Message from the Chief,

As my first “Message from the Chief” let me say, it is an honor and privilege to lead a department that I truly care about; an organization that I have dedicated myself to for the past 22 years.

In early December 2013, I was appointed into the “Acting” Chief of Police position by the City Council. I would like to congratulate Chief Robert Handy on his move to the Huntington Beach Police Department. Chief Handy brought a great deal of leadership to the San Bernardino Police Department through a very difficult time in our history and for that we are indebted to him for his service.

The New Year is upon us and with that comes a renewed sense of optimism of what the New Year may bring. In recent years, law enforcement in general has been negatively impacted by legislation related to prison realignment and court mandates to reduce prison populations. The City of San Bernardino has been in the midst of economic turmoil culminating into the current bankruptcy proceedings and the police department itself has been severely impacted by the financial issues which have manifested itself in the form of lost personnel and diminished capacity to provide a high level of service to our community. The impact to the department has been stressful to the individual employees and overall, very challenging to manage. However, I envision that we are on the path to once again improving the level of service that we provide to this community. The circumstances that we have come under have forced us to seek new ways of doing business, to find more efficient models of operations and to better prioritize where resources need to be allocated.

The department is at a point where we have downsized and reached objectives set forth on the City’s Pendency Plan. We are now moving forward and planning for the future. As I write this we are preparing to send five new police officers to the academy in late January and are processing several more potential officers for another academy scheduled to begin in the spring. We are already looking at better ways to handle calls for service, ways to streamline the investigative process and we are developing plans to address quality of life issues in the downtown corridor in preparation for the opening of the new courthouse, the completion of the sbX bus line and the completion of SR-215 freeway.

I believe that the future is looking brighter as we begin this New Year in relation to the past few years. Let’s strive to continue being optimistic in seeking a better future for San Bernardino.

Chief of Police
Holiday Events

The holiday season was made a little brighter for some local families who have had tough time in the last year.

With the assistance of many local business and organizations, the San Bernardino Police Department is able to host multiple events and giveaways during the holiday season.

Every year, the number of families we are able to reach out to and help during the holidays has increased. Each family and/or child was referred by a police department employee: Patrol Officer, Detective, Code Enforcement Officer or Sergeant.

Through a local community grant from the Walmart Foundation, San Bernardino Police Officers were able to shop with 13 children at Walmart on Hallmark Parkway for Christmas gifts. The children were surprised to see the number of officers who attended the event and volunteered to shop alongside them. Even Santa Claus attended, despite the busy schedule during his peak season.

More often than not, people only see police officers when something negative has happened, however events such as this gives the officers an opportunity build positive relationships and enjoy Christmas by giving back to the community.
Motor Officers outfitted with new Kevlar uniform

Starting January 2014, SBPD motorcycle officers have been equipped with a new type of uniform that protects the officer in the event of a traffic collision.

Previously, motor officers wore motor breeches, made of wool or polyester, with calf-high boots to protect their legs from the heat of a motorcycle engine. These breeches were originally adopted from equestrian riding and have been used since our motorcycle unit was established in the early 1900's. The upgrade is the result technological advancements that use Kevlar and high density foam armor to create a material for a safer motor officer uniform.

Currently, motor officers from Fontana Police, Chula Vista and Glendale Police Department are equipped with the new Kevlar pants and/or jacket. Each of those departments have experienced motor officer-involved traffic collisions, where the Kevlar pants have protected the officer from serious leg injury.

San Bernardino Police Department recognizes the importance of safety to our police officers, whether in a patrol car or a motorcycle and has now included the Kevlar pants and jacket as part of the daily uniform for officers riding a marked motorcycle.

Upcoming Traffic Enforcement Dates

As part of a Federal Grant from the Office of Traffic, SBPD Traffic Unit conducts several checkpoints, saturation patrols, distracted driver and safety enforcement throughout the year. The focus of checkpoints and saturation patrols are to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in alcohol/drug involved crashes and motorcycles crashes.

Sat, January 18th: Citywide-Motorcycle Safety Enforcement & SE District Checkpoint
Fri, February 7th: Citywide-DUI Saturation Patrol
Sat, February 8th: Citywide-DUI Saturation Patrol
Fri, February 21st: SE District DUI/CDL Checkpoint
Mon, February 24th: Citywide-Traffic Enforcement Operation

The San Bernardino Police Department would like to remind everyone to be alert for motorcycles on the road and designate a sober driver to help reduce the number of fatal traffic collisions.
Children hospitalized at Loma Linda Children’s Hospital lined up outside to see the hundreds of police officers arrive by motorcycle, helicopter or patrol car.

October 22nd, 2013 marked the 15th anniversary of the Cops-Fly-In at Loma Linda Children’s Hospital. Law enforcement agencies from all over the Inland Empire and even as far as El Monte and Los Angeles participated in this event highly anticipated event.

Children and their families were able to get sit in the police helicopters, patrol cars or on a motorcycle. Officers were able to go inside the hospital to hand deliver a gift for the children whose illness does not allow them to go outdoors.

The day was full of smiles from the children and officers. All toys given away were donated. San Bernardino Police Officers Association, San Bernardino Police Managers Association and the San Bernardino Police Department’s Forensics Division each donated money to purchase over 100 toys to the event.
SBPD anti-vehicle theft device giveaway

In an effort to combat the rising number of vehicle thefts in the city, the San Bernardino Police Department began an anti-vehicle theft device giveaway last year.

Our local National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) donated monies to purchase 200 devices, more commonly known as “The Club”.

In August 2013, members from SANCATT and Community Affairs attended community events to give out a device for the registered owner of a vehicle that was on the City of San Bernardino Top Ten Stolen Vehicle Lists (the vehicles needed to be registered in the city). Devices were also given away at the police department on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the remainder of the year.

The San Bernardino Police Department successfully gave away all devices to residents of the city.

Due to the public’s overwhelmingly positive response, we will explore other funding options to continue this program in 2014.

For further information, contact (909) 388-4946.

SANCATT recognizes diligent work from officers

During the fourth quarter of last year, there was a huge increase in GTA information exchange with patrol and members of SANCATT. This information exchange helped SANCATT perform more efficiently and some good cases came from the teamwork.

SANCATT Sgt. R. Young would like to recognize the following officers for their GTA related work during the time period and looks forward to better things this year:

Officer R. Wicks, Officer J. Dillon, Officer J. Echevarria, Officer S. Taylor, Officer B. Olvera, Officer E. Luna and PEO C. Wood. All together there were 31 GTA Related Arrests and 42 GTA Recoveries.
POLICE CHIEF ROBERT HANDY, ALONG WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SAN BERNARDINO POLICE DEPARTMENT, INVITE THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO COME AND MEET US.

This is a unique 14-hour program and is conducted over a seven-week period, one night a week. There is no cost to attend this event. There is ample free parking.

Location: San Bernardino Police Department
710 N. “D” Street, San Bernardino, CA

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
All sessions will be on a Wednesday night

Session Dates:
- February 6, 2013
- February 13, 2013
- February 20, 2013
- February 27, 2013
- March 6, 2013
- March 13, 2013
- March 20, 2013

Chief of Police
Command Staff, City Leaders
Community Oriented Policing
Patrol Officer’s Perspective
Police Communications, 911 Center
Citizen Patrol Volunteers
Police Explorers & Reserve Police Corps
Homeless Advocate
Code Enforcement
SBUSD Police Department
Narcotics Enforcement
Forensics Overview
Professional Standards
Criminal Investigations
Crime Analysis & Crime Mapping
Graffiti Laws & Enforcement
Canine Program
Traffic Laws & Enforcement
Gang Enforcement
SWAT Operations & Training
Mounted Enforcement Team

Seating is limited. For more information or to reserve your seat, contact:
SBPD Community Affairs at (909) 388-4946 or (909) 384-5753

SETTING THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE
SBPD Volunteers

The San Bernardino Police Department’s Volunteer Program has grown over the past year. These men and women are dedicated individuals who have sacrificed their personal time in an effort to enhance public safety throughout our community.

Citizen Patrol has 21 active volunteers. In 2013, they volunteered over 2,900 hours.

The Police Reserve Unit has 18 volunteers who have given over 9,424 volunteer hours.

If you would more information regarding SBPD’s Volunteer Program, you can contact CSO Cheri Williams at (909) 388-4946. For information regarding the Police Reserve Unit, please contact Sgt. Vicki Cervantes.

FB Page: San Bernardino Police Department
Twitter: @SanBernardinoPD
Email: CommunityAffairs@sbcity.org