



Vacaville Police Department

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Press Release

City Receives State and International Recognition for Volunteers in Police Services Program January 30, 2008

The City of Vacaville's Volunteers in Police Service program was presented the 2007 Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Programs Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Only three programs receive this prestigious international recognition, which is sponsored by the IACP and Science Applications International Corporation each year. The award was presented at the IACP's annual conference.

"We have utilized our volunteers in the City of Vacaville and the Police Department for over 25 years," said Vacaville Police Chief Richard Word. "We now have nearly 70 volunteers. They perform a myriad of functions for the Department in Records, Property and Evidence, crime prevention, senior wellness checks, vacation checks, they assist in searches for missing persons, they even recover stolen vehicles."

Word made his comments at the January 22 City Council meeting, where 23 of Vacaville's Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) were in attendance and recognized by the City Council for their efforts. Chief Word and Lieutenant Ed Goldberg outlined the volunteer program's 2007 successes to City Council members during the presentation.

Goldberg also announced that Police Special Services Supervisor Susanne Johnson had been selected as the recipient of the Law Enforcement Volunteers of California (LEVOC) first annual Karen Siemsen Volunteer Coordinator of the Year Award for 2007. Johnson has been the coordinator of the Vacaville volunteer program since 2000.

The Vacaville VIPS provide invaluable support to both the Police Department and the City. During 2007, 74 volunteers provided 15,400 hours of service for the City, a contribution estimated at \$421,000. Volunteers also assisted with Code Enforcement activities by issuing thousands of parking and code violation citations. Vacaville's V.I.P.S. have helped reduce crime in parks, helped protect the most vulnerable citizens, and have provided eyewitness information leading to arrests while promoting a positive community-policing image.

"15,400 hours is just incredible," said Mayor Len Augustine "I said earlier that you are the best in the State of California and the country. I have to say you are the best in the world."

The program's success, which Johnson attributes to the outstanding quality and altruism of her of volunteers, has resulted in international recognition as a model program for Volunteers in Police Service programs in other communities.

Residents who are interested in volunteering to be part of this leading-edge VIPS program should contact Judy Thompson at 469-4730 for more information or visit the City website at www.cityofvacaville.com and click on the police link.

Criminal activity can be reported at www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police, or you can call "Crime Stoppers" and leave an anonymous tip at 707-644-STOP.(7867). Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.