a convenient place to work out, we spent \$25,000 of drug forfeiture funds on fitness equipment and converted our briefing room into a Fitness Area that can be used by all employees.

Emergency Operations Center

We remodeled the department's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with new white boards, LCD monitors and an overhead projector. These items were installed prior to disaster preparedness training for our city management. We have held two sessions thus far and will continue with additional training in the spring.

East Bay Radio Consortium System Authority (EBRCSA)

Our largest project has centered on preparing to transition from our antiquated analog radio system to the digital East Bay Radio Consortium System Authority (EBRCSA) along with 40 other member agencies including 30 cities, 6 special districts and UC Berkeley. Our radio project is being managed by Lt. Aaron Roth. We utilized a Homeland Security Grant of \$98,000 to purchase eighteen (18) dual band radios that will allow us to communicate with our partners at Martinez Shell Refinery and transition to the new system.

In 2010, the city council reserved \$450,000 in a special budget to fund the EBRCSA project. This year we purchased both car and portable radios (\$250,000). After we completed required R56 grounding work, new dispatch consoles were provided by EBRCSA and were installed in our Dispatch Center. As part of this project, we also purchased the "NICE" logging system because it is compatible with the new radio system and will allow us to retrieve caller and field audio (\$60,000).

We completed the necessary fleet mapping of radio channels for the new system and facilitated the "narrow banding" of the department's existing radio system. Narrow banding was completed to avoid a total radio shutdown in the event the new system wasn't online before the end of the year.

The new system is now projected to be up and running by March 2013 and we are posed for the transition.