

Central City's Heroes

Central City Police Boosters recognizes the precinct's best employees of the year.

By Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor;
Event photos by Michelle Moreno,
Club Events Guru

The Central City Police Boosters held the group's annual Police Recognition Day luncheon March 8 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. The event recognizes sworn and civilian employees and volunteers for their exemplary service.

Honored were:

- Liliانا Herrera, Volunteer of the Year
- Officers Pernell Taylor and James Lenoue, both of the Bicycle Unit, Officers of the Year
- Sgt. Leonard Perez, Supervisor of the Year
- Maria Lucy Rios, Civilian Employee of the Year (and Club Member)
- Det. Jamie Bennett, Detective of the Year

Sgt. Leonard Perez, recipient of the Supervisor of the Year award, was not present to accept his award. He was called to active duty and is in Iraq. His wife Christina, daughter Briana and son Brandon accepted on his behalf. Brandon read an acceptance letter.

The Club congratulates the winners, who are much-deserved.

Additional information was provided by Officer and Club Member Marie Kardiban.



Liliana Herrera, Volunteer of the Year, stands next to her award.



From left: Cecilia Tatum, Central Police Station, 4 years, and Stephanie Sancez, Volunteer, staff the table as all guests check in for the luncheon.



From left: Gloria Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue; Keith Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue; Margie Blessing, guest of Officer Le Noue; and John Le Noue, guest of Officer Le Noue.



From left: Police Officer Darrión Carlyle, PSU; Police Officer Maniel Melgoza, PSU; Police Officer Angel Guerra, PSU; Lieutenant Robert Hauck, Internal Affairs; and Detective Tricia Hauck, Central Homicide.



From left: Officer Chris Jarvis, Central Bike Unit; Officer John Rice, Central Bike Unit; Carlos Lopez, Director of Security, Bank of America Plaza; and Milon Morgan, Director of Security, Ernst and Young Plaza.



From left: Mitch Honda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; Satoru Uyeda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; Hisako Uyeda, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association; and Nancy Kikuchi, Tokyo Public Safety Association.



Universal Protection Services, from left: Michael Zackoff, Edward D. Salsameda, Louis Boulgarides and William Timberlake.



From left: Officer Donna Cornejo, OCB; Cindy Feng, Management Analyst; and Celeste Garin, Management Analyst, Club Member.

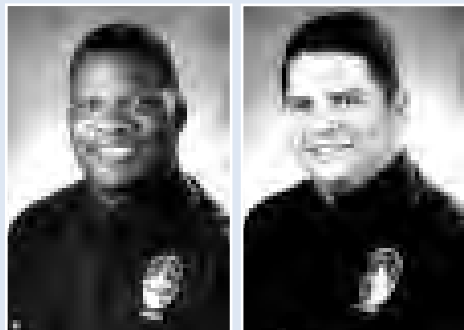


From left: Sgt. Caulford; Police Officer James Le Noue, Central Bike Unit; Alison Le Noue, 6-year-old daughter of Officer Le Noue; and Kimberly Le Noue, wife.



Universal Protection Services, from left: David Lamber, Chris Rike, Roger Langner and Patrick Silver.

CENTRAL AREA OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



Pernell Taylor

James Lenoue

Police Officer II Pernell Taylor and Police Officer II James Lenoue are assigned to the Bicycle Unit as partners in the Central Area Problem Solving Unit. Their specific assignment is violent crime suppression.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue targeted violent crime locations within Central Area. They developed strategies to combat aggravated assaults and street robberies. One of the strategies was to develop expertise in narcotics enforcement. Officers Taylor and Lenoue vigorously arrested narcotics offenders who were also known to be involved in violent crimes. Officers Taylor and Lenoue are one of the highest producing team in Central Area. Their duty performance is outstanding based on their powers of observation, motivation and dedication. Officers Taylor and Lenoue's initiative and professionalism greatly contributed to the 26 percent reduction in Aggravated Assaults and a 20 percent reduction in Robberies in Central Area. Officers Taylor and Lenoue confronted extremely violent individuals every day. Their professionalism and ability to make sound tactical decisions under stress resulted in maintaining control of the situation.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue supported the Central Area community policing efforts. They responded to citizen concerns and requests for police assistance, which resulted in a positive partnership with community members.

Officers Taylor and Lenoue received numerous commendations from their supervisors and citizens in the community. Their dedication and commitment to the Department and the citizens of Los Angeles cannot be overstated. Officers Taylor and Lenoue represent a positive image of the Los Angeles Police Department.

CENTRAL AREA SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Sgt. Leonard Perez

Supervision in the complex and ever-changing world of law enforcement requires an individual of staunch character, unwavering leadership and the ability to sustain a motivational level that returns dividends to the employees, organization and community. When one looks at what makes an exemplary supervisor, initiative and the respect garnered from subordinates, peers and supervisors makes for a solid and indisputable gage of quality of an individual. In addition, a balance must be struck between exceptional tactical skills and solid, insightful administrative acumen.

All of these qualities are embodied in Central Patrol Division's Watch 5 field supervisor, Sgt. Leonard Perez.

Under Sergeant Perez's model supervision, Central Mid PM Watch has become one of the most productive and coveted assignments in the division. The reason: the stamp of excellence coloring the members of Watch 5, as Sgt. Perez raises the bar for quality proactive policing. The Z cars under his insightful eye function in unison, forming what could best be described as a special problems unit. Yet the tone Sgt. Perez sets underscores the fact that the officers are members of a larger team, with challenging goals to fulfill.

With ease, he navigates through a myriad of demands each and every day. It truly appears that the more challenging the situation, the greater Sgt. Perez's abilities shine. Often asked to substitute for the assistant watch commander or watch commander, he is at home balancing watch demands, utilizing common sense and good judgment. Sergeant Perez has the innate ability to not only look at the issues at hand, but also assess the totality of circumstances and their potential impact on the Department. His maturity and professionalism cause others to embrace his advice, counsel and discipline, even if it is unpopular, with genuine acceptance.

Sgt. Perez's institutional knowledge creates an environment of confidence among the officers who work for him. Leonard keeps abreast of all changes in Department policies, making his knowledge of the pursuit and use of force policies outstanding. His written work product is completed staff work. He often volunteers to do more than his share of the work. He immediately acknowledges and responds to supervisor requests, supporting the officers' field enforcement efforts. Sgt. Perez shies away from nothing. He genuinely cares about the quality and caliber of the individuals who are members of the Department.

It is with pride and confidence that Central Patrol Division has selected Sgt. Leonard Perez for Central Area Supervisor of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Maria Lucy Rios

Central Area is pleased to recognize Clerk Typist Maria Lucy Rios as the Civilian Employee of the Year for 2004.

Lucy began her career with the Department in February 1978, as an office trainee. After her appointment to Clerk Typist, she was assigned to the Central Area Records Unit in July 1982. Record Clerks are the unsung heroes of the Department, providing crucial support services to field officers and detective personnel. Lucy ranks among the best of the best. Her extensive job knowledge and expertise in Records Unit functions have earned her the reputation as the unit's "resident problem-solver." Lucy loves a challenge and never shies away from a difficult assignment.

Lucy's strong commitment to Department and unit goals is evident in all she does. Due to the hiring freeze, the Records Unit has struggled with a staffing shortage, particularly on Day Watch. Lucy rose to this challenge, demonstrating her ability to juggle a heavy workload while still providing exceptional support service to officers, citizens and personnel from outside agencies. During this past year, Lucy was commended for providing outstanding service to Parole Agents. Central Records handles a heavy volume of



Back, from left: Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter. Front: Maria "Lucy" Rios, Civilian Employee of the Year, Club Member.



From left: Police Officer Jesse Mojica, Central PSU; Police Officer Craig Rensch, Central PSU; Emmett Badar, Central Detective; and Albert Marengo, Central Detective.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Liliana Herrera, Volunteer of the Year; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Deputy Chief Lee Carter; and Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.



The Perez family accepts the award on behalf of Sgt. Leonard Perez, who was called to active duty in Iraq. Front, from left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Bianca Perez; Christina Perez; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



From left: Charlie Boone, Hamilton Pacific; Greg Monsour, Hamilton Pacific; Scott Bradshaw, Hamilton Pacific; Sgt. Brad Wise, Central Police Station; and Sgt. Rosalie Garcia, Central Police Station.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; and Sgt. Campbell.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton, Police Officer II Pernel Taylor, Bike Unit; Police Officer II James Le Noue, Bike Unit; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



From left: Captain Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol; Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer; Chief of Police William J. Bratton; Jamie Bennett, Detective of the Year; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Office of Support Services, Club Member; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter.



Dennis Needleman receives a Special Recognition Outstanding Community Service Award. Left: Officer Marie Kardiban, Club Member.



Chief of Police William J. Bratton congratulates the award recipients.



Captain James A. Rubert, Central Area Commanding Officer, proudly holds his Outstanding Leadership award presented to him on behalf of Councilwoman Jan Perry and the Central City Police Boosters' Board of Directors.



From left: Deputy Chief Lee Carter with Carol Schatz, President, CEO, Central City Association, guest speaker.



From left: Police Officer Kris Werner, Central PSU; Police Officer II Pernel Taylor; Police Officer II James Le Noue; Police Officer Candelaria; Sgt. James Baker, Club Member; and Cathy Susim, Central Station, Club Member.

requests from Parole Agents and Probation Officers, and often these individuals have only minimal information on the arrestee under investigation. Researching the information they need can be difficult and time-consuming, but Lucy never hesitates to provide the same top-quality level of service she provides to our own officers. In addition to her regular clerical functions she provides invaluable assistance to the Records Unit supervisor, consistently demonstrating her initiative and resourcefulness. Despite the many obstacles she faces on a regular basis, such as supply shortages, system downtime and equipment failure, she never loses her "can-do" attitude and positive outlook.

Lucy's outstanding job performance and dedication to duty makes her a most deserving recipient of the honor of Central Area's Civilian Employee of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Liliana Herrera

Liliana Herrera has been a devoted and dedicated volunteer with the Central Division Juvenile Impact Program since 1999. Liliana is a loyal volunteer who teaches and counsels Juvenile Impact students once a week. Liliana teaches a curriculum from the Los Angeles Commission on

Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) called "In Touch with Teens." The curriculum covers alcohol and drug abuse counseling, anger management and violence prevention. It is a curriculum that was created by LACAAW and is recognized nationally.

Liliana has been employed with LACAAW since 1998, as the High Risk Youth Program Coordinator. Liliana counsels female juveniles who are incarcerated and helps them with self-esteem, assists with job training and also teaches violence prevention.

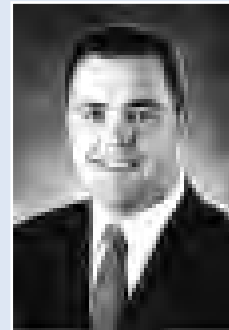
Liliana believes the key to saving the youths of today is helping parents. While employed at LACAAW, Liliana has received additional training in parenting through the KCET Parenting Program. Liliana helps parents who have students in the Juvenile Impact Program. Parents walk away from the outreach meetings with a sense of understanding on how to deal with and better raise their children.

One of Liliana's passions in life is to prevent violence against women. She has received her self-defense training and knowledge through several training courses given at LACAAW. Liliana teaches the female students in the program basic self-defense techniques and methods to defend themselves.

A majority of the activities offered at the Central Division Juvenile Impact Program are due to Liliana's knowledge and generosity. Liliana always goes above and beyond what is required of her and receives personal satisfaction knowing that she has helped families and students.

It is with great pride and honor that Central Area has selected Liliana Herrera as the 2004 Volunteer of the Year.

CENTRAL AREA DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR



Jamie Bennett

In early 2003, Detective Trainee Officer Jamie Bennett, after being recognized as an individual who possessed the attributes of a good investigator, was selected to work the Central Homicide Unit. From the onset, Officer Bennett was a standout individual who possessed a fresh perspective and raw tenacity. He quickly established himself developing into an accomplished and savvy investigator. In the months that followed, Officer Bennett sought opportunities to challenge himself as Lead Investigator in several complex and cumbersome investigations.

Officer Bennett's most notable case was the result of an in-depth investigation that included a search warrant of a suspect's makeshift residence located in an overgrown field. The investigation began when a plastic tarp containing the decomposed remains of a female was found in a field along the Los Angeles River. During the initial investigation little was known of the unidentified victim and the circumstances surrounding her death. However, the persistence and relentless investigation on the part of Officer Bennett soon caused a break in the case.

A transient male who lived in the proximity of where the victim was discovered was identified,

and this caused a shift in the investigation. Officer Bennett, who had assumed the role of primary investigator, concluded that the transient's tent was the likely crime scene and immediately prepared a detailed search warrant. During the serving of the warrant Officer Bennett recognized an abundance of forensic evidence, including blood, hair, fibers and a unique ring previously described by a witness. Armed with this information, he consulted with Scientific Investigation Division criminalists who responded and successfully collected several items containing forensic value.

The suspect, later arrested by Officer Bennett for nearly beating his girlfriend to death, was found guilty of the brutal assault at a jury trial after Officer Bennett provided compelling testimony. The suspect was sentenced to 50 years in State prison for the brutal beating.

In spite of Officer Bennett's efforts, the District Attorney's Office declined to file murder charges. Officer Bennett however, has not relented to this day and continues to seek potential witnesses and evidence in hopes of someday filing the case.

It is Officer Bennett's tenacity, commitment and steadfast dedication that make him such a valuable member to both Central Area and the Community he serves. It is therefore with pride and great honor that Detective Trainee, Jamie Bennett, be recognized and honored as the Central Area 2004 Detective of the Year.

