



City of Arts & Innovation

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: MAY 1, 2018**  
**FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

## **ISSUE:**

Recognize the Police Department's employees.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council recognizes the Police Department's employees.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Police Department would like to recognize Police Detective Brett Stennett and Police Service Representative Sharon Hedges as employees of the year.

### **Brett Stennett, Detective, Centralized Investigations Bureau – Robbery/Homicide Unit**

Detective Stennett has been a sworn officer for the Riverside Police Department for over 13 years. He was promoted to the rank of Detective in January 2016.

Because of his reputation for tenacity and thoroughness, Detective Stennett was selected for a position in the Robbery/Homicide Unit where he investigates a wide range of serious felony cases including kidnappings, home invasion robberies, carjackings, and officer-involved shootings. Detective Stennett always puts in extra effort; he completes his reports with graphs, charts, and pictures, explaining his investigation in a way that leaves no doubt about his findings.

In one such example, Detective Stennett investigated a series of armed robberies, which were being committed during the month of November 2017. He worked with our Crime Analysis Unit to tie four robberies in the City of Riverside with additional robberies in the City of San Bernardino. He worked diligently to identify and locate the suspect, and to obtain and serve multiple search warrants in the case. Faced with the overwhelming evidence gathered against him, the suspect accepted a plea agreement that sent him to prison for nearly 12 years.

Detective Stennett is a loyal employee who is committed to our organization and the community he serves. Detective Stennett is a constant professional, even during the most complex investigations that require long hours, additional weekend shifts and/or travel beyond our City's limits. Homicide investigations have often required Detective Stennett to travel out of the county or even the state. He can always be counted on to follow up on all leads, return phone calls, and

communicate with all involved parties.

Originally, from Washington State, Detective Stennett served in the United States Navy, where he served two years as a Navy/Marine Corpsman and two years as a Navy Ceremonial Guard in Washington, DC. While serving as a Ceremonial Guard in Washington, Brett's primary mission was to represent the service in Presidential, Joint Armed Forces, Navy, and public ceremonies in and around our nation's capital.

*Sharon Hedges, Police Service Representative, Traffic Division*

Police Service Representative Sharon Hedges has been employed by the City of Riverside for nearly 16 years, the last four in the Riverside Police Department where she is currently the Traffic Grants Coordinator.

During the past year, Sharon's efforts have resulted in \$608,000 being awarded to our City by the State Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

Sharon manages the current 2017-2018 OTS Traffic Safety Grant. This grant encompasses numerous traffic safety training, enforcement, and educational programs.

The training programs and grants that Sharon administers help guarantee that our officers are highly qualified to enforce the various laws that combat intoxicated driving.

Sharon plans, tracks, and reports on a variety of anti-DUI and public safety campaigns that keep our community safer. These include; Know Your Limit Campaign, Riverside Against Drunk Drivers, Bicycle Safety Enforcement and Educational Programs, Distracted Driver Awareness, DUI Saturation Patrols, DUI Checkpoints, Motorcycle Enforcement/Safety Programs, Primary Collision Factor Enforcement, Street Racing Enforcement and Pedestrian Safety Campaigns.

Among the biggest threats to traffic safety these day are smart phones. Sharon added funding into the grant to address this issue in Riverside. In the past year, hundreds of motorists were stopped and educated on the topic of distracted driving because of OTS grants that Sharon obtained and managed. In addition, several public educational campaigns were launched to address this issue.

Last year, Sharon participated in twelve Know Your Limits Campaigns that connected with almost two thousand citizens. This program educates patrons in bars about their current alcohol blood level. Voluntary participants are asked how much alcohol they have consumed and if they would drive right now if they were ready to leave. This question is followed by a breath test. Many of the citizens admit that they would have driven and are shocked to learn that they are over the legal limit. This program gives a first-hand lesson to would-be DUI Drivers and helps prevent injury crashes.

Sharon also participated in five DUI Checkpoints that screened thousands of vehicles and resulted in scores of arrests. The checkpoints are a proven deterrent to those who would otherwise drive after consuming alcohol.

Sharon works closely with the RPD's Community Services Bureau to educate the public before and after various enforcement campaigns. The results of the enforcement statistics are reported through several of the Department's social media accounts.

Sharon is also responsible for the assignment and disposition of citizen traffic complaints. Over the past year, the Riverside Police Department's Traffic Bureau received more than one thousand complaints through various channels. Sharon assigns these complaints to the traffic supervisors for enforcement and tracks the progress of the complaints until they have reached a successful disposition.

Among the vital pieces of equipment that Sharon has been instrumental in obtaining are 22 handheld wireless tablets for use by our motor officers, which will enable them to issue citations and write reports in a more efficient manner. She also recently obtained \$110,000 in grant funding from OTS for the purchase of a 3-D Crime Scene Scanner. This equipment will increase the quality of major injury accident cases and will reduce the time it takes to conduct those investigations.

Sharon's dedication to the Department and the safety of the Riverside community should be recognized. Her efforts have made our neighborhoods much safer places for the public to live, work and raise their children.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	Presentation
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