

LAPD

# Central City Celebrates Officers

Central City Police Boosters hosts recognition event to thank Central LAPD force.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

Six Central Station employees, a Community Service Award, and a Booster Citizen of the Year were recognized at the annual Central City Police Boosters event March 4 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel.

Welcome remarks were made by Central City

Police Booster President Randall Ely. ABC7 anchorman Philip Palmer provided a history of Central Boosters and introduced special guests, Capt. Michelle Veenstra; Deputy Chief Sergio Diaz; Capt. Jodi Wakefield; Councilmembers Jose Huizar and Jan Perry; City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo; and Commander Andrew Smith. Keynote speaker was Daryl F. Gates, Retired Chief, LAPD.

Award recipients were:

- Civilian Employee of the Year: Senior Clerk Typist Andy Lam;
- Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. I Andy Mathes;
- Officer of the Year: Sr. Lead Officer III Angel Guerra;



From left: David Gee, Booster Board Director; Sgt. Mark Kardiban; and Sgt. Adrienne Legaspi.



From left: John Arredondo, Detective I, Club Member; with Grace and Angel Guerra, P3.

- Detective Supervisor of the Year: Det. II Elmer "E.T." Gibson;
- Detective of the Year: Det. I John Arredondo;
- Special Unit Officer of the Year: Police Officer II Raul Barron;
- Citizen Volunteer of the Year: Robert Taylor (Jewelry District);
- Community Service Award: Police Officer II Marie Kardiban; and
- President's Award: Vons Companies.

Congratulations to all those dedicated to public safety in the LAPD Central area.

Special thanks to Capt. Jodi Wakefield and Officer Marie Kardiban for their assistance.



From left: Commander Andrew Smith, Club Member; and Thomas Hyde, First Vice President, Central City Police Boosters.



From left: Asheley Farmer; Dennis Neddleman, Booster Member; Paul Saeliu, Booster Member; Det. III Valerie Dufort, Internal Affairs; and Officer Marie Kardiban, Club Member.

## CENTRAL AREA 2007 Specialized Unit Officer of the Year

### Raul Barron, Police Officer II:

Police Officer II Raul Barron completed his probationary period at Central Area. Upon completion, he transferred to Safer Cities Initiative (SCI), Operations-Central Bureau. During 2007, Officer Barron took upon himself some of the most difficult to solve issues within SCI. Many times, officers would have large encampments at the same location, day in and day out. However, Officer Barron does not settle for this revolving-door syndrome. He goes out of his way to build a rapport with the homeless individuals, who live on Skid Row. Many times, he obtains shelter for them. He is creative in work efforts and shows compassion to the public on a daily basis.

Additionally, he has a positive working relationship with the Business Improvement Districts. Officer Barron is committed to one of the 20 Management Principles, "people working with Police." On one occasion, he had Central City East Association pressure wash the sidewalks within Toy Town. This was well received from the business community, and the homeless who sleep on these sidewalks. Without a doubt he understands "Community Policing" and "problem solving."

During the past year, Officer Barron was assigned to SCI Squad Two. This area includes Main to Maple Streets and Third to Ninth Streets. Of all the officers who have worked this area, no one knows the community members and crime trends better than he. Many of the people he serves know him as "Raul." Officer Barron takes great pride in knowing his area and is the standard of "Territorial Imperative." Several times during the year, he was called upon to be acting supervisor for SCI Squad Two. Not only does he know the neighborhood, but was accountable enough to take on additional responsibility without hesitation. Many of the newer officers would look to him for guidance and advice.

Officer Barron brings to work the same commitment that he shows to his wife and six children at home. He always comes to work with a mission in mind and, without a doubt, by the end of the day it has been accomplished. He constantly is looking for problems to solve. For an officer with less than five years on the Department, Officer Barron has leadership skills that are not often seen in such a young officer. He is truly a pleasure to supervise and work with.

## CENTRAL CITY 2007 Detective of the Year

### John Arredondo, Detective I:

Det. I John Arredondo is recognized as Central Area's 2007 Detective of the Year for his dedication, leadership, teamwork and contribution to Central Area's 21 percent crime reduction while assigned as an investigator on the Crimes Against Person Table.

Det. Arredondo is a dedicated, experienced investigator. He has a reputation for being approachable and helpful, especially to patrol officers looking for advice. He is a well-rounded investigator, having worked several tables.

Over the past year, Det. Arredondo carried one of the largest caseloads in the Division. He set a clearance rate of 66 percent and a filing rate of 41 percent; yet, he had a zero backlog.

Fellow detectives often seek out Det. Arredondo for advice and assistance on follow-ups. He has never shied away from a challenge, nor has he ever turned down a colleague. Indeed, Det. Arredondo went beyond the call of duty this year when he built a set of storage shelves for patrol officers to stow their kit bags, during roll calls.

Det. Arredondo is renowned for his ability to charm even the most difficult victim or witness. Regardless of the subject's demeanor, he is able to convey a sense of helpfulness and confidence.

Det. Arredondo is adept at planning investigative approaches for complicated cases. He is analytical, yet practical in his approach, and always thorough. In one case in particular, Det. Arredondo investigated the assault by three teenaged boys on a homeless man, who was sleeping on Skid Row. Following patrol officers arrest of two of the three juveniles, Det. Arredondo identified the third teen, convinced all three boys' parents to cooperate with a consent search of their sons' bedrooms, and obtained a confession from all three subjects. His efforts resulted in a felony petition against each teen. Key to the investigation was Det. Arredondo's careful and insightful examination of the subjects' cell phones, which contained video footage of several random attacks on homeless men citywide.

For these reasons, as well as his 19-year commitment to the LAPD, Central Area is proud to bestow upon Det. I John Arredondo the distinction and honor of being named Central Area's Detective of the Year for 2007.



From left: Tyler Fox, P2; Ramon Ortega, P2; Carlos Gonzalez, Detective I; and Rich Rogers, P2.

## CENTRAL AREA 2007 Civilian Employee of the Year

### Andy Lam, Senior Clerk Typist:

Civilian Employee Andy Lam is recognized as the 2007 Central Area Civilian Employee of the Year. Mr. Lam is acknowledged for his dedication, teamwork and hard-working demeanor. During the selection process for this distinction, Mr. Lam truly stood out with his reputation as a person who can be counted on and entrusted to follow-through and complete complex projects. He has also interjected a fresh sense of rejuvenation among fellow employees that have worked around him. His laughter and sense of humor is contiguous and has made the working environment more enjoyable for Area personnel.

Mr. Lam served as a police officer since 2002, but due to a catastrophic injury he was unable to continue on in his chosen career path. However, in 2007 Central Area was fortunate to discover Mr. Lam's talent with his acceptance of a critical position in the Patrol Captain's Office. Mr. Lam has truly immersed himself into a pivotal role of support staff for both captains. His daily duties include the supervision of other civilian employees, reviewing critical documents, and composing the Daily Elected Officials Reports that are disseminated Citywide. Outside of the said duties, Mr. Lam is also responsible for compliance and tracking all patrol related projects to ensure conformity with the Consent Decree.

When off-duty, Mr. Lam is an avid tennis player and happily coaches tennis to young people. He is also a newlywed and a devoted son.

It is without doubt that Mr. Lam has earned this distinction.

## CENTRAL AREA 2007 Citizen Volunteer of the Year

### Robert C. Taylor:

Robert "Bob" Taylor started his career as a Security Guard in Downtown more than 15 years ago and has established many strong working relationships within the community and the Central Area Community Police Station. He immediately displayed a work ethic, which separated him for the rest. He has developed a reputation as a no-nonsense, take-care-of-business security professional and was among the first who assisted Los Angeles Police Department in organizing the Safer Streets Initiative, a Public Safety Program in the Jewelry District.

Bob became a Central Area Police Volunteer 14 years ago and has been working with the Central City Police Boosters in their Crime Prevention activities and youth programs. He has acted as the liaison with the Jewelry District in organizing toy drives, and raising funds for the underprivileged youth in the Downtown area. He is instrumental in making so many children smile during the holiday season.

Bob also serves as a member of Central's Community-Police Advisory Board and has dedicated himself to this committee by participating in countless police and community functions. Bob has always had a strong working relationship with Central Area Command Staff, Senior Lead, and Patrol Officers. He stays in communication with Central Area personnel and provides them with updates on his observations, which he has made in regards to concerns in the area.

Bob is a true inspiration on what volunteers can do for their community.

LAPD

Central City Celebrates Officers

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From left: Capt. Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer, Central Station, Club Member; Daryl F. Gates, Retired Chief, Los Angeles Police Department; Capt. Michelle Veenstra, Commanding Officer, Training Division; and Officer Marie Kardiban, Club Member.



From left: Laura Fasone, Volunteer; Nery Buenavid, Volunteer; Paul Kardiban, brother of Officer Marie Kardiban; and R.J. Kardiban, son of Officer Marie Kardiban.



From left: Wilson Roth, Reserved Officer; Chaplain Ron Seidel; and Steve Whitelaw, P2.



From left: Councilman Jose Huizar; Deputy Chief Sergio Diaz, Club Member; and Fred Yadegar, President of Sibelle of California.



Representing the Gang Unit, from left: Gregg Fischer, P2; Lt. John McMahon; Chris Jarvis, P2; and Eddie Alvarez, P2.



From left: Randall Ely, Central City Police Boosters President; and ABC7 Anchorman Phillip Palmer.



From left: Glen Goote, LAPD Photographer; and Sean Foote, P2, South East.

CENTRAL AREA  
2007 Sergeant of the Year

**Andy Mathes, Sergeant I:**

Sgt. I Andy Mathes is recognized as Central Area's 2007 Supervisor of the Year for his leadership, tenacity, and contribution to Central Area's 21 percent crime reduction, while assigned as the Officer in Charge of the Crime Suppression Detail (CSD).

Sgt. Mathes ably led the CSD's eight officers throughout the year, guiding and training them to identify crime trends and formulate responses to capture the criminals causing the crime spikes.

Sgt. Mathes was creative in finding ways to address crime problems. His unit conducted bait-car operations, surveillance, off-hours narcotics enforcement, served warrants, and worked up criminal profiles of career criminals.

Sgt. Mathes was resourceful in finding equipment and other tools for his officers. The unit regularly surprised everyone with its ability to do more with less.

Sgt. Mathes worked well with detectives, encouraging his officers to seek out Wanted Suspects and crime problems. He and his unit became a beneficial liaison between Detectives and Patrol operations. Sgt. Mathes' knowledge of Downtown was also an asset in recognizing crime trends early.

Under Sgt. Mathes' leadership, the CSD built a reputation for tenacity. This trait is reflected in one particular incident when the unit detained three out-of-state men Downtown. Through patience, knowledge of the law, and careful interrogation, the unit discovered these three men to be career criminals, armed with an array of weapons in their car. The unit's intervention undoubtedly prevented a large, violent crime spree in Skid Row or elsewhere.

For these reasons, as well as his 15-year commitment to the Los Angeles Police Department, Central Area is proud to bestow upon Sgt. I Andy Mathes the distinction and honor of being named Central Area's Supervisor of the Year for 2007.

CENTRAL AREA  
2007 Officer of the Year

**Angel Guerra, Police Officer III:**

Police Officer III Angel Guerra is a 13-year veteran of the LAPD, who has been assigned to Central Area for the past 12 years and has been a Field Training Officer for seven years.

The Officer of the Year award is not taken lightly by police officers. In the eyes of their peers, the officer who is selected must be an officer who "fills big shoes." The individual must possess leadership and police skills of the highest caliber. He must be a hard working peer leader, one whom other officers look up to and follow as a role model. Officer Guerra fits this description, in all respects.

In furtherance of Central Area's Annual Work Plan and the Department's Community Policing Program, Officer Guerra has worked closely with his Senior Lead Officer in the identification of crime trends and the planning and implementation of problem solving strategies in his beat. He uses his available time for directed patrol to solve neighborhood problems, to make arrests, complete Field Interview Cards, and traffic enforcement. He has been commended on several occasions for his productivity. Officer Guerra's efforts in crime reduction have contributed to an improvement in the quality of life in the community and a strengthening of the positive relationship between the Department and the citizenry of the Central City Area.

Officer Guerra possesses a proven track record in Central Area. Officer Guerra realizes that, as a Field Training Officer, he has a significant impact on a young officer's attitudes, ethics, and values in carrying out the duties of a Los Angeles Police Officer, which will remain throughout their career. This attitude has made him favorite among probationary officers.

During this year, he performed his duties in an exemplary manner. He is a mature officer who uses sound judgment and common sense, and handles any situation with confidence. Officer Guerra has the ability to serve the Department and the community in the highest capacity, which makes him an ideal officer to work any patrol related assignment. This type of commitment and professionalism is what this Department's reputation was founded upon.

CENTRAL CITY  
2007 Detective Supervisor of the Year

**E.T. Gibson, Detective II:**

Det. II E. T. Gibson is recognized as Central Area's 2007 Detective Supervisor of the Year for his dedication, leadership, teamwork, and contribution to Central Area's 21 percent crime reduction, while assigned as the Juvenile Coordinator and Acting Autos Table Coordinator for the Central Detective Division.

Det. Gibson readily accepted greater responsibility and double-duty during the year by filling in for the Detective III on the Auto Table during the coordinator's nine-month absence and overseeing all juvenile-related issues.

As the Juvenile Coordinator, Detective Gibson distinguished his Area and himself by maintaining one of the lowest backlogs in the Department for juvenile arrests and suspected-child-abuse reports (SCAR).

Det. Gibson kept his four juvenile officers focused, trained, and motivated to handle the scores of SCAR investigations reported by schools, doctors and social workers. He also coordinated the dozens of missing investigations, mostly reported about persons associated with Skid Row.

Det. Gibson carefully watched over the juvenile detention logs, ensuring no youth was kept in secure custody without proper cause, and that no youth was kept in the police station longer than allowed. Routine audits by the presiding judge always showed Central Area in compliance, which was a credit to Detective Gibson's efforts.

Det. Gibson performed his duties as the Juvenile Coordinator in addition to being a case-carrying investigator on the Auto Table. When the Table Coordinator was off for an extended time, Det. Gibson assumed the Table Coordinator's duties for nine months. Despite being down one investigator and supervising the juvenile officers, Det. Gibson kept the Auto Detectives focused on their caseloads. The Auto Table finished the year with a clearance rate above the City and Bureau's average, and with no backlog.

For these reasons, as well as his 26-year commitment to the LAPD, Central Area is proud to bestow upon Det. II E. T. Gibson the distinction and honor of being named Central Area's Detective Supervisor of the Year for 2007.

CENTRAL AREA  
2007 Community Service Officer of the Year

**Marie Kardiban:**

Police Officer II Marie Kardiban has been assigned to Central's Community Relations Office. This position requires a great deal of maturity and responsibility, as it involves constant interaction with the public and children. Her ability to manage financial resources and organize high-profile events is all a demonstration of her unquestionable integrity and rock-solid reliability. She is on Central Area's Station Fund Committee as Treasurer, and the coordinator for Central City Booster Association, Volunteers, Crime Prevention and Community-Police Advisory Board; these positions require great trust and responsibility. Officer Kardiban's outstanding work ethic and integrity have continued to earn the confidence and respect of both Central Captains.

Without a doubt, Officer Kardiban is one of the Department's most capable and hardest working Community Relations Officers. Her ability to bring resources together and work with community and business members is simply unparalleled. She always puts the mission first and does not take "no" for an answer, when it comes to providing the community at large with quality service. This has served to facilitate a greater relationship between the LAPD and members of the public. Her dedication to Community Policing has served to channel the efforts of the Department, community, and the City toward the coordinated goal of improving the quality of life in the Downtown area.

Officer Kardiban is a highly productive, organized and a pro-active officer constantly sought out by her superiors to manage or plan Department sponsored community events. She has also used her outstanding organizational skills to plan and coordinate special divisional events, holiday parties, and fundraising tournaments. Without her involvement, these functions would not have been possible or nearly as successful. Additionally, Officer Kardiban was personally responsible for successfully organizing Central Area's 2007 "Officer Recognition Luncheon." This is a very critical event in Central, as it recognizes our finest officers, sergeants, detectives, and civilian personnel for outstanding work and job dedication. Officer Kardiban also plans and organizes the Annual Golf Tournament, ensuring a large and successful turnout each year. She has also assisted with what has now become an annual event at Christmas to Camp Pendleton and Balboa Naval Hospital to bring holiday cheer to young Marine and Navy families, as well as those personnel wounded in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Her eagerness to jump in and help other Senior Lead and Community Relation Officers with their programs is indicative of her dedication to Community Policing and willingness to be a team player, ensuring the success of any program she works on.