

Recognition for Central Police



The five honorees at the Central City Police Boosters Recognition Day.

■ Central City Police Boosters hosts Recognition Day to honor VIPs of the year.

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

POLICE DEPT. — The Central City Police Boosters, a support organization, held its annual Recognition Day March 1 to honor downtown police employees and civilians who have helped keep downtown safe.

The luncheon was held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel.

Three Central Station employees were recognized along with a booster Citizen of the Year Volunteer. Welcome remarks came from Central City Police Booster President Tom Hyde.

ABC7 anchorman Philip Palmer was on hand to provide a history of the Central Boosters, and he introduced special guests Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Commander Louis Gray, Capt. Jodi

Wakefield and Capt. Andrew Smith.

Keynote speaker was Arif Alikhan, Deputy Mayor for Homeland Security from the Public Safety Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa.

Award recipients were as follows:

- Civilian Employee of the Year: Celeste Garin, Management Analyst II;
- Supervisor of the Year: Sergeant I Richard Stabile;
- Police Officer of the Year: Sr. Lead Michael Fernandez;
- Detective of the Year: Dollie Swanson; and
- Citizen Volunteer of the Year: Joel Bloom

Congratulations to the awardees, and thanks to the Central City Police Boosters for their support of some very important people. Thanks also go to Capt. Andrew Smith, Central Boosters President Tom Hyde and Officer Marie Kardiban for their assistance.



Back, from left: Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station, Club Member; and Art Creff, Brother in law to honoree Dollie Swanson; and Dollie's husband, Paul Swanson. Middle: Lt. Tom Brascia, Detective Commanding Officer; Central Station Patrol Captain Jodi Wakefield; Valorie Creef, Dollie Swanson's sister; Detective of the Year Dollie Swanson; Dora Ryan, Dollie's mom; and Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Club Member. Front: Dollie Swanson's daughter, Cassie, 8.



From left: Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Club Member, with Officer of the Year Sr. Lead Officer Michael Fernandez with his wife, Linda, and family.



Keynote Speaker Arif Alikhan, Deputy Mayor in the Homeland Security and Public Safety Office of the Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa.

Detective of the Year: Dollie Swanson, Detective I



From left: Thomas Hyde, Central City Police Boosters President; Commander Louis Gray; Det. Dollie Swanson, Detective of the Year Recipient; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station, Club Member; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Station Patrol; and Lt. Tom Brascia, Detectives Commanding Officer.



Dollie Swanson,
Detective I

In 2004, Det. Swanson arrived at Central as a newly promoted detective, and was assigned to the Burglary table. From the onset, Detective Swanson proved herself as a standout individual with a fresh prospective and fervor to combat crime. Over the next two years, she sought out specialized courses, created a network both within and outside of the Department, and challenged herself with some of the most difficult and extensive cases.

From an investigative standpoint, Det. Swanson's dogmatic approach proved fruitful when she executed eight search warrants and led the Division with 26 detective initiated arrests, which significantly impacted Central Area's overall reduction of crime for 2006. While uncompromising in the pursuit for justice, Detective Swanson displayed tremendous compassion and empathy for victims, reflected by the frequent display of gratitude and praise for her good work.

Det. Swanson's most notable case involved a string

of commercial burglaries that plagued Downtown Los Angeles for nearly four months. The suspect in these burglaries targeted small independent eateries by using metal water main covers to smash out windows, often causing more damage to the location than the take itself. Working in concert with parole officers and Scientific Investigation Division's Latent Print Section, Detective Swanson identified the suspect in one case through print evidence, and in another case via surveillance video. A subsequent Wanted Bulletin was prepared and circulated to Patrol officers, who ultimately captured the suspect.

In spite of her outstanding effort, Det. Swanson is always seeking creative ways to improve upon her work product. Her innate ability to anticipate what needs to be done, coupled with her ability to multi-task has earned the respect of her peers and supervisors alike.

Det. Swanson's tenacity, commitment, and steadfast dedication has made her a valuable member to both Central Area, and the Community she serves. It is therefore, with pride and immense honor that Detective Dollie Swanson be recognized and honored as Central Area's Detective of the Year for 2006.

Supervisor of the Year Richard Stabile, Sergeant I



Back, from left: Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Club Member; Supervisor of the Year Sgt. Richard Stabile and his wife, Michelle; and Central Station Patrol Captain Jodi Wakefield. Front: Richard Stabile's daughter, Stephanie, 8.



Richard Stabile,
Sergeant I

Sgt. I Richard Stabile distinguished himself as Central Area's supervisor of the year during 2006 due to his hard work and dedicated job performance. Sgt. Stabile was selected as Central Area's Special Event Coordinator because of his tactical field expertise that

he gained through a variety of his previous assignments, such as Central Area's Gang Enforcement Detail (GED), Robbery Apprehension Team (R.A.T.), Gang Task Force and Patrol. Sgt. Stabile's assignment caused him to identify and plan for the police response to all planned and unplanned special events within the downtown Los Angeles Civic Center area.

Some of the more notable events included the Los Angeles Marathon, Los Angeles Triathlon, major immigrant marches that drew upwards of a million participants to a single event and all events at the Los Angeles Convention and Staples Centers. Sgt. Stabile also had to antici-

pate suspected Job Actions and other protests that took place almost daily downtown. In short, Sgt. Stabile was constantly on the move and under pressure to meet planning dates. He handled his duties in an exemplary manner. His leadership, planning skills and calm demeanor under pressure directly contributed to the successful and peaceful outcome of many of these events.

Stabile's great personality fostered a network of peers in other federal, state and local law enforcement and as well as other support organizations. When necessary, Stabile took a lead role in field situations to direct the activities of Mobile Field Force squads to handle crowd control situations. Sgt. Stabile's leadership has placed Central Area at the forefront in the management of Special Events. He is often sought out by other commands to provide advice on planning events. Sgt. Stabile is a law enforcement professional who is respected by his superiors, peers and subordinates alike.

Central Area is proud to bestow upon him the honor of being named Central Area's Supervisor of the Year for 2006.



The President's Award went to Vons Companies. Timm Browne, Loss Prevention Investigator and Alan Todd, Loss Prevention Manager, accepted the award on behalf of Vons.

Back, from left: Timm Browne, Loss Prevention Investigator with Vons; Alan Todd, Loss Prevention Manager with Vons; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station, Club Member; and Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer Central Station Patrol. Front: Officer Marie Kardiban, Event Organizer, Club Member.

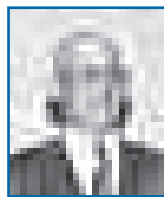


From left: Celda Alvarez, mother of honoree Celeste Garin; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station, Club Member; Civilian Employee of the Year Celeste Garin, Management Analyst, Club Member; and Celeste's husband, Diosdado Garin, Architectural Drafting Tech, Harbor.

Citizen Volunteer of the Year: Joel Bloom



From left: Thomas Hyde, Central City Police Boosters President; Commander Louis Gray; Joel Bloom, Citizen of the Year Recipient; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer Central Community Police Station, Club Member; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer Central Station Patrol; and Lt. Tom Brascia, Detectives Commanding Officer.



Joel Bloom

Joel Bloom is a longtime resident of the Downtown Arts District and has called this community home since the early 1980s. Joel was involved in the inception of the Arts District and envisioned these collective neighborhoods as unique enclaves where people with creative talent and artistic expression could live and work.

Ever the steadfast community member, Joel quickly became an Arts District icon. Always the leader, Joel refused to sit idly by and accept the status quo when he saw crime and blight tearing at

the heart of his beloved Art's District. Joel immediately reached out to the Los Angeles Police Department and formed one of the strongest bonds of police-community cooperation.

Joel became an active member of Los Angeles Police Department's Central Area Community Police Advisory Board, organized Neighborhood Watch efforts, and Community anti-crime walks. Joel volunteered for numerous duties for the Los Angeles Police Department, which has freed up officers to get back out on the street. Joel is a leader and a true inspiration to the Community and to the Los Angeles Police Department.

It is with great honor that we name Joel Bloom as Central Area Volunteer of the Year for 2006.



From left: Citizen Volunteer of the Year Joel Bloom alongside Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Club Member.



ABC7 Anchorman Phillip Palmer.

Civilian Employee of the Year: Celeste Garin, Management Analyst II



From left: Thomas Hyde, Central City Police Boosters President; Commander Louis Gray; Celeste Garin, Management Analyst II, Civilian of the Year Recipient, Club Member; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer Central Community Police Station, Club Member; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer Central Station Patrol; and Lt. Tom Brascia, Detectives Commanding Officer.



Celeste Garin, Management Analyst II

Civilian employee Celeste Garin came to the Department from the Community Development in July 1998 as a Management Analyst. Her first exposure to the Department was with Fiscal Support Bureau, tracking projects and dealing with claims against the

Department. She quickly gained a reputation as a hard, dedicated worker. It was noted that she handled her assignments with grace and poise. She brought with her a vast experience in accounting and an eye for detail.

In May 2003, Ms. Garin was assigned to the Crime Analysis Unit at Central Detective Division, where she again gained a reputation as an outstanding crime analyst. Her training and background in accounting has provided her with a sharp eye for minute details found in her daily computer research. Ms. Garin has been

instrumental in assisting the Central Area command staff, supervisors and detectives in their quest of lowering the crime rates in Central Area. She routinely develops maps and charts, pinpointing crime problems as they develop. She untiringly gives to the Department, combining both art and science in her mapping, and is providing a service that the entire Central Division has come to rely upon. She is the go-to person for local crime analysts. She teaches others how to be self-reliant by teaching them where to look and how to obtain a vast variety of readily available statistical data.

When she is off-duty, Ms. Garin is happily assumes the role of mother and wife, spending quality time with her family. Ms. Garin has been happily married for 13 years and has three teenage and preteen children.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Management Analyst II Celeste Garin for Central Area Employee of the Year for 2006.

Police Officer of the Year: Michael B. Fernandez, Senior Lead Officer



From left: Thomas Hyde, Central City Police Boosters President; Commander Louis Gray; Sr. Lead Officer Michael Fernandez, Police Officer of the Year Recipient; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer Central Community Police Station, Club Member; Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer Central Station Patrol; and Lt. Tom Brascia, Detectives Commanding Officer.



Michael Fernandez, Sr. Lead Officer

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