

CITY COUNCIL

# Awardz for Exzellece

Councilman Dennis Zine hosts his annual Z Awards, an event that's growing in stature.

Photos by Harvey Branman

The sixth annual Z Awards For Exzellece was held May 29, honoring City and County employees who go above and beyond what is expected of them to serve the people of the Third Council District and the City and County of Los Angeles.

The celebration was held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills.

Congratulations to the honorees!  
 Alive! thanks Jessica Tarman and Lois Julien for their assistance in putting this article together.



From left: CHP Officer Kevin Baxter; Sheriff Deputy Justin Fisk; LAPD Support Officer Rutilio Villarreal; LAFD Chief Douglas Barry; LAFD Captain/Paramedic Timothy Wilson; LAPD Chief William Bratton; Joshua Garcia from the West Valley Explorers; Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Third District; LAPD Traffic Officer Douglas Gallaher; Deputy District Attorney Gretchen Ford; Cass Ybarra; LAPD Reserve Officer Thorpe; and Event Chair Rickey Gelb.



Councilmembers Dennis Zine, Wendy Greuel and Eric Garcetti with Zine's Council staff with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.



LAFD Chief Douglas Barry.

## The 2008 honorees were:



Casimiro Ybarra was presented the Citizen's Award.



Scholarship Awardee Joshua Garcia, LAPD Explorers.



From left: Event sponsor Rickey Gelb; unknown; Councilman Dennis Zine; and Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.

### TIMOTHY WILSON LAFD Captain/Paramedic

Timothy Wilson, LAFD Captain/Paramedic, has completed 34 years of honorable service to the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Fire Department. He has been Captain for 21 of the 34 years he has served with the LAFD; and has held Fire and Emergency Medical assignments in Downtown, South Los Angeles and Venice. Capt. Wilson is assigned as the EMS Battalion Captain for the West San Fernando Valley, and has received the LAFD Award of Merit for supervising the treatment and transportation of six burned firefighters during the Calabasas fire. Recently, he went into a home where a two-year-old had stopped breathing. Capt. Wilson performed a medical procedure to clear the child's airway. The child began breathing and was taken to the hospital, making a full recovery. LAFD Capt. Wilson and his wife, Susan, have three grown children.



Honoree Timothy Wilson.

### JUSTIN FISK Sheriff's Deputy

Justin Fisk, Sheriff's Deputy has completed seven years of honorable and distinguished service to the County of Los Angeles. After his training was concluded, Sheriff's Deputy Fisk was promoted to Motorcycle Deputy and assigned to the Chatsworth Substation. He has been serving as a Crime Impact Motor on the Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley, responding to calls for service as well as handling the enforcement of traffic violations. As Motorcycle Deputy, he concentrates on speeding vehicles that traverse the Orange Line, and his dedication has led to a decrease in accidents. In 2007, he wrote 1,081 hazardous citations, of which 998 were for speeding. He has received more than 23 commendations from Los Angeles City and County.



Honoree Justin Fisk.

### KEVIN BAXTER CHP Officer

Kevin Baxter, CHP Officer, a member of the California Highway Patrol for 11 years, has spent the last seven years in the West Valley Area. He is a certified Range Master, Physical Methods of Arrest instructor, a Taser instructor, and a weapons expert. He is a member of the Honor Guard and Rifle Team; has participated in the Active Shooter Training; and is a certified Drug Recognition Expert. Working most of his career on the graveyard shift, he has earned a MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) award for the last three consecutive years for his work in removing DUI offenders from the highway as often as possible. He and his wife, April, have two children. When off-duty, Officer Baxter enjoys hunting and fishing and is an accomplished runner.



Honoree Kevin Baxter.

### GRETCHEN FORD Deputy District Attorney

Gretchen Ford, Deputy District Attorney, joined the District Attorney's Office in 1991. She has prosecuted 102 felony trials, of which 59 cases were murders. She is one of the most outstanding trial attorneys in the office and is assigned to prosecute the most complex cases in the Van Nuys Courthouse. Recently, Deputy District Attorney Ford was engaged in the trial of People v. Paul Baker, which resulted in a guilty verdict and a death penalty verdict. Ms. Ford grew up in New York and New England; received her Bachelor of arts degree, *cum laude*, from Barnard College at Columbia University, and her law degree from UCLA Law School. Before attending law school, she worked on a bond-trading floor on Wall Street. She is married to Edward Stewart, and they have two children.



Honoree Gretchen Ford.



From left: Councilman Dennis Zine and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

### GARY THORPE LAPD Reserve Officer

Gary Thorpe, LAPD Reserve Officer, has donated more than 3,000 hours of service to the community since joining the LAPD in 1990. As a Reserve Officer, he balances his full-time job as a high school teacher with his duties at the West Valley Patrol. Although his heart and soul are in his patrol assignments, Reserve Officer Thorpe has also worked Vice, Narcotics and Community Events. He has averaged more than two shifts per month during 2007, and averages 15 to 20 calls per shift. Always enthusiastic and dedicated, he adds significantly to the quality of life in our community and is highly respected by other officers.



Honoree Gary Thorpe.

### DOUGLAS GALLAHER LAPD Traffic Officer

Douglas Gallaher, LAPD Traffic Officer, has completed 30 years of honorable service to the people of Los Angeles and the LAPD. For 24 years, his primary mission has been to reduce traffic-related injuries and deaths by enforcing the vehicle code on behalf of the community. Officer Gallaher uses his traffic enforcement expertise to educate the public about traffic safety; and, he often serves as a mentor to less experienced officers. Considered a leader among his peers, he has had an immeasurable impact on the community. His contribution to the public and to traffic safety is worthy of praise.



Honoree Douglas Gallaher.

### RUTILIO VILLAREAL LAPD Air Support Officer

Rutilio Villarreal, LAPD Air Support Officer, has completed nine and a half years of distinguished service as a Tactical Flight Officer in the LAPD's Air Support Division. Awarded 88 commendations throughout his career, Officer Villarreal has provided outstanding tactical insight and has maintained the highest level of officer and public safety as he operates highly technical equipment. Recently, Officer Villarreal rescued a 74-year-old grandfather who had become separated from his family while hiking in steep terrain in the Mulholland hills of the West Valley. The successful helicopter rescue delivered the dehydrated man to his waiting family.



Honoree Rutilio Villarreal.

