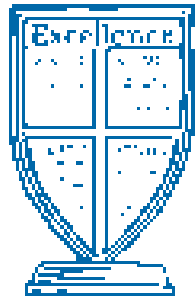


Recognizing Excellence



From left: Presiding Justice Paul Turner, State of California Court of Appeal, receives a plaque of thanks from Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.

Central City Police Boosters hosts Recognition Day luncheon and awards ceremony.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor;
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

POLICE DEPT. — Five Central City police employees and one civilian volunteer were honored March 2 as the Central City Police Boosters hosted its annual Recognition Day luncheon and awards ceremony at the Wilshire Grand Hotel.

Keynote Speaker was Presiding Justice Paul Turner, State of California Court of Appeal. Special guest Councilwoman Jan Perry presented a resolution. Additional guests included Chief Lee Carter and Commander Lewis Gray.

Special Recognition President's Award recipient was Senior Lead Officer Larry Pratt.

Here are biographies of those honored at the luncheon:



From left: Roshon Gonzalez, P2; Travis Jones, P2; Tenesha Dobine, P2; and Queta De La Mancha, PSR.



Sr. Lead Officer Larry Pratt, pictured with Councilwoman Jan Perry.



Sgt. David Nunez thanks everyone for an award he "really wanted."



The Central City Color Guard, from left: Cindy Rodriguez; Maria Gonzalez; Officer Tenesha Dobine, P2; Cristal Zapata; and Ricardo Gutierrez.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Detective of the Year, Cora Handayan, Detective II; Chief Lee Carter; Commander Lewis Gray; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; Lt. Tom Brasica, Detective Commanding Officer; and Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Police Officers of the Year Derrick Prude, Police Officer II and Jose Ferreira, Police Officer III; Chief Lee Carter; Commander Lewis Gray; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; Lt. Tom Brasica, Detective Commanding Officer; and Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.

Central Area 2005 Officers of the Year

Police Officer III Jose Ferreira Police Officer II Derrick Prude

In their six months assigned together, working the Division's most demanding car, 1A35, Jose and Derrick have created a formidable alliance, an unbeatable team. Each workday, they form a game plan of what area problems need their attention. The two prioritize issues, both crime-driven and quality of life. Armed with information and suggested direction from their Senior Lead Officer, Officers Ferreira and Prude begin each day with renewed energy. Routinely, within an hour of their watch, multiple felony suspects appear at the Watch Commander's door.



Police Officer III Jose Ferreira, pictured with Councilwoman Jan Perry.



Police Officer II Derrick Prude with Councilwoman Jan Perry.

For the period covering January to October 2005, Officers Ferreira and Prude arrested more than 250 felony suspects and more than 40 misdemeanants. While the numbers are noteworthy, they only tell half of the story. The real progress is seeing in the relieved faces of the community members, positively reacting to the attention given their neighborhood issues. These issues, however, are not the usual challenges, but entrenched and difficult problems, which have festered over time. Undaunted, Ferreira and Prude approach each watch with unfettered intensity.

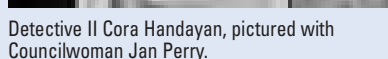
As a result of their dedication, the crime in their area has decreased by more than 18 percent. This is almost double the

reduction for the same period last year. For two officers working a basic A car, with the myriad of demands placed upon them, this is truly a remarkable feat.

Officers Ferreira and Prude have accomplished all of this while never compromising on the professionalism or level of respect accorded to the public. With the large number of contacts made, this is no small milestone. "Integrity in all they say and do, coupled with respect for others" are not merely trite slogans, but are key ingredients to the work style they employ daily. Officers Ferreira and Prude exemplify Central Areas' continued commitment to changing the face of downtown Skid Row. It is arguably a tall order. But, if any two people can give us continued hope for positive change, it is Officers Ferreira and Prude.

Central Area 2005 Detective of the Year Det. II Cora Handayan

Cora is one of the most tenured employees assigned to Central Detective Division. As a 27-year veteran of the Department, she consistently demonstrates her enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the community she serves. A detective since 1994, she is a valued member of the Central Robbery table. She is a "take-charge" individual who routinely fills in for her table coordinator at a moment's notice. Handayan has worked every detective position in the squad room and has garnered substantial expertise in all facets of the investigative field. She shares her vast experience with all who ask. She is a leader by every definition of the word and her supervisors have confidence with her handling and given situation.



Detective II Cora Handayan, pictured with Councilwoman Jan Perry.

A classic example of Cora's work ethic involved a case where five male and female gang members assaulted a middle-aged woman, knocking her unconscious while stealing her car. They ran over the victim while fleeing, causing major injuries. The suspects were seen laughing as they fled the scene. The victim and family were fearful, and minimal information was garnered from the timid victim.

Handayan worked ceaselessly and developed numerous clues. The victim's vehicle was found torched in the Hollenbeck area. A search warrant was obtained and GPS locator placed on the victim's stolen cell phone. Over a period of weeks, Cora's investigation led to the arrest of all five suspects, and remarkably, five confessions were obtained.

Cora is bilingual and has the innate ability to relate to victims, witnesses and citizens in general. She makes them feel comfortable and exudes a concern and compassion for them. Many times, Cora has dealt with victims who have limited English-speaking skills, often timid and afraid, yet she is able to establish a strong working rapport with them. She is also our acknowledged expert in dealing with crimes within the Asian community, despite frequent language barriers.

Handayan's general work performance is always exemplary. She covers every facet of an investigation and knows exactly what is going on with her cases at any given moment. Her written work is invariably impeccable and complete. It can truly be said that her investigation are well thought out and finished to the point where her supervisors can offer no further insight as to what more could be done. Her efforts continue to dazzle her peers on a frequent basis and are most appreciated by all supervisors. She is a most valued member of Central Detective Division and without exception all table coordinators vie for her service. It is therefore with pride and great honor that Detective Cora Handaya be recognized and honored as the Central Area 2005 Detective of the Year.

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Central Area 2005 Civilian Employee of the Year Senior Clerk Typist Michelle Soria

Central Area has selected Michelle Soria as the 2005 Civilian Employee of the Year. In performing her duties in 2005, Michelle surpassed the expectations of her Supervisors and that of the Department.

Michelle Soria has been an exemplary employee of the Los Angeles Police Department for the past seven years. Michelle became a part of the organization in 1998. Her very first assignment was a Clerk Typist at Scientific Investigation Division. Being an integral part of organization, she soon worked her way up and passed the Senior Clerk Typist examination. Shortly, after passing the examination in 2001, she was promoted to Senior Clerk Typist at Transit Service Section. In 2003, Michelle transferred to Central Area.

Michelle is one of the Department's most dynamic employees, a rising star who has been challenged with many of Police



Back, from left: Tom Hyde, Central City Police Boosters President; Peter Bartholomew, VONS Groceries; Presiding Justice Paul Turner; Dennis Needleman, Eagles Nest Real Estate; Daina Acin, Eagles Nest Real Estate; and Alan Todd, VONS Groceries. Front: Officer Marie Kardiban, Event Organizer, Club Member.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Supervisor of the Year, Sergeant II David Nunez; Chief Lee Carter; Commander Lewis Gray; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; ; Lt. Tom Brasica, Detective Commanding Officer.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Citizen Volunteer of the Year Diana Ugalde; Chief Lee Carter; Commander Lewis Gray; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; Lt. Tom Brasica, Detective Commanding Officer; and Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Civilian Employee of the Year, Michelle Soria, Sr. Clerk Typist; Chief Lee Carter; Commander Lewis Gray; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; ; Lt. Tom Brasica, Detective Commanding Officer.



From left: Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, LAPD Central Area, Club Member; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; Tom Hyde, President, Central City Police Boosters; Special Recognition President's Award recipient Senior Lead Officer Larry Pratt; Chief Lee Carter; and Commander Lewis Gray.



From left: Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division; Officer Joseph; and Rosemarie Anaya, COO, Downtown Los Angeles Business Improvement District.



From left: Sgt. Ishida, Sgt. Garcia and Sgt. Chaney.



From left: Councilwoman Jan Perry, Club Member, with Civilian Employee of the Year Michelle Soria, Sr. Clerk Typist.

Department's most difficult tasks. As a Senior Clerk Typist working in the Patrol Captain's Office, she has responsibility of day-to-day patrol related functions and manages patrol office operations.

During the past year, Michelle has also expanded her role in the organization. She has been entrusted to maintain a statistical

data board for use by police officers every day. The board is a critical component in determining crime trends and other crime related information. Also, in response to her supervisor's request, she has taken it upon herself to assist the Crime Analysis Detail with date entry and plotting of crime maps. In doing so, she has alleviated countless hours of workload for that unit.

lessly assisted, trained, and mentored many subordinate sergeants, but notably many lieutenants who came to the "big chair" with limited field knowledge.

Void of bravado, guided by the Department and Central's best interests, he has directly assisted in keeping interruptions to a minimum and disruptions a mere dot on the radar.

As a result, Central Area's often-lofty goals could be achieved year after year. His ability to motivate and encourage the officers in his command had helped to keep Central among the most productive Divisions on the Los Angeles Police Department. He values the officers' individual contributions, and they, as an offshoot, transfer the positive energy toward community service. Community based policing became a driving principal, not merely a fashionable term to be bandied about without substance.

Hallmarks of Sergeant Nunez' style include his ability to cultivate synergy between patrol and detectives, day and night watch, civilian and sworn employees, and supervisors and subordinates. His communications skills, diplomacy and respect for Department directives coalesce to bring a smooth running machine to reality. For a majority of his tenure, David has contributed to Night Watch patrol supervision. He has tirelessly supported the Watch Commander in the accomplishment of goals, namely the Main Street Project, District Policing, Homeless Outreach, inception of TEAMS II Use of Force and DPS, and the resurrection of divisional training days. He is a positive influence and a tireless supporter of the first responder – the patrol officer.

Despite other personal opportunities offered to him, Sgt. Nunez has invested his talent, heart and soul into the betterment of one of Los Angeles Police Department's most challenging divisions. More importantly, he has led with class and aplomb.

For his past, present, and most assuredly future contributions to Central Area's betterment, both internally and within the community we have sworn to protect and serve, Sgt. David Nunez has raised the bar for supervisors everywhere.

Central Area 2005 Supervisor of the Year Sgt. II David Nunez

For the past eight years, Central Area has been the fortunate recipient of steady and equitable supervisory qualities in its Assistant Watch Commander, Sergeant II David Nunez.



Supervisor of the Year Sergeant II David Nunez, pictured with his son and Councilwoman Jan Perry.

Part of a Division's success lies in the supervisory foundation holding its troops together. Without the steady, unwavering leadership built upon credibility to "do the right think" and "fight the perpetual good fight," the Area is rudderless in the eyes of its rank and file. The individual with the most contact, who holds things together in changing times, with changing agendas, is the Assistant Watch Commander. David has self-

Central Area 2005 Citizen Volunteer of the Year Diana Ugalde

Diana Ugalde has been devoted and dedicated volunteer with the Central Area's Deputy Auxiliary Police Youth Program (DAPS) for the past eight years. She regularly attends and assists with the weekly meetings and educational outings for the program. Most of the DAPS are from Spanish-speaking families, and Diana assists by serving as an interpreter for the families, which helps keep the pro-

gram on track. She also assists the Community Relations Office with all of their major community and crime prevention events and activities.



Civilian Volunteer of the Year Diana Ugalde, pictured with Councilwoman Jan Perry.

She recently celebrated her 33rd wedding anniversary. She is the proud mother of 13 children, of which two were former members and graduates of the Central Area DAP Youth program. She believes that volunteering her time will assist in keeping kids out of the streets and allows them an opportunity to

interact with law enforcement in a positive environment. Diana always goes above and beyond what is required of her and receives personal satisfaction knowing that she is helping the children and families in her community.

Diana is a wonderful and dedicated person to work with. It is not often that you can find a mother of 13 children who is so willing to volunteer her precious time for the advancement of her community. Diana's continued devotion and selflessness has generated her special admiration from the children in the youth program and has contributed to the overall success of the program.

It is with great pride and honor that Diana Ugalde be recognized and honored as the Central Area 2005 Volunteer of the Year.

The Club congratulates the honorees and thanks Capt. Andrew Smith, Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Officer Marie Kardiban and Central City Police Boosters President Tom Hyde for their assistance.

Central City Police Boosters provided information for this story.