



Officer Patrick Chang:
Helping youth tops list
 Page 2

PEO Louise Benson:
Can I park here?
 Page 3



SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A REPORT TO SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOODS

January 31, 2008

www.seattle.gov/police

Greetings



I want to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy new year.

I also want to thank the grass-root organizations, non-profit agencies, local charities, special interest groups, and members of Seattle's diverse community for

the requests I have received in allowing me to join your presence and speak on behalf of the men and women of the Seattle Police Department

From conferences, anniversaries, celebrations to festivities, I very much appreciate the invitations – and enjoy the company, discussions and good food.

These kinds of engagements are humbling experiences, but I want to give credit where it belongs: to the exceptional men and women, who, everyday, do their part in carrying out the department's mission to keep Seattle one of the safest cities in the country.

As chief, I am pleased to announce that Seattle continues to be the safest major metropolitan cities in America. Serious crime for 2007 is down 13.7 percent compared with 2006. Violent crime is down 11 percent and property crime is down 14 percent. Some of the largest decreases are in rape, down 28 percent, vehicle theft, down 29 percent, burglary, down 20 percent, and aggravated assaults, down 12 percent. There were 24 homicides in Seattle. That number has only been seen twice since 1964. The 2007 crime rate in Seattle was the lowest it has been in nearly 40 years.

While police officers move forward to keep Seattle safe, this report gives us a chance to also introduce you to a couple of officers on a personal level and provide you with department programs and services we offer that I hope you find informative and worthwhile.

On behalf of the men and women of the Seattle Police Department, again be safe and happy new year.

Chief R. Gil Kerlikowske

Police, Parks and Utilities Paint Away Graffiti



In partnership with Seattle Parks & Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities, Officer Darin Chinn and Officer TJ Berg (l-r) take a moment away from painting, as young members of the South Park community remove graffiti off the fence.

Graffiti – now you see it, now you don't – are those unwanted markings, drawings or etchings, whether painted, drawn or carved, on public or private property without the owner's permission.

Community Police Team Officers of the North, East, West, South, and Southwest Precincts know all too well that graffiti creates unnecessary fear in the neighborhoods and changes the quality of life.

In an area of South Park months ago, Officer Darin Chinn saw graffiti everywhere, in the alleys, detached garages, on fences, and utility poles, as he patrolled the neighborhood. Since graffiti is a crime of vandalism, officers have the responsibility to respond to complaints and try to catch the perpetrators in the act.

"Because it was quite alarming to see graffiti all over that area, I worked an emphasis patrol for a couple of nights but without any luck," said Chinn.

What followed instead after the unsuccessful operation was to paint away the graffiti. Chinn contacted Anthony Matlock of the Seattle Public Utilities and Carmen Martinez of Seattle Parks & Recreation, including members of the community, to get their paintbrushes rolling.

Parks brought in additional resources of high school volunteers via the City of Seattle Youth Internship Program, and Public Utilities supplied recycled buckets of paint and brushes transported in their traditional red wagons. Chinn sent letters to the residents advising them of the project. The cleanup project took no more than five hours to paint away the graffiti.

The Graffiti Nuisance ordinance requires property owners to remove graffiti in a timely manner, and encourages the rapid cleanup of graffiti and prevent its spread throughout the community.

Chinn credits Officer TJ Berg for his initiative and dedication to the project. "It was really Officer Berg who suggested that we get together with community members and other City departments," said Chinn. "He goes above and beyond in removing graffiti on his own time."

Chinn and his fellow officers eventually caught six juveniles doing the crime in progress within 30 minutes of each graffiti incident – not at night – but in the middle of the afternoon. "It is unfortunate and sad that kids between 11 and 15-years old, in this case, can create a perception of 'gang' presence because of their 'gang-wannabe' tagging wars," said Chinn.

One juvenile was booked into the King County Youth Services Center for investigation of malicious mischief. The other suspects were photographed, fingerprinted and turned over to the custody of their parents, and the rest were charged with investigation of malicious mischief.

"The north end also has its share of graffiti," said Officer Mike Cruzan. "This type of crime is usually done by one person or a group of people who lack attention, have nothing to do and want recognition from their peers."

When graffiti appears on public and private property, call the Graffiti Report Line at 206-684-7587. When graffiti is in progress, call 9-1-1.

This report is available in these languages upon request.

Arabic	ندراال	Russian	Русский
Cambodian	ខ្មែរ	Spanish	Español
Chinese	中文	Somali	Soomaali
Korean	한국어	Tagalog	Tagalog
Laotian	ລາວ	Vietnamese	Tiếng Việt



Seattle Police Officer Patrick Chang

Helping youth tops list

Among the many incidents and interactions Seattle Police Officer Patrick Chang has responded to in his 26 years of law enforcement, there are three most rewarding stories that come to mind – all dealing with youth.

“I am extremely passionate about helping kids. Children have a tougher time dealing with crises than adults. As police officers, we are in a very unique position to make a positive difference in their lives,” said Chang. “I am a firm believer that you just don’t go to a call, take a report and walk away.”

The first story involves a male fugitive who had crossed paths with Chang as a juvenile and sadly worked his way down to the region’s Most Wanted List. When a fugitive apprehension team closed in, he barricaded himself inside a house in the Highpoint neighborhood. The fugitive armed himself with a handgun and hid in the attic. Chang, a member of the department’s Hostage Negotiations Team, was able to establish phone contact with the fugitive. Negotiations were crawling up to the second hour when he agreed to surrender. The reason why he finally came out was because of Chang as he was someone who was able to relate with from past interactions. “He told me I was the reason why he came out, and I thanked him for making the right decision,” said Chang. “When negotiators respond to these kinds of situations, we work in teams and the ultimate goal is to resolve the crisis peacefully and safely, without injury to anyone.”

His second one involves a call-out in the Rainier Valley that Chang did not have the opportunity to respond since it happened on the opposite side of his precinct boundaries, but had heard about the tragedy. Domestic violence was the reason that triggered a 10-year old boy to call 9-1-1. At the dinner table sat the father, mother, son and an 8-year old



daughter. The father and mother have an argument – father shoots the mother and then takes his own life – resulting in a homicide and suicide.

“I recall working that evening and listening to the police radio to what was going on,” said Chang. “It was a traumatic situation for everyone involved, and I wanted to see if there was anything I could do. The following day, I learned it involved a Chinese family and knew there were no other Chinese officers working at that time.”

And providing help and hope was what Chang gave. He visited the family on his own initiative in order to attend to the extreme trauma the children were experiencing and to offer any assistance. “To this day I continue to be in their lives and see these kids very often, and we have become very close. I also have had the opportunity to improve my Chinese communication skills because of the grandmother who cares for the brother and sister.”

The third story happened 15 years ago, which speaks to the kind of person Chang is about. This is what the Seattle Police Department received about him:

“I would like to contact an officer about an encounter many years ago. This officer took the time to sit and talk to me when I was young and possibly headed in the wrong direction.

Too often it seems that making an arrest is more important than getting involved and making a difference instead of a statistic. Officer Chang had a real concern about the influence he would have with a few moments of his time. I would like to thank him for his words and actions. Though it has been 15 years, I have looked back and drawn from the encounter countless times and gain from the impact he made. I recently moved back to the Seattle area and bought a home with my wife. People like this officer helped to make a success out of my life. Thank you.” – Jeremy of Seattle.

“Receiving letters like this is an extraordinary feeling,” said Chang. “As police officers, it is most rewarding to see and hear from the people you have dealt with for whatever reason, for them to remember and thank you for what you have done.”

Determined to become a police officer when he was a little boy emigrating from Hong Kong to the United States, becoming a Seattle Police Explorer for six years throughout his teenager years, professionally exposing himself to the emergency calls as one of the youngest 911 operator and dispatcher during his time, and even after 22 years of patrolling the streets of South and Southwest Seattle, Chang continues to believe in what he does.

“I was raised by fantastic parents,” Chang said. “They have instilled in me the values of being kind to others, compassion, honesty, trustworthiness, and respecting law-abiding societies and that is what I practice when doing my job.”

“Being a patrol officer and working the streets, I am in a great position because I know I can do much more good as a first-responder in dealing with people, especially youth, who are in traumatic situations, than I can from behind a desk.”

“I strive to make all interactions with people, no matter what the circumstances, to be a positive one.”

Giving Back ...

The Foster Child Program is a 7th annual tradition for the Seattle Police Department. Employees buy gifts for foster children who may otherwise not receive a gift over the holidays. There are about 300 children between newborns and 18-years old to receive gifts every year. “I do it for the kids, as children need to have many magical moments for them to believe and have hope, and that is what we try to provide,” said Linda Spromberg, 911 Chief Dispatcher and program coordinator. “I also want to thank those in the department who give so generously as they are the ones who make the program such a success.”

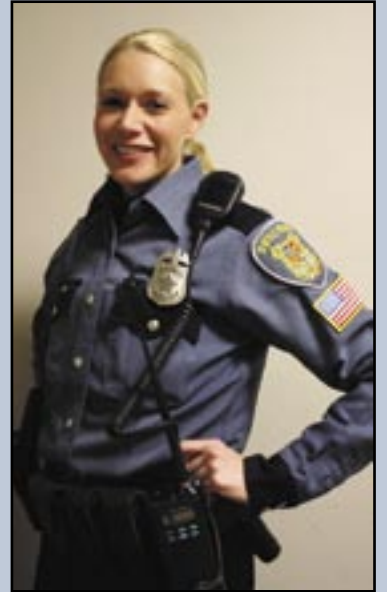


GOY! Honor? Courage? Commitment?

Be a Seattle Police Officer

“I chose SPD because I wanted the diversity of working for a larger department. I love coming to work every day knowing that my day will always be different. There is enough flexibility within the department to fit your interests.”

Officer Yvonne Tovar
East Precinct Patrol



“I have always had the desire to help people whenever I could. Our city is so diverse, and I really enjoy interacting with people of different ethnicities. I take pride in my job, and am happy to represent the Seattle Police Department.”

Officer Joselito Banez
South Precinct Patrol

“I visited Seattle in the summer of 1997 and saw a recruiting commercial for SPD. After I returned home, I immediately started the application process. It is one of the best decisions I have made. I have been with SPD over 10 years now and I couldn’t be more happy.”

Officer Ken Turner
North Precinct Patrol



- ▶ Policing in Seattle is a great career, and being a Seattle Police officer allows you to make a difference every day to the people in our community.
- ▶ Earn between \$47K and \$87K annually with excellent dental, health, vision and retirement benefits.
- ▶ Receive a \$5,000 entry-level recruitment salary incentive.
- ▶ As a new hire, receive up to a \$2,500 uniform allowance.
- ▶ As a lateral transfer, receive up to a \$5,000 relocation assistance.

Interested? Apply online: seattlepolicejobs.com

Report and Prevent Elder Abuse

As time moves every eight seconds a baby boomer turns 50-years old, and by the year 2030 the nation's population will have more citizens over the age of 65 than any other age group? In this respect, elder abuse is a growing concern. Many people care and can help, as each one of us has a responsibility to keep vulnerable elders safe from harm.

The Seattle Police Department defines abuse as intentionally causing pain, suffering and/or injury to a vulnerable adult, and can be physical, mental or sexual. Vulnerable adults are often people 60-years or older who cannot take care of themselves. Elder abuse also refers to many forms of maltreatment of an older person by someone who has a relationship with the elder that occur in their homes or adult care facilities.

According to the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, 13,600 cases of elder abuse were reported last year. In Seattle, there were 263 cases of elder abuse.

"In most cases when elder victims find out and learn they have been abused and exploited by a family member, their mental capacity and physical health sadly begin to decline resulting in death," said Detective Pamela St. John of the department's Special Victims Crimes.

Kinds of Abuse

Elder abuse comes in many forms with many warning signs.

► Physical abuse: being beaten, slapped, kicked, or restrained that results in black eyes, cuts, or broken bones.

► Sexual abuse: rape, sodomy, or unwanted touching that results in bruises around the breasts or genital area or unexplained bleeding.

► Emotional or psychological abuse: verbal assaults, intimidation, or humiliation that results in being agitated, withdrawn or nervous.

► Abandonment: desertion of elders at medical/adult care institutions or public facilities that results in purposely leaving an elder.

► Financial and material exploitation: the illegal or improper use of funds or assets that results in sudden

changes in bank accounts, or forged signatures on financial documents and transactions.

► Neglect: refusal to carry out obligations in paying for necessary life essentials that results in hazardous living condition.

► Self-neglect: refusal to seek medical treatment for serious illness or starvation.

Prevent Abuse

Here are tips you can do to help prevent elder abuse.

► Respect and honor your elders.

► Keep an eye out for family, friends and neighbors who may be vulnerable.

► Speak up when something looks or sounds wrong.

► Realize that abuse can happen in your family or neighborhood.

► Let others know about elder abuse.

Report Abuse

Both men and women are abusers of elders. It has been estimated that roughly two-thirds of those harming an elder are family members, and are most often the victim's adult child or spouse.

The bottom line is that elder abuse is a community issue, and we all have a responsibility to look out for one another and help keep each other safe.

With your vigilance, care and cooperation, elder abuse can be stopped and its perpetrators arrested and prosecuted.

If someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

If you have a reason to believe that someone you know is being abused but you do not have absolute proof, call the Adult Protective Services at 206-341-7660.

Getting Prepared is a SNAP



Tracy Connelly of the Office of Emergency Management discusses the SNAP (Seattle Neighborhood Actively Prepare) Program with members of the Bitter Lake community.

If a major disaster strikes the Seattle region – would you, your family and neighborhood be prepared? While it is difficult to predict when disasters happen, the efforts you make to prepare will go a long way in improving both the response and recovery of our community.

"The Office of Emergency Management is dedicated to reducing the amount of harm, preparing our residents and speeding recovery when a disaster strikes," said Barb Graff, director of Emergency Management. "When you, your family and neighbors are prepared, we can better respond to those needing police and fire services and ensure buildings are safe to occupy, streets are safe to drive, water is safe to drink, lights are turned back on as quickly as possible, and that the most vulnerable among us have shelter and food."

When a major disaster hits and the City's first responders are overwhelmed, the first people you naturally turn to for help will be your neighbors. Building good relationships with your neighbors is the best way to extend you and your family's personal safety net.

Preparation starts with creating a family disaster plan, as this increases your chances of reaching those you love sooner after a disaster, and include an out-of-area contacts. Another important step is building a preparedness kit to include a battery-operated radio, flashlights, batteries, water and canned foods to last three days, and other basic and personal needs.

Seattle has the SNAP (Seattle Neighborhood Actively Prepare) Program that is a simple and flexible process designed to help neighborhoods create plans that are specific to your needs for any potential emergency.

For more information about the program or to get your neighborhood prepared, call 206-233-7123.

Can I Park Here?



Ask Seattle Police Parking Enforcement Officers (l-r) Linda Ventoza, Arlene Calderon and Louise Benson who celebrated the 50 years existence of their occupation last November that was established in 1957. Proper parking on Seattle streets helps everyone and accommodates the different needs of many users. PEOs enforce all City of Seattle parking ordinances to create a turnover in parking resources and keep traffic flowing - making them safer and passable for motorists and pedestrians. There are 80 PEOs made up of 40 men and 40 women who are responsible for approximately 1,000 parking meters and 1,500 pay stations. Most paid parking is in effect Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To request a PEO for non-emergencies, call 206-625-5011.

STREET RACERS AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS,
MEET THE

HARD CHARGERS

COMING SOON TO A STREET NEAR YOU.

THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTRODUCES THE AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS
RESPONSE TEAM.

THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief R. Ed Kirkwood
www.seattle.gov/police

Reaching Out to Muslim, Sikh and Arabs

Seattle Police Department leads charge

Detective Yanal (Mark) Vwich with Officer James Stevens serve as the liaisons between the Seattle Police Department and the Muslim, Sikh, Arab (MSA) Advisory Council.

What is his personal connection to the council? Vwich is Muslim, a religion of Islam and the second largest religion in the world. Although his family is not Arabian, his parents immigrated to the United States from the Middle Eastern country of Jordan.

Vwich finds that most people are surprised when he tells them he is Muslim. It is important to know being of that ethnicity, religion or practice is not a requirement of police officers to serve as liaisons. They become liaisons because of interest, commonalities and commitment.

Like Vwich, officer liaisons between the African American, East African, Filipino, Korean, Southeast Asian, Latino, Native American, and LGBTQ communities all share one common goal: concentrate on building trust between police officers and the diverse communities of our city.

They accomplish this by having open communications and healthy discussions. This creates educational opportunities to learn from each other where law enforcement issues are challenged or questioned. It also allows them to have access to public safety programs and services.

“One of my peers suggested that I would be a good contact for the advisory council when she learned I was fasting for Ramadan,” Vwich said. “Going on two years serving as the liaison has been an interesting experience. I continue to build upon the relationship Officer James Stevens has already developed with members of the council.”

In addition to strengthening the department relationship with the MSA community, Vwich also has a personal reason he wanted to be the liaison. “I was raised as a Muslim by my parents. After 9/11, the media’s portrayal of Islam did not reflect how I was raised and taught to believe. I began to question if that was true Islam.”

Serving the council was his way of learning more about the religion. He also confirmed that the negative images people

saw on the news, heard on the radio, read in the newspaper, or on the Internet about Islam – is the polar opposite of Islam. “I am very happy to find that every one I have met in the Arab-American-Islamic community shares the very same principles of what I was taught about Islam,” Vwich said.

The Seattle Police Department recently was able to mediate a discussion between the FBI, Washington State Patrol, and members of the community over the issue of releasing sensitive information to the public.

Vwich said, “As a Muslim, I first did not see why they had concerns with the release as I felt that when the information was released, the agency went out of their way not to implicate the community in any wrongdoing. It was when a community member articulated the concern that I recognized the real issue.”

“Even with our community not being implicated and being a Muslim myself, and with the current fears that have been instilled by the way the media describes us, I found myself implicating my own community.”

“Further, what conclusion would non-Muslims draw?” Vwich added.

Another community member brought up the fact that these images cause negative impacts in their community. The issue was not how others viewed them, the issue is when their daughters and sons are teased and harassed at school because of their religious beliefs.

Vwich says he can relate to the issues of being stereotyped. “I don’t feel discrimination as a Muslim because I don’t have the ‘stereotypical’ appearance of a Muslim. I do, however, frequently get to see how the media portrays my religion and my profession. Although both have many positive stories, it is the rare, negative ones that are reported as if they are an everyday occurrence. Fortunately, I maintain the perspective that I am not the person the media depicts me to be. Being stereotyped, whether positive or negative, is embedded in our society.”

As discussions continue with the MSA Advisory Council, so do discussions among other department advisory councils.

Calling 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 ...

- ✓ When you have a police, fire, or medical emergency.
- ✓ To report a crime that is in progress or has just occurred.
- ✓ When there is suspicious activity involving individuals or vehicles that appear to be criminal in intent.

Follow these steps when you call 9-1-1 ...

- ✓ Briefly explain what is happening.
- ✓ Give your name, the phone number you are calling from, the location of the emergency and any other directional information.
- ✓ Do not hang up until the operator tells you it is okay.

When you call 9-1-1 ...

- ✓ Do not hang up if you accidentally call, stay on the line and tell the operator.
- ✓ Ask for an interpreter if you have difficulty speaking or understanding English.
- ✓ Know that most 9-1-1 calls are free.

Proud to be part of Seattle neighborhoods

and honored to serve the residents of Seattle.



Seattle Police Headquarters: 610 Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 34986, Seattle WA 98124-4986
 East Precinct: 1519 - 12th Avenue, Seattle WA 98122, 206-684-4300
 West Precinct: 810 Virginia Street, Seattle WA 98101, 206-684-8917
 South Precinct: 3001 S. Myrtle, Seattle WA 98109, 206-386-1850
 Southwest Precinct: 2300 SW Webster, Seattle WA 98106, 206-733-9800
 North Precinct: 10049 College Way N., Seattle WA 98133, 206-684-0850
www.seattle.gov/police