



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Richard Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Cathy Hanson, Human Resources Director

DATE: August 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Introduction of New Employees, Employee Promotions and Presentation of Service Awards

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the following:

- 1) Introduction of new employees from the Management Services, Finance, Public Works and Police Departments;
- 2) Recognize employee promotions, and
- 3) Presentation of commemorative certificates and pins to employees who have completed 15 or more years of service to the City.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended actions.

BACKGROUND:

The City has a tradition of welcoming new employees by introducing them at Council meetings. This gives new employees an opportunity to meet the Councilmembers and Department Heads and experience firsthand how Council meetings are conducted in the City. This tradition includes recognizing promoted employees and presenting commemorative certificates and pins to long-term city employees.

DISCUSSION:

Management Services:

New Employee

Sona Kalapura is our new Environmental Programs Manager. She recently worked as an Analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Los Angeles. She has extensive experience in research and analysis, as well as a thorough understanding of governmental organizations and policy development. Prior to the GAO, she worked at the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and AmeriCorps/Expert, Inc. Sona is active in volunteer work as evidenced by her association with various organizations such as Heal the Bay, Community Services Unlimited, LA Works Daniel Webster Garden Project, Southern California Association of Governments, CalPIRG Community Water Watch Program, School on Wheels and

Bolsa Chica Stewards. She received both her Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Southern California specializing in environmental policy.

Police Department:

New Employees

Police Officer Michael Levin is a native of Minsk, Belarus. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1996. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Engineering from the University of California, Irvine, in 2006. While at the University, Michael was a member of the fencing team and competed in several USFA and college level tournaments. After graduation, Michael worked in the IT department for the City of Inglewood. He worked closely with the Inglewood Police Department which eventually led to his decision to pursue a law enforcement career.

Police Officer Claudia Heydinger is a graduate of El Camino College where she received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from California State Long Beach. For the past 8 years she was a Police Officer with the Hawthorne Police Department where she worked Patrol and Detectives in both Adult and Juvenile sections. She recently joined the City of Manhattan Beach Police Department.

Promotions

Derrick Abell was promoted to Police Captain. Derrick began his law enforcement career with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1988 and with the Manhattan Beach Police Department in 1991. Over the course of his 15 years with the Manhattan Beach Police Department, Derrick worked the following police assignments: DARE Officer 1992-1993; Narcotics Detective 1993-1995; SWAT Team member (Commander) 1991- 2008; Police Sergeant 1995-1999; Human Resource & Training Sergeant 1996-1999; Police Lieutenant 1999- present; Administrative (Budget) Lieutenant 2001-2003; Traffic Lieutenant 2004-present. As a Lieutenant, Derrick received "Officer of the Year" honors in 1999. Prior to his law enforcement career, Derrick earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech Communications from Montana State University. He is currently working towards a Masters of Science Degree in Emergency Services Management from Long Beach State University.

Nan Rados was promoted to Police Lieutenant. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Chapman University. Nan joined the Manhattan Beach Police Department in 1986 and was initially assigned to teach DARE. She was later assigned to the detective bureau's Fraud, Forgery, Narcotics and Vice Investigations. She was a member of the SWAT Team and the LA IMPACT. While working on narcotics, she helped develop a 32-hour Post Certified Drug Identification and Influence Recognition course taught to over a thousand police officers throughout the State. She also became a DRE Instructor and taught for LAPD and CHP. She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1998 and has overseen Patrol operations, the SWAT Sniper Team, DARE Unit, and Trauma Support Team as well as five years as the Sergeant in charge of Training and Human Resources. The program she is most proud of is the Community Police Academy which brings citizens and police personnel together. This program generated positive feedback from everyone involved. She was awarded the Officer of the Year in 2006 for her efforts in building partnerships within our organization and the community,

Christian Eichenlaub is our newly promoted Police Sergeant. Christian's interest in law enforcement began at an early age. His grandfather was a Sergeant with the San Francisco Police

Department. Christian began his studies in criminal justice at Santa Monica College. In 1994 he became a Reserve Police Officer with the Santa Monica Police Department. Christian became a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1995. He spent the next five years working a variety of assignments at two different jail facilities. In April of 2000, he began his career with the Manhattan Beach Police Department. Throughout his career, Christian has worked the following assignments: Beach Patrol, SWAT (Sniper), Use of Force Instructor, South Bay Platoon, Range Instructor, and Traffic (Motor) Officer. Christian recently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Union Institute and University.

Ryan Small is another newly promoted Police Sergeant. Ryan began his career with the Manhattan Beach Police Department as a Police Communications Operator in 1990. He was a Manhattan Beach Reserve Police Officer in 1994 and later promoted to the position of Police Academy Trainee. After graduating from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Police Academy, he was assigned as a Patrol Officer and was a member of the Department's DUI enforcement unit. He was appointed to the Detective Bureau serving as Court Liaison Officer and Juvenile and Sex Crimes Detective. He was also assigned to the Los Angeles Inter-agency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (LA IMPACT). Ryan served as a DARE Officer, was a member of the South Bay Regional D.U.I. Task Force and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Team. He is currently a member of the MBPD SWAT Team as a Crisis Negotiator and the forming chairperson of the South Bay Child Protection Task Force. He is also a board member of the Manhattan Beach Police Officers' Association. Ryan attended the Los Angeles Community College and the University of Southern California's Delinquency Control Institute. He is currently enrolled in Criminal Justice Management program at the Union Institute & University.

Service Awards

Robert Cochran, Police Officer, is not able to attend tonight's presentation but the City wish to recognize him for his 15 years of dedicated service.

Fire Department

Service Awards

Lou Petroni, Fire Captain – 20 years

John Grimaldi, Fire Captain, is not able to attend tonight's presentation but the City wish to recognize him for his 25 years of dedicated service

Finance Department

New Employees

Sharon Koike is our new Assistant Director of Finance. Prior to joining the City of Manhattan Beach, Sharon spent the last fifteen years working in the public sector; five years at the Orange County Water District as the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer and prior to that almost ten years at the West Basin and Central Basin Municipal Water Districts. She has extensive experience on various types of public financing transactions including fixed rate, variable rate, derivatives, cash management and investing. In addition, Sharon has experience and oversight with budgeting and analysis, banking, auditing, financial system implementations, contracts administration, security and administration. Sharon is a California certified public accountant. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Southern California.

Jamie Banter is our new Account Representative I. She is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and minored in black studies. Jaime has worked in the service industry for the past eight years.

Promotions

Steve Charelian was recently promoted to Revenue Services Manager. Steve began his career with the City of Manhattan Beach in 1989 working in the Finance Department. Prior to his promotion, Steve was a Business License Specialist and Revenue Services Specialist. In 1998 he became a Certified Revenue Officer (CRO) with the California Municipal Business Tax Association (CMBTA). In 2000 Steve served as the Division 3 Vice President for the California Revenue and Tax Association (CMRTA). In 2002 Steve received a certificate of recognition from the first Manhattan Beach Academy. Steve was a volunteer coach for the City's summer sunset basketball league. He has also been a Mentor for the CMRTA for the past 10 years. He received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Redlands in Business and Management.

Public Works Department

New Employees

Keith Darling is our new Facilities Supervisor. Keith started his career working for an electrical contractor. He worked on many projects including the Manhattan Village Shopping Center, Del Amo Mall parking structure and Ice Capades Ice Rink in Palos Verdes. His experience range from ground up construction, maintenance and remodeling, estimating and design and a considerable amount of data cabling that later evolved from coax to high speed wiring and fiber-optic. After 30 years in the electrical field, Keith retired and started a handyman business in the South Bay. He decided to close his business and pursue full time work with the city.

Raul Saenz, our new Utilities Manager, has nearly 20 years in potable water and 10 years in wastewater management experience. Before joining the City, he was the Operations Manager of the Los Angeles Division for California American Water, a subsidiary of American Water. He also worked for the City of Lynwood as a Civil Engineering Associate/Superintendent in charge of potable water/waste water systems and the City natatorium. His experience include budget and capital improvement project development and implementation. Raul has extensive experience in collaborative Water Master Plan development. He also brings along a strong background in SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition), having recently completed a \$2.1 million project involving water infrastructure control and data acquisition systems from the mouth of the San Gabriel River in the City of Duarte to Baldwin Hills, just north of LAX. Raul has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology, along with graduate course work in civil engineering at California State University, Los Angeles.

Promotions

Michael Guerrero was promoted to Principal Civil Engineer. He began his career with the City in 1988. Prior to his promotion, Michael held the positions of Civil Engineer I, Senior Engineer and Senior Civil Engineer. Michael worked on a variety of City capital projects including The Strand Improvement Project, Polliwog Park Improvement Project and Marine Sports Park. He also worked on civil engineering improvements at the Metlox commercial development, Manhattan Raleigh Studios and Manhattan Village Senior Housing Project. He was also involved on the initiation of the City's Geographic Information System and Underground Utility Assessment District program. Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.