



## **Police Foundation: Volunteer Programs**

by Tom Murphy (September 2013)

As the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation continues to mature and grow, and as we receive ongoing financial support from the residents and businesses in Palm Beach Gardens, we are able to enhance our support of our local Police Department.

This support is in the two major areas as noted in the Foundation's articles of incorporation, namely:

- to enhance the safety of our community, and
- to enhance the effectiveness of our police department

The Foundation's support comes in many different categories. The primary focus is on the equipment, training and technology that allow our police officers to do their job and keep us safe.

A secondary support focus is on areas such as crime prevention, youth programs, community programs and police volunteerism.

Our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department has a very active volunteer program under the Volunteers In Police Service ("VIPS") umbrella. On a national level, the VIPS program is managed and sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in partnership with the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the US Department of Justice.

On a local level the VIPS program is under the Operations Bureau and has four major areas: Police Reserve Officers, the Citizens' Mobile Patrol, Police Explorers and Special Skills Volunteers.

Funded in part by the Police Foundation, the Palm Beach Gardens Volunteers In Police Service assist sworn officers in a number of non-law enforcement areas including administration, crime prevention, traffic control, civilian fingerprinting, information technology, special events, communications and numerous other areas identified by the Department. Often seen as a "force multiplier," the volunteers free up sworn officers so that they are able to focus more on law enforcement and apprehension.

As the summer ends, the Police Volunteers have begun a new recruitment drive and are accepting applications for membership. They are seeking men and women who have the time, energy and inclination to assist their local police department in a significant and meaningful way. Volunteers are non-sworn personnel with no arrest power. They are neither armed with nor authorized to carry any weapon. They must however be over the age of 25, possess a valid Florida Driver's License, pass a background check and attend training related to their specific duties.

Applications are available on the City website under the Municipal Services tab or in person at the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department lobby, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. For more information email [vips@pbgpf.org](mailto:vips@pbgpf.org) or call the PBG Foundation office at 799-4440.

The Foundation has a growing need for volunteers as well. We host several fund raising events throughout the year and we have ongoing week-to-week volunteer opportunities.

Community Advocates help the Foundation by spreading the message, mission and vision of the Foundation throughout their own community.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Foundation, please contact the volunteer coordinator to discuss your volunteer opportunity. Email to [volunteers@pbgpf.org](mailto:volunteers@pbgpf.org) or call the Foundation office at 799-4440.

While contributions to the Police Foundation are very important and provided much needed funds, volunteering is also an important element in helping to keep our City safe.

Tom Murphy has been president of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Inc. since its inception in 2007. Before helping to form the foundation he was a marketing executive with the IBM Corporation and earlier a member of the Nassau County (NY) Police Department.