



Police Foundation: 2014 Annual Giving Appeal Now Under Way

by Tom Murphy (October 2014)

In the fall of each year, the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation reaches out to residents and businesses with its end-of-year giving appeal. We recognize that charitable giving is a very personal decision, especially in these challenging economic times, and is an acknowledgement of the important work that your Police Foundation is doing within the local community.

The Police Foundation relies on this appeal and additional streams of revenue in order to help fund the **Equipment, Training, Technology** and **Community Outreach** Programs of our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department.

The Foundation believes very strongly that “*it takes a community effort to keep us safe*” and that safer streets mean better business and better quality of life for residents. Corporate members of the Foundation Board have demonstrated their commitment by their endowment of financial gifts and in-kind services.

The following are just a few examples of the numerous grants that the Police Foundation has made to our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department:

K-9 Officers. The Foundation has made grants to the Department for two police dogs and the training of the dogs and their handlers. Both dogs are trained in patrol; one is additionally trained in explosives detection and the other in narcotics and drug detection. They are part of a four-officer, four-canine team in the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. The grant for each dog was in excess of \$10,000.

Protective Helmets. SWAT Officers respond to serious incidents which pose a significant threat to the lives and safety of others. These Officers are often at the most risk. The Foundation provided a grant allowing an upgrade to the highest level of ballistic protection helmets available. This grant was in excess of \$8,000

Thermal Imaging Cameras. Law enforcement missions often require officers to see a clear image in total darkness as well as subjects camouflaging themselves and hiding from the police in daylight hours. The Foundation provided a grant allowing for the purchase of

thermal imaging cameras that can see in total darkness, through smoke and light foliage. This grant was in excess of \$8,000

Mobile Rapid ID Systems. Accurately identifying uncooperative subjects can be paramount to officer safety. New technology now allows for mobile wireless fingerprint identification so officers can make immediate on-site decisions based on FBI database information. The Foundation provided a grant for the purchase of several systems at a cost in excess of \$5,000

Domestic Violence Training. Understanding how to respond to domestic violence dispute calls and to insure the safety of the victim and their family is a key training element for police officers. The Foundation provided a grant allowing several local officers to receive instructor-level training in this key area.

National Night Out Against Crime. Each year, the Department conducts a community-outreach event designed to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts. It's an opportunity for residents to meet their local law enforcement officers, see demonstrations of police equipment and tactics and to increase their crime and drug prevention awareness. The Foundation provides grants to fund this annual event.

Our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department, as shown by these grants, has benefited greatly from the generosity and interest shown by the residents and local businesses.

The gifts you make support the law enforcement efforts of our police department and have a direct impact on the quality of life in Palm Beach Gardens. Your contribution is an investment in the future of professional policing in our City.

When your end-of-year giving appeal letter arrives, I encourage you to make a contribution to show your commitment to our community safety. You can also donate online at the Foundation website: www.pbgpf.org

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.