



News from: Oakland Police Department



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Police Honors Departments Volunteers

Oakland, CA — On November 5, 2012, Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan, Assistant Chief Anthony Toribio, OPD Command Staff and personnel held an appreciation dinner honoring the Department's volunteers.

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For over 20 years the City of Oakland and the Oakland Police Department has had the privilege of having over 100 volunteers work along side with OPD.

Chief Jordan said, "During these economically challenging times, when staffing has been reduced, now more than ever volunteers are needed. Volunteers are the ambassadors in our community by helping to build trust and communication. They are part of our family and we appreciate their time and dedication to the organization."

Among one of the volunteers honored last night was Mr. Charles Johnson, who is 88 years old. Mr. Johnson has volunteered with the Department for over 20-years. Mr. Johnson said, "This is my way of giving back to the community that I love so much." Mr. Johnson was presented with a plaque from Chief Jordan recognizing his commitment and dedication to the Department and community.

Animal Services Director Megan Webb said she has about 150 volunteers who last year alone volunteered over 20,000 hours at the animal shelter.

Lea Rubio is the lead organizer for the Department's Citizen Police Academy (CPA). Rubio said, "Volunteers don't just do the work, they make it work." The 14-week course introduces Oakland residents to the police department and gives them a "snapshot" of its inner workings. They learn how the Department serves the community and how they can help in the future as a volunteer. Rubio said once students graduate from the CPA they have the opportunity to volunteer with the City and within the police department. After graduation many of the alumni (CPAAA-Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association) become volunteers and offer a valuable service to the organization.

CPAAA volunteers work on various events, including; National Night Out; Officer Appreciation Day; The BART Safety Escort Patrol (every December); Gun Buy Back events; Oakland's Holiday Parade; OPD's Police Athletic League (PAL) holiday dinner; Crime Stoppers; various safety patrols or "Feet on the Street"; assisting police personnel with large scale clerical projects; organizational projects and helping to develop newsletters, just to name a few.

Others Acknowledge last night were:

- Walter Chinn — Founder of the Asian Youth Advisory Committee
- Rich Fong — Advisor to the Asian Youth Advisory Committee
- Allene Warren — Oakland Bike Patrol
- Dawna Dowdell — who recently organized and fed volunteers, staff and officers who participated in the 48 hour Urban Shield event. This drill involved a reenactment of an airplane hijacking and rescuing hostages.
- Board Members of Crime Stoppers

Honorable Mention:

Judy Miller donates over 1,000 teddy bears to the OPD. Officers carry teddy bears in their cars for children that have experienced a trauma.

The Oakland Police Department would like to thank all of the volunteers for their time and dedication.

If you would like to learn more on how you can become a volunteer, please contact Ana Martinez at AMartinez@oaklandnet.com or LRubio@oaklandnet.com.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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MAXIMUM
OCCUPANCY
40

B. MEDRANO

J. DAVIS JR.

DURAN

P. FIGUEROA









H. JORDAN

JOHNSON

CHARLES JOHNSON
In deepest gratitude for 20 Years of dedicated service
to the Oakland Police Department
November 2012

