



Denver Police Department Newsletter

August 2019

FROM CHIEF PAZEN:

Within the past month, we had two incidents of our officers doing what seemed like small things turn into big things. In both of these incidents our officers were connecting with members of our community – Officer Thanarat "PJ" Phuvapaisalkij challenged a boy to a break-dancing competition and Corporal James Waldrop was patrolling his precinct when he saw a lemonade stand where a boy was raising money to take his mom on a date since his dad had recently died. The Corporal donated and encouraged others to visit, which they gladly did!

Both the stories received national attention, thus showing America what I already know – DPD is made up of the best people who truly care about our community!

Like Officers Phuvapaisalkij and Waldrop, who did not take these actions for notoriety, I encourage you all to find small moments to connect with those we serve because that is what truly matters.

FOR YOUR BENEFIT:



The Resiliency and Wellness Program wants to ensure that officers, civilians and retirees of the Denver Police Department always have access to Suicide Prevention Lifeline information. Therefore, we proposed having this resource printed on the back of all ID cards and the Chiefs approved because they truly care about our wellbeing.

Visit the ID Bureau to have your new ID card printed so that you can have this information with you at all times, as you never know whose life you may save - a friend, peer, family member, stranger, or your own.

Also, this information was recently shared on the Department's Resiliency and Wellness Program Facebook page, which is a closed group for only DPD sworn employees. Submit your information today to be allowed into the private group where you will learn and can participate in crucial conversations about your health and happiness.

OFFICERS BEING AWESOME:

Last month, District One Officer Alex Esparza was on patrol when he noticed some neighborhood kids selling soda at a small stand. He stopped to chat with the kids and the mother of the kids came out and asked if Officer Esparza would be willing to stop by her son's police-themed birthday party at the end of July. Officer Esparza said he would try, but later realized he could not make it. So, Officer Esparza arranged for Officer Bobi Limon to go to the birthday party in his place. Both officers bought gifts for the birthday boy, and Officer Limon arrived to the sight and sounds of several excited kids in the front yard. A big thanks to Officers Esparza & Limon for showing what police work is all about!



Late July, Sergeant Thomas Lahey, who is assigned to DIA, responded a report of an abandoned dog. The sergeant helped recover the dog and provided temporary placement. Not long after, the dog's owner called and explained that the dog had escaped from his car while on the premise. The owner and dog were reunited. This save by Sergeant Lahey comes fresh off the heels of another just prior to this incident - he also rescued a kitten that was trapped in the engine compartment of a vehicle parked in the parking garage. Thank you, Sgt. for looking out for fur friends!



In July, the following officers were recognized for their 35-years of service: Officers Kenneth A. Chavez, Brian Barry, Anthony Burkhardt.