



POLICE

LITTLE ROCK

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BULLETIN

CHIEF'S CORNER

BY: CHIEF LAWRENCE JOHNSON

On November 2nd, I was contacted by a staff person for Secretary Tommy Thompson of the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration. An invitation was extended to be the keynote speaker at the National Summit being held in New York City on November 14-16th. I was recommended by a member of the Jefferson Institute, Washington, D.C. The Jefferson Institute was heavily involved in the efforts at the Murray Federal Building in Oklahoma City. They were interested in my experiences in Oklahoma City and wanted me to share with others the long term mental health needs, and future needs of the First Responders, i.e., Fire, Police and Medical Personnel, especially those workers who are exposed to acts of terrorism with large numbers of casualties. In addition, I was part of a panel discussion, along with a representative of the New York City Fire Department and others in the mental health field.

The conference was well attended with over six-hundred persons registered from the mental health field, representing forty-six of the fifty states and six U.S. Territories. The opening ceremony of the conference was held in a large theater in Downtown Manhattan with opening remarks by Secretary Thompson, remarks by one of the survivors of the Oklahoma City Bombing and finally the keynote address.

The opening slide of the presentation highlighted a copy of the Little Rock Police Department recruiting photograph of two Little Rock Police Officers in uniform with a backdrop night shot of downtown, Little Rock. As the presentation proceeded the photo remained highlighted on two very large screens for well into the hour.

I was proud to represent the Little Rock Police Department, and to make our contribution to the first responders of New York City.

HATS OFF TO OFFICERS

The following story appeared in the November 19, 2001, Democrat Gazette Newspaper. The officers identity is unknown, but their actions are an example to us all.

By: Mike Altland, Conway.

My wife and I were shopping in West Little Rock one Saturday afternoon and stopped at a drive-in for drinks. As we sat in our car waiting for our order, a touching story started to play out by the picnic tables in the median of the restaurant.

A tandem of female Little Rock Police Officers were responding to the needs of a young female transient. No handcuffs, no citations. You could tell it was just a thoughtful, kind interchange of dialogue. The officers were only trying to provide some encouragement and direction (and a hug) to someone who really needed some cheering up. It looked like they also provided a meal to a teen who might not have known where her next meal was coming from.

As I backed out from my parking space, I thought long and hard about how most of us have preconceived negative notions about the long arm of the law. I applaud those lady cops for going above and beyond the call of duty.

I don't know if what I saw was taught at the police academy, but someone in the chain of command somewhere along the line surely impressed a sense of duty with compassion to those ladies in uniform. I'm glad I had the opportunity to see the softer side of police work.

LITTLE ROCK CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We want to congratulate Class 32 of the Citizen Police Academy on completion of their ten week course. Those recognized were: Sharon Baird, Tina Baird, Ronda Barentine, Gloria Brewer, George Burt, John Carter, Phyllis Dickerson, Bert Evans, Eric Francis, Brandy Fuller, Dana Fuller, Kathy Gattin, Randolph Hamlin, Phyllis Johnson, Rita Jones, Virgil Jones, Le'Veil Kinchen, Jessamine King, Tammy Lams, Billy McDonald, Joyce Pattillo, Tomi Prowell, Nancy Sheehan, Montrel Simmons and Paula Stitz. We look forward to their involvement and support in the Alumni Association.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we want to express our appreciation to all those who volunteered their time at the Arkansas State Fair. With their participation, the LRCPAAA was represented at all times in the LRPD booth. Thanks!

The 2002 Alumni Board of Directors:

Pat Zimmerman, President, Dave Garren, Vice President, Debby Hamilton, Treasurer, Judy Vance, Secretary, Tom Anderson, Ken Ball, Jim Morehead, Norman Yaniger, Gene Zimmerman.

We are all dedicated to ensuring another successful year of working with the Little Rock Police Department and to the continued growth of the Alumni Association.

We wish you all a safe holiday.

TOMMY BOY'S INC. TO HELP POLICE AND FIRE OFFICERS

Christy Kelly, Officer Wayne Kelly's wife, is opening a new restaurant in downtown Little Rock. The restaurant will be located at 1500 S. Main St., formerly where Sweden Crème Dairy Bar was located. Tommy Boy's has received permission to sell famous McIntosh sweet potato pies. The pies will sell for \$10 with the proceeds going to help Little Rock Police Officers and Fire Fighters. The pies themselves are being sent to New York to help feed the workers at the World Trade Center site. Please take the time to stop by and thank Christy Kelly for her help and buy a pie if you wish.

Be afraid! Be very afraid!

During Halloween a very scary person was seen wandering the halls of Police Headquarters. His double knit Leisure suit, bushy blonde hair, and pencil thin mustache (no chest hair) made the toughest police officer tremble with fear. Disco man was seen all over the building. Who is it?



Protect Your Case: The Use of Sign Language Interpreters During Investigations Involving Deaf Individuals

Katrina R. Miller, Ed.D.

Investigations involving deaf individuals present, unique challenges to police officers. Hearing loss is a disability that officers cannot distinguish at first glance. There are many misconceptions about people with hearing loss. For instance, often people believe that sign language is a universal language, or that all deaf people can "read lips." Usually deaf people are not skilled lip readers, and there are many different kinds of sign languages used by persons with hearing loss. These issues contribute to complications beyond the obvious barriers to communication with deaf individuals, and provide a key reason why it is prudent to utilize a professional sign language interpreter when conducting a forensic interview.

Communication barriers between the police and deaf individuals have led to tragic or legally actionable consequences in more than one instance. A deaf Detroit man was shot to death by police in 2000 when he did not respond to an officer's directives to put down a rake that he was holding in a threatening manner. The officers did not realize that he could not hear them. The failure of deaf citizens to comply with police due to not understanding what is being asked of them, not hearing an officer's directives, or having medical conditions that interfere with their functioning becomes a serious problem when not quickly recognized by officers. Law enforcement agencies can take a proactive approach to working with deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens by hiring officers who are proficient in sign language whenever possible, and by promoting awareness and procedural training within their departments.

Preparing for communication with a deaf or hard-of-hearing signer requires, first and foremost, that officers know where to call to procure a sign language interpreter. Each state has a commission on disabilities or a commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and these entities can make available the contact numbers for local interpreting agencies. Under federal law, the responsibility for payment of interpreters rests on the police department, which is one reason why officers sometimes are reluctant to use an interpreter. However, the failure to use a qualified interpreter can cost officers their entire case, as in 2000, when a police interrogation of a deaf man regarding drug possession produced evidence that was later suppressed by the court when it was determined that the man had not understood the officers. Officers had finger spelled (the spelling out of English words using the hands) and written notes with him, but language by which he could understand his Miranda rights had not been provided.

Because deaf people typically have less access to education and some have developmental delays in learning English, note writing with deaf individuals should not be attempted unless a field test of reading ability is first applied. This can be done using a local newspaper. Ask the deaf person to read an article from the newspaper, and explain it in his own words. If he cannot do this adequately and independently, he cannot communicate effectively using note writing and an interpreter should be used. Otherwise, a potentially avoidable legal loophole will be created if the individual's understanding of the situation is later called into question by the court.

It is highly commendable when officers take an interest in learning ASL. There are many instances in which a rudimentary knowledge of basic signs or finger spelling can make a world of difference to a deaf person in need of reassurance or assistance. However, for police procedures such as Mirandizing or pre-trial interviews, there are two important reasons to utilize the services of a professional sign language interpreter. First, equal access to communication for deaf people is federally mandated under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and second, without adequate communication, serious evidentiary mistakes may occur. Cases which are thrown out of court because of a failure to communicate with the deaf person represent a colossal waste of an officers' time, and may result in dangerous people being put back out on the streets.

Sign language interpreters are trained to manage communication situations with deaf individuals. They

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can serve a number of important, timesaving functions during a police interrogation of a deaf person. They are able to assess and determine which sign language or communication modes are being used by an individual and accommodate them, or they may alert officers if the individual is difficult or impossible to

communicate with. An estimated 20% of deaf signers do not have the language skills in place to comprehend legal proceedings, even when signed by a professional interpreter. In these situations, the courts must apply alternative legal approaches, as these individuals cannot receive due process without extensive accommodation.

Sign language interpreters can help to eliminate other pitfalls as well. Interpreters are experienced in working with deaf people and are able to recognize communication subtleties in individuals that look identical to the unpracticed eye of a beginning signer. For example, the signs for "kill" and "pupil" (student) may appear similar in the northwest region of the United States. While the hand shapes are the same and the motions look similar, the facial expressions and contexts in which they are applied are different. A misunderstanding of the signer's intent has the potential to derail an officer's entire investigation.

While a sign language class can positively impact interactions between officers and deaf citizens in a number of ways, during legal procedures such as Mirandizing and pre-trial interviews, it is strongly recommended that officers rely on a trained, professional sign language interpreter. Officers should consult with the interpreter prior to questioning, recording his or her name, contact number, and credentials. It is recommended that officers video-

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tape the entire administration of the Miranda Warning and pre-trial interview. Videotape can be invaluable in the event that the language use, language proficiency, or evidence obtained is called into question in court.

Officers who must communicate with deaf citizens can prepare themselves for basic communication by taking ASL classes. For legal proceedings, officers should obtain and carry the contact number of the local interpreting agency. Officers need to recognize that lip-reading and note writing with deaf people is rarely an effective way to communicate, and administer field tests of reading ability and call for interpreters as needed. Interviews performed using interpreters should be videotaped. In so doing, officers are complying with federal law and taking precautions that have the potential to avoid costly evidentiary mistakes as a result of misunderstood communications. Dr. Katrina Miller is an assistant research professor at the University of Arkansas Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Persons who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.

CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS

The Ronald McDonald House, in conjunction with Griffin and Legget hosted the 1st Annual Law Enforcement Chili Cook-off. The event helped feed the children and their parents who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House while receiving treatments at Children's Hospital. Officers Cindy Dycus, Cassandra Davis, Brian Grisby, and Terrell Vaughn cooked the chili and then presented the recipe to the judges. The delicious chili and Officer Davis' song and dance during the presentation won them over. The Arkansas State Police and the Pulaski County Sheriffs Office also had teams in the competition. As you can see by the trophy our officers are holding, we won hands down. The recipe used was provided by Captain Tom Bartsch. Good work guys!



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SYMPATHY EXTENDED

We extend our sympathy to Officer Stacy Rath in the death of her father, Mr. Jim Collier. The funeral was held in Hot Springs on October 27, 2001. We also extend our sympathy to Officer Alvin Jackson in the death of his mother, Willie Mae Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was also the mother-in-law of Lt. Glenn King. The funeral was held in Little Rock on November 2, 2001. Our thoughts go out to DaKeshia Dickson, of Records, in the death of her father, John Lee. He passed away on November 20th. Please keep these and others in your prayers.

HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

Turner Publishing is finalizing all the forms for our history book. Retired officers have contacted the Department wishing to be a part of the project. Former Chief R.E. Bryans, Buck Griffith, Butch Potts, and Gene Crist have all contacted the PIO and stated that they will help in gathering history information. Please take the time to write down any history information that you feel should be included in the book and forward it to the PIO's Office.

LIBERTY BOWL WEEKEND

The 2001 AXA Liberty Bowl will be played in Memphis on December 31, 2001. The game begins at 3:00 p.m. Sponsors of the game have provided Bowl game admission tickets to active police, fire, and emergency personnel and their families. For more information, call 1-800-235-1984 or visit www.uniquememphis.com.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Sergeant Kenny Williams is recovering from cancer surgery. He will be taking chemo therapy for several weeks. Prognosis is good at this time. He got to go home on November 27th. We wish him the best.

RETIREMENTS

Officer Donald Jones retired from the Department on November 17, 2001. He joined the Department on October 23, 1974. He has been assigned to the Airport for many years. We wish him the best.

WEDDING BELLS

Michael Fisher and Terri Lynn Simons were united in marriage on November 16th. Both work in Communications. The couple spent their honeymoon in Eureka Springs. Ed Fisher, who works in Property, is Michael's father.

Little Rock Police Department Awards

On December 20, 2001, at 2:00 p.m., the Little Rock Police Department will hold its semi-annual awards ceremony at the Training Division. The ceremony is to present officers and civilians with awards that were approved by the Awards Committee for the last six months of 2001. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be served. Following is a list of officers who will be receiving awards. The Rotary Club's Annual Police Awards Banquet will be held in January, 2002. All of these officers and the officers recognized in the first six months of 2001, will be honored again by the Rotary Clubs.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH AWARD

July

Detective Mark Treece, Detective Kyle King

August

Officer Ronnie McHughes

September

Officer Carrie Mauldin, Officer Mike Gray

October

Detective Bryan Brown

November

Officer James Tankersley

December

Detective Richard Kindervater, Detective Eric Hinsley

POLICE COMMENDATION AWARD

Officer Ronnie Carr
Officer Heath Helton
Detective Mark Treece
Officer Raymond Ferrell
Officer Terrell Vaughn
Officer Cindy Dycus
Detective Michelle Ferguson

LIFE SAVING AWARD AWARD

Officer Cristie Armstrong
Officer Tagos Robinson
Officer Calvin Martin
Officer Antonio Metcalf
Officer Tyrone Eason

CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Officer Willie Davis

MONEY TALK

BY: NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS

HELP YOUR CHILDREN UNDERSTAND MONEY

The combination of kids and money can be a great opportunity. Why? Because it's important that children get the chance to develop simple money management and personal finance skills. Too few children understand the basic principals of earning, spending, borrowing and sharing. In fact, in a recent survey of high school seniors, only 57% correctly answered questions covering credit card use, taxes and savings. So, how can you help your children make decisions that will enhance their financial well being now and throughout their lifetime? You can start by being aware of your own personal values and beliefs about money. Children are good observers, and the best way for them to learn good money management and personal finance skills is by your example. Remember that money is not limited to bills and coins, but also includes checks, debit cards and credit cards. Be prepared to discuss household money management and encourage children to get involved in the decision-making process. You will be laying the groundwork for your children to develop good management habits that can last a lifetime. It is never to late to start> The earlier you begin introducing personal finance skills, the better. As children learn how to apply the money management concepts of earning, spending, saving and borrowing, they are presented with opportunities to develop specific skills and perspectives. Here are some activities that encourage children to develope personal finance skills.

° **Preschool, ages 2-5.** Give them a piggy bank that can be easily opened; let them handle and count the money; show them the difference in coins.

° **Elementary, ages 6-8.** Use a store as a lesson in money management; let your children read the price tags and find similar items with varying costs; explain what you are doing at the checkout line.

° **Middle School, ages 9-12.** Take a field trip to a bank; involve the whole family in the household's budgeting process; let your children research your next family activity by comparing ticket prices, menu options, calculating gas spent on travel.

° **High school, ages 13-18.** Use a chart to help children set goals, set dates and develop a plan to achieve the goals; set up a family loan program that includes a pre-set credit limit, a fixed interest rate, and repayment schedule.

For more infromation, contact Nationwide Direct Access Retirement Specialist by calling toll-free 1-877-677-3678, option 1, then *0.

PILOT CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK

Dear Chief Johnson:

The September 11 events in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania brought clearly into focus the debt we owe our own police. For this reason we are sending this letter to confirm our appreciation for your selfless work. We provide community service and funds for many causes, but it does not compare to your contribution. Each member of our club salutes each local policeman.

Sincerely,
Linda Sayles
President

Santa is on the way. Are you ready?

Happy Holidays!

From the

Staff of the L.R.P.D.

Bulletin

