



**Police Foundation: one of the safest donations you can make**

by Tom Murphy (November 2014)

The Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation is currently conducting its **annual appeal** to raise much-needed funds for our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. The Foundation invests in equipment, advanced training, new technology, officer safety, innovations in policing and community outreach programs not covered in the department’s annual budget.

The overall mission of the Foundation is to insure that our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department is the finest, best equipped and most highly trained police agency in Palm Beach County and thus can ensure the safety of our residences, our workplaces and the neighborhoods where we, our children and our grandchildren recreate. The Foundation takes its mission seriously and community safety is truly the basis of all that we value.

Since its establishment in 2007, the **Police Foundation has made grants in excess of \$250,000** to further promote excellence, expand capabilities, create opportunities and strengthen the community/police partnership. With your help we are making sure that every officer has what he or she needs to prevent and fight crime on behalf of our citizens and visitors.

The Police Foundation has given \$278,326 in grants to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department to help keep our city safe. Your donation helped fund the following.



The chart at the left was included in the Foundation’s annual appeal mailing and shows the various areas where grants have been made in order to help keep our city a safe and unique place to live, learn, work and play.

Remember, it takes a community effort to keep us safe... so I encourage you to make a donation to help the brave men and women of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department perform their jobs to the utmost of their abilities.



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### *An Upcoming study ...*

Technology is changing the role of law enforcement on a daily basis and the interest in and use of cameras worn by police officers have recently peaked. Proponents of body cameras say they can increase police accountability and transparency while preventing and de-escalating confrontational situations. They can also protect officers if false accusations of abuse or misconduct are made against them. But there are also many concerns surrounding police-worn cameras including their impact on privacy rights and community relationships. When the cameras should be activated and deactivated, camera footage retention, release of video to the public and their effect on civilians coming forward with information are just a few of the many considerations that must be addressed.



The Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation will soon fund a pilot study that will help evaluate this new technology for use by our Police Officers. The study will look at the major issues associated with the use of cameras and form the basis of future Departmental policies and protocols on their use. It will also address the costs associated with purchasing body-worn cameras and the attendant costs associated with storing the collected data.

There is little doubt that body-worn cameras can help combat crime, investigate citizens' complaints and tell a portion of the story of what occurred at incidents. The Foundation believes that body-worn cameras will prove to be a valuable tool for both law enforcement and the local community and we look forward to working with the Department on this pilot study.

Local corporations wishing to assist the Foundation in funding this study are encouraged to contact the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation at 799-4440 or [www.pbgpf.org](http://www.pbgpf.org).

### *Upcoming events ...*



Each year the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation helps fund and manage the annual **Police and Fire Joy Drive**. For over 13 years the Joy Drive has provided toys, and in some cases basic needs for families, underprivileged children and those less fortunate individuals during the holiday season.

Several drop-off locations will be identified throughout the city where new

toys, clothing and gift cards can be delivered. Those wishing to make a financial contribution to the Joy Drive can mail their check to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation and indicate "Joy Drive" on the check. The drive will run through December 22<sup>nd</sup> and more information can be obtained from the Joy Drive chairwoman, Judy Brandt, at 799-4488.

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.