Assistant Chief's Update
January 31st, 2014

Greetings!

I have the great fortune to be writing this most recent edition of the "Chief's Update" and I would first like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year! I hope that this update finds you well.

I thought that I would take this opportunity to tell you about some recent changes in our Volunteers in Policing Program. As you all know, our department has a volunteer program that is simply second to none! We have over 110 volunteers performing a variety of jobs within our department. We have volunteers that work in Records, tend to our horses, serve in our Motorist Services Program, help to train our canines, work within our Law Enforcement Spanish Interpreter Program…and the list goes on. Last year our volunteers donated more than 11,600 hours of their time to our department and our community which equates to over $219,000 in staffing dollars! The support and services that our volunteers provide is truly incredible and is critical in allowing us to provide our residents with the best police services possible.

Having such a successful volunteer program is not easy. It requires a significant amount of time and dedication by a very strong manager. Fortunately, we have had Christine Kling at the helm of our VIP Program. Christine spent the last 7 ½ years as our Volunteer Coordinator and on January 7th of this year, she retired to spend more time with her family. What many people may not know about Christine is that in the early 70s, she worked for our department in several different positions including Records, Dispatch and as a Service Assistant in our Detention Facility.

Christine's combined years of service have made a very positive impact on our department and during her time as our Volunteer Coordinator, she helped create one of the best VIP Programs in the State of Arizona. Christine's service to our department and our community are very much appreciated and Christine will certainly be missed. We wish her all the best!

So who is in charge of our Volunteer Program now?

With Christine's retirement, we will soon be initiating a very comprehensive search for a new Volunteer Coordinator. We expect this process to take a considerable amount of time because we have to make sure that we get just the right person for this very important position. In the meantime, we were fortunate enough to have another former employee, Retired Tempe Police Commander Lee O'Leary, come on board to serve as the Interim Volunteer Coordinator. Lee's first day on this job was this past Monday.

Lee served the Tempe Police Department from 1975 to 2001 when he retired as a Police Commander. During his career as a sworn officer, Lee served in several different positions including Patrol, Narcs, SWAT, Traffic and Administration. He was also named the Director of Public Safety for Super Bowl XXX which was held right here in our very own Sun Devil Stadium in 1996. He graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command and he served as Acting Chief of Police. Lee also came back and worked with our Homeland Defense Unit from 2007 to 2009. Although he is officially retired, Lee still supports our department by serving on the Board of Directors for the Tempe Police Foundation.

Lee brings with him an incredible amount of experience, he is one of the hardest working men that I have ever met, he was certainly a mentor to me during his time here and I know that he will do an outstanding job as our Interim Volunteer Coordinator. I hope that you will all join me in making Lee feel welcome.

Thank you for the great service that you provide our community and please be safe!

Sincerely,
Angel