



## **PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

130 Malabar Rd. SE, Palm Bay, FL 32907 • 321-952-3456 • [www.palmbayflorida.org](http://www.palmbayflorida.org)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Yvonne Martinez, Public Information Coordinator, 321-426-5194

**REPLY TO:** [martiy@pbfl.org](mailto:martiy@pbfl.org) IF NEEDED (DO NOT REPLY TO LISTSERV ADDRESS)

Monday, April 26, 2010 2:35 PM

#### **VOLUNTEERS MAKE A VALUABLE DIFFERENCE IN POLICE MATTERS**

(Palm Bay)--In recognition of National Volunteer Week April 18-24th, the Palm Bay Police Department honored the more than 100 men and women who serve as part of the Palm Bay Police Department's volunteer program, the largest in Brevard County. A special awards banquet was held last week in which Chief Bill Berger, his command staff along with the mayor, city council, city manager and top city administrators presented awards to the top volunteer performers and recognized the efforts of all the volunteers.

The program began in 1995 with approximately 20 volunteers. It has grown to include more than 100 volunteers who to date have provided 310,727 hours of service to the Palm Bay Police Department and the City of Palm Bay. The service translates into a savings of \$5.5 million, equivalent to running the entire Parks and Recreation Department for one year. Last year alone the volunteers contributed over 25,000 hours of service working on everything from administrative and logistical support to assisting with criminal investigations, neighborhood patrols and assisting road officers with traffic control points among many other police related functions. "Without the efforts of these dedicated volunteers we would not be able to continue to provide the level of quality service to the citizens of Palm Bay," said Dana Packard, Community Services Division Manager overseeing the volunteer program. "They are tireless in their efforts and we are so fortunate to have them."

Special recognition was given to the following individuals:

- Volunteer of the 1st Quarter: Daryl Ring
- Volunteer of the 2nd Quarter: Mike Giglio
- Volunteer of the 3rd Quarter: Bob Siena
- Volunteer of the 4th Quarter: Garrett Barefield
- Volunteer of the Year: Donald Ropeter

The group was also recognized for the number of hours invested and each volunteer was given a commemorative pin in celebration of Palm Bay's 50th anniversary.

The Palm Bay Police Department continues to offer opportunities for individuals interested in participating in the volunteer program. Interested persons must pass a complete background check and attend an orientation session prior to being selected. For more information contact the Community Services Office at 321-953-8980.

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