



## **Police Foundation: 2013 Annual Appeal**

By Tom Murphy (November 2013)

As we near the end of the calendar year, the Police Foundation once again reaches out to our friends and neighbors and to our business community asking them to consider making a generous donation that will help the Foundation in its mission of “enhancing the safety of the community and the effectiveness of our Police Department”.

We have been very fortunate in Palm Beach Gardens over the last several years thanks to the men and women of our Police Department. Through their efforts, the crime rate has dropped 17% in the period of 2005 -2012 while in the same period our population has grown some 9%.

This year’s Police Foundation appeal is focused on four specific priorities for a safer Palm Beach Gardens... Equipment, Training, Technology and Youth Programs.

Our safety, as well as the safety of our Officers often relies on them having the most up-to-date **equipment** with which to do their job. The Foundation has provided grants for numerous pieces of equipment including night vision cameras, Alzheimer tracking receivers, crime scene barriers, weapon lights, SWAT team members’ helmets and a surveillance vehicle.

Every day our Officers are faced with a variety of difficult assignments that they need to respond to. Grants from the Foundation have helped ensure that they have the necessary **training** and course work to know how to handle these various situations.

In Law Enforcement, as in every industry, **technology** is changing at a rapid pace. Through grants from the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, our Officers and Crime Scene personnel have the most modern technology to wage the war on crime. Foundation funding has helped purchase a hostage negotiation communications system, mobile fingerprint identification systems, video enhancement software and traffic radar recorders.

Providing innovative and effective **youth programs** are key to establishing a positive relationship between our young people and our Police Officers. The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department has a large and very active Police Explorer Post. Funded in part by the Police Foundation, the Post is made up of young boys and girls, aged 14 to 21, who have

expressed an interest in a possible career in Law Enforcement. They meet on a weekly basis, attend training camps and participate in statewide competitions. The Post finished first in the 2012 statewide competition and in 2013 one our Palm Beach Gardens Police Explorers was named *Explorer of the Year* while the Post Advisor received a national award for her significant leadership to the Exploring program.

It's important to remember that the Police Foundation does not relieve the City of its responsibility to provide the necessary funding for Law Enforcement services. Instead, the Foundation compliments City funding to support additional equipment, training, technology and youth programs that maximize Police effectiveness.

Also keep in mind that the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation is the **ONLY** organization authorized to solicit funds for the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department ... and that we **NEVER** make telephone solicitations.

So when the Foundation's appeal envelope comes this year, remember, **You Can Make A Difference.**

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.