

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: June 23, 2011 REPORT NO. 11-098

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of June 29, 2011

SUBJECT: San Diego Police Department Volunteer Program

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The city of San Diego, like many cities, introduced community policing into its police department in the early 1990's. But what makes San Diego's approach truly unique is the unparalleled extent to which the police department has made volunteers an integral component of its community policing philosophy.

The Volunteer Program has continued to evolve over the years and today is one of the largest and most successful programs in the country. It is considered a national model for other police departments to follow. The program consists of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Volunteers in Policing (VIP's), the Crisis Intervention Program, the Police Reserve program and the Police Cadet program. All volunteers receive a thorough background check before entering any of the above volunteer programs.

The Department now possesses a volunteer workforce of approximately 753 citizens. These volunteers play a vital role in the department's vision to engage the community in a problem-solving partnership to reduce crime and positively affect the quality of life in each of our communities.

DISCUSSION

The different volunteer programs, number of members, and hours donated last year are:

- RSVP's (431) 108,000 hours
- VIP's (154) 21,000 hours
- Crisis Team (98) 15,000 hours
- Police Reserves (24) 6,000 hours
- Police Cadets (46) 3,000 hours

Totals: 753 Volunteers 153,000 Hours

RSVP's

The Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol program is the largest volunteer program component of the San Diego Police Department. It began in 1992 as a pilot program in Rancho Bernardo, with a class of 21 RSVP's. Today the program has over 443 members and continues to grow.

RSVP's provide many services some of which are; vacation house checks, child fingerprinting programs, visits to persons living alone and various crime prevention and homeland security duties. The existence of many of these services would simply not be possible if not for our RSVP members.

The RSVP's must be at least 50 years of age or older. They attend 40 hours of classroom training on subjects that include first aid, department procedures, community policing and basic traffic control techniques. RSVP's must volunteer a minimum of 24 hours per month.

VIP's

The Volunteers in Policing program started in 1989. VIP's must be at least 18 years of age. Applicants who are accepted into the program are screened for interest and then placed. Position responsibilities and duties have evolved since first started when the majority of those positions involved clerical duties. Today, volunteers work a myriad of positions which include front counter information desks at patrol commands, interns in the crime lab and the speaker's bureau.

VIP's receive an orientation to the police department. Once placed they are trained by the unit they are assigned. VIP's are required to volunteer 12 hours a month.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

The San Diego Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) was created in 1987 and is comprised of selected citizen volunteers who are specially trained to provide immediate emotional and practical support to victims, witnesses and other survivors of traumatic situations.

Crisis Team members receive 40 hours of classroom training and 40 hours of field training with a senior crisis team member. They are required to volunteer 20 hours per month.

POLICE RESERVES

The Police Reserve program can be traced as far back as 1942. The reserve program currently has 24 members. Reserve Officers are sworn police officers with the same duties and abilities as a full-time police officer when they are on duty. They assist with traffic control, community events and increased visibility in our neighborhoods. They also assist with extra patrol at shopping malls during the holiday shopping season and many community events such as December nights at Balboa Park.

Police Reserves receive the same training as a regular police officer. They are required to volunteer 20 hours per month.

POLICE CADETS

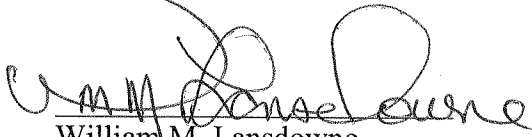
The Police Cadet Program was started in 1992. It is a non-enforcement entry level position for people ages 16-21. They complete a six-session academy, and are required to volunteer 20 hours per month.

The Cadet Program provides a great law enforcement experience and allows the young adults a way to learn about law enforcement first hand by interacting with police officers, detectives and our community. Cadets find this program to be a rewarding experience even if they choose not to pursue a career in law enforcement as the program is an enlightening and educational experience.

CONCLUSION

Volunteers play a vital role by providing many services to our community. They are critical in helping our police department deliver the best services possible to the 1.3 million residents of San Diego and the tens of millions of visitors that come to San Diego to spend time in our beautiful city.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police