

# **Henderson Police Department**

## **Citizen Corps**

Agenda  
October 27, 2008

### **Welcome:**

#### **Henderson Police Department Vision Statement**

Chief Chambers announced that the new vision statement for the department is:

“To make Henderson the safest city in the country by providing premier police services through innovation and partnerships with our community.”

#### **“Every 15 Minutes”**

The most recent “Every 15 Minutes” program was held on Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17, 2008 at Coronado High School. Thank you to all of the volunteers that assisted during the event.

The Citizen Corps has been part of each “Every 15 Minutes” event for the past three years. Initially, our participation was limited to student participant check-in on the first day of the event. With each successful program our participation increases. Now Citizen Corps volunteers are involved in numerous areas of the program: Citizen Corps volunteers were chaperones at the student retreat; we have a member taking still photographs of the event for the Community Relations Unit; and volunteers have begun providing Lobby access for the Parent Retreat.

#### **Henderson POA & Shop With A Cop**

The Henderson Police Officers Association is proud to announce the return of a holiday favorite; in cooperation with Target, “Shop With A Cop” is coming back to the Henderson Police Department, all Henderson Police Department employees and volunteers are invited to attend and participate in this wonderful program. I will be attending the planning session on November 10<sup>th</sup> and will e-mail everyone the information from that meeting.

It's expected that we will be assisting with the parents waiting outside for the children to complete their shopping trip. There will be food and drinks for the attendees, the children will have an opportunity to meet Santa. Our exact duties have not been determined, but we will probably be helping with general crowd control at various locations and assisting the officers as needed.

### **Lobby Desk Volunteers**

The volunteers working the East Command lobby desk are doing a great job. East Command Captain, James Green recently expressed his appreciation for the job you are doing.

Remember, that while working the front desk you are the "face of the department". Often you are the first person representing the department that someone has an opportunity to speak to, and their opinion of the Henderson Police Department will be a reflection of your actions.

While on-duty you are expected to be professional, courteous, polite and helpful. Make sure you are wearing your Citizen Corps shirt and have your ID card visible to the public.

Ron Sisley has worked hard in producing a procedures manual for the lobby volunteers and the answers to most of the questions you will get are in that manual. If you are unable to locate the answer, never guess; always ask the desk officer or contact the station secretary.

### **Meeting With Chief Chambers**

On October 6, 2008 I attended a meeting with Chief Chambers. When the meeting was scheduled, it was to discuss the Citizen Corps and its future with the Henderson Police Department. Because of the City of Henderson budget shortfall, the meeting was not as productive as I would have liked.

The Chief was positive and upbeat in her opinion of the Citizen Corps and Animal Shelter volunteer programs but stated that the budget problem will take precedence over everything else for a while.

I presented the Chief with a list of “goals” for the Citizen Corps including: a more professional looking uniform, a structured Citizen Corps Academy for our members, allowing Citizen Corps volunteers to attend Organization Development and Training classes, increased recognition for volunteers, opportunities to implement new programs for Citizen Corps members, and a police department representative at our meetings occasionally.

Unfortunately, most of those things take money and the Department is not in a position to spend any money on volunteer programs at this time.

We will be receiving Homeland Security grant funds which may only be used for Citizen Corps operation and development so some of the things we are requesting may be possible.

The other positive is that under the Police Department Table of Organization, the Citizen Corps program is directly under the Chief of Police. That means we don’t have to ask a Captain, who has to ask a Deputy Chief, who has to ask the Chief whenever we have a request. Any issues we have can be taken directly to the Chief.

### **Citizen Corps/Nevada Child Seekers**

Bob Abrams, Case Manager for Nevada Child Seekers, has suggested that we combine forces and develop a training program that will increase the abilities of both of our organizations.

One possibility is for CERT Training for the Nevada Child Seeker search force. The CERT program is a component of the National Citizen Corps program and each local council is encouraged to develop CERT teams. I have spoken with Rick Diebold, State of Nevada Citizen Corps Coordinator and the local CERT instructor, about this possibility and he welcomed the opportunity to increase the abilities and cooperation of our separate programs.

The advantage to having our separate organizations train together is that in the event of a large scale event, requiring numerous groups to operate together, we have a basic idea of the training and abilities of the other group.

### **Henderson Police Mounted Unit**

The Mounted Unit is operational and was utilized at the recent appearance of Gov. Palin in Henderson. Presently there are three horses in the program. Suggestions have been made that the program should be eliminated to save money for the City; the horses and barn are already paid for and were a one-time expense. Eliminating the cost of feeding them would not save enough money to provide for the continuation of other items being cut from the budget. The utilization of horses for crowd control has been proven around the country; back country search and rescue is cheaper and more effective with horses, and the public likes horses.

While the Department has not asked for volunteer assistance with the Mounted Unit, I'm sure they would not turn away any volunteer interested in assisting with the program.

### **Handicapped Parking Unit**

Citizen Corps volunteers with the Handicapped Parking Enforcement Unit have issued two hundred and forty-six handicapped parking citations since the beginning of 2008.



## **Citizen Corps Volunteers Needed**

### **Shop With a Cop**

Target store on Lake Mead, in the Lake Mead Crossing shopping center.  
December 6, 2008 at 6:00 A.M. Staging will be at 5:30 A.M.

Citizen Corps Uniform: Citizen Corps Polo Shirt & ID Card, comfortable clothing; jeans acceptable. Since it will probably be cold, bring a coat or jacket and gloves.

There will be drinks, snacks and photos with Santa.

### **Lobby Volunteers for East Command**

Volunteers are need to expand the Lobby Volunteer program into the East Command. The officers have asked why they don't have a volunteer at the desk and when they can have someone assist them.

This is a difficult assignment, there are two officers at the desk on double shift days and the East Command is a busier station.

Please let me know if you can assist with any of these requests for service from the police department.