

LAPD

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# Central City Honors 5

Central City Police Boosters salutes LAPD Central Area Officers and personnel.

Story and photos courtesy Central City Police Boosters

The LAPD Central Area joined the Central City Police Boosters to honor Central Area Police Officers and personnel at a luncheon awards ceremony Feb. 26.

The annual luncheon provides the business and residents of the community a forum to recognize and support the LAPD in Downtown Los Angeles. The community would like to thank the personnel at the Central Community Police Station for their extraordinary efforts to make downtown safe.

Capt. III Blake Chow, Commanding Officer, Central Area, and former Central

Capt. Jodi Wakefield and Rick Wall were on hand to support and present awards to the following personnel:

- Supervisor of the Year: Sgt. Peter Foster
- Officer of the Year: Officer III Anthony Suviate
- Detective of the Year: Michael Lorenz III
- Civilian of the Year: Iris Lockett
- Volunteer of the Year: Satoru Uyeda

The keynote speaker was Shawn Parr, Go-Country 105 Radio Celebrity and LAPD Reserve Specialist. He was joined by the master of ceremonies, Allan Reno, of Let the Music Play. Guest speakers included Councilwoman and Club Member Jan Perry, Ninth Council District, and Billie Greer, Director of the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. They recognized the fine men and women of the LAPD Central Area and honored them for their commitment and dedication.



## PSR IRIS LOCKETT

2008 Civilian of the Year: Central Area

Public Service Representative Iris Lockett is a 13-year veteran of the LAPD. Iris was chosen as the Civilian of the Year for her dedication, teamwork and hard-work-

ing demeanor.

Iris has been assigned to Central Area for the past nine years. In this assignment, she has worked Central Patrol Division and as the Area Overtime Coordinator. Her contribution was second to none. Iris is an asset who unselfishly volunteered to take added responsibilities where she sees a need to enhance service to the public; improve patrol operations; and at the same time cultivate a prosperous environment between sworn and civilian personnel. She has been extremely diligent in her ability to be compliant with Central Area's goals as well as the Federal Consent Decree. Iris has also balanced Fair Labor and Standards Act violations and managed overtime issues without any negative audit issues.

Iris is a stellar employee. She is trustworthy

and keeps information; she may become privy to, in the strictest confidence.

On a regular basis, Iris has changed her workdays to meet the needs of the Area and the very stringent rules of Fiscal Operations Division. Iris also avails herself to other units, including the Community Relations Office, Senior Lead Office, and Special Events. Iris coordinates fundraising activities for the Central Station Fund and volunteers her time on the planning committees for the Area picnic and holiday party.

On her own, Iris has learned the complicated Online Overtime system. This was done on her personal initiative in order to ensure a smooth transition for Central Area personnel. She diligently doubled-checked the unofficial time book against the daily worksheets and properly recorded the information on the DPS official timesheet and any modifications were documented without error.

Additionally, Iris has assisted with the front desk operations and ACC duties. Iris has and will continue to be instrumental to Central Area and the Angelinos of the Central City Limits. Iris has done a superb job and she truly has made an impact to improve the services at Central Area to enhance the quality of life in the community.



## SATORU UYEDA

2008 Volunteer of the Year: Central Area

In 1993, a second-generation downtown-area businessman, Satoru Uyeda, recognized the need for a stronger relationship with the LAPD, and the improvement of

security issues within Little Tokyo. Faced with a soaring crime rate, blight, graffiti and panhandlers, the longtime resident initiated a volunteer patrol that blossomed into an integral role within the Japanese community. By year's end, more than 50 volunteers were recruited, and after years of hard work and tenacious effort, the area's streets were cleaned up.

Recognized as the first Community Based Policing program in downtown Los Angeles,

Satoru spearheaded a public safety program now modeled in many parts of the City. The developed area substation, known as the Koban, is a center for assistance and information, and regularly produces safety seminars and training for residents, children, senior citizens, and local businesses. Providing bilingual assistance to residents as well as tourists, Satoru implemented a Koban service, which features Department crime reporting to Japanese-language victims. Working side by side with Department officers and Senior Lead Officers, Satoru has unselfishly committed thousands of hours towards patrol, surveillance and maintenance services.



## SGT. I PETER FOSTER

2008 Supervisor of the Year: Central Area

Sgt. I Peter Foster is recognized as Central Area's 2008 Supervisor of the Year. Sgt. Foster is assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of Central Area's Problem-Solving

Unit. During this year, Sgt. Foster continued to personify the characteristics of a proactive supervisor by addressing all issues impacting the area. From the beginning of 2008, he hit the ground running, utilizing all available resources to do outstanding police work, proactive community policing, and to lead the officer he supervises by example.

While supervising the Central Area Senior Lead Officers (SLO), he has started the Entertainment Detail, covering the LA Live area. He personally selected the officers assigned to the unit, and were responsible for

their deployment, ensuring appropriate coverage of the LA Live campus. At one point, he was actively supervising and responsible for 28 officers under his command. Sgt. Foster was also an integral part of the deployment, supervision and staffing of the Los Angeles Lakers Championship games, which took place in June. He was responsible for several squads, and was able to assist in ensuring a safe and enjoyable time for those attending events at the Staples Center. While running the SLO unit, he oversaw the construction of Central's new weight room, not only rebuilding the facility but also obtaining the exercise equipment, televisions and sound system currently in use.

Sgt. Foster also coordinated the Special Olympics' Torch Run and the Tip a Cop fundraiser, resulting in a huge turnout and the largest participation of any Department running team. He also planned, supervised and coordinated Central Area's National Night Out, which turned out to be the largest and most successful National Night Out in the City.



## DET. I MICHAEL LORENZ III

2008 Detective of the Year: Central Area

Det. I Michael Lorenz is recognized as Central Area's 2008 Detective of the Year for his dedication, leadership, teamwork and contribution to Central Area's

efforts while assigned as an investigator on the Robbery Table.

Over the past year, Det. Lorenz investigated 237 robberies, arrested 60 suspects and cleared 38 percent of his cases. He did all that while maintaining a zero backlog.

One case that stands out from other, but is typical of Michael's abilities, was the robbery-kidnap investigation of a man who was visiting Elysian Park. The crime was the third in a trend of gang-related robberies in the park.

Michael identified the pattern and kept patrol units focused on the problem. After a plainclothes unit discovered a lead at a store near where the victim was left, Michael coordinated the rapidly developing investigation, writing multiple search warrants, and ultimately arresting three suspects. The robberies in the park abated completely.

Michael stands out by his dedication to his profession and a commitment to continuous improvement. He attended a half-dozen training course over the last year, and he was recognized as the top student in three: the Assault Crimes course, the Homicide course, and the ICI course.

Michael's commitment continues outside the Department, where he is active in coaching youth soccer. He holds three leadership positions in his church, where he was given the Valedictorian Award for the church's leadership course.



## OFFICER III ANTHONY SUVIATE

2008 Police Officer of the Year: Central Area

Police Officer III Anthony Suviate is a nine-year veteran who has been assigned to Central Area since January 2002. Suviate has unselfishly made significant contri-

butions to Central Area, the Department and the Downtown community. Officer Suviate's maturity and prior gang enforcement detail experience contributed to the officer's adaptability to work with any assigned officer, or handle any assigned task. Supervisors quickly noted Suviate's technical knowledge and expertise, which was a valuable commodity whenever he worked with new probationary officers. He willingly shared his overall wealth of knowledge, with his fellow officers and supervisors alike.

The one major area of importance was Suviate's knowledge and tactical expertise as well his background with the Department's Community-Based Policing Programs. As the Department moves forward into the 21st century, a continued need exists to improve the quality of life issues within the Downtown Community. Officer Suviate acknowledged this need to further help the community.

Suviate took the time to meet with his Watch Commander and supervisors and discussed the various facets of modifying the current deployment of officers that impact Central Area on their assigned watch. Suviate also suggested additional training methods to assist probationary officers with addressing quality of life issues, reducing the possibility use of force incidents. The recommendations suggested officers utilizing their "verbal judo" skills to alleviate possible negative contacts with homeless people within the Skid Row area.

It is the Department's utmost responsibility to train these new officers with the finest officers available. Officer Suviate fills this need without question. Suviate has continued to be one of Central Area's overall top producers in the area of citations, along with both felony and misdemeanor arrests on a regular basis. Suviate has been commended verbally, as well as with written commendations, and positive comment card entries. Officer Suviate leads by example and willingly follows any suggestions given by his supervisors. This has expanded Suviate's overall knowledge and expertise, which he willingly shares with his probationary partners. In return, Central Area has noted that probationary officers trained by Suviate have excelled, and progressed at a consistent rate, far above other probationary officers.

