



The Shield

The Official Publication of the Dallas Police Association
Volume XXXVII No. 7
July 2017



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President's Message



The Chief I Need

By Michael Mata

Well the search is over, we have an idea of our leadership future. Will it be from outside the department or even more from the outside of Texas, or will it be a homegrown cop. Both have its plus and minuses, but all I know is that decisions have to be made and we can't wait for someone to learn the ropes or test the waters to do what needs to be done.

I think we can all agree that the department needs a major overhaul. For years the department has been run by fear of discipline and micro-management. We have had a central head of leadership that has failed to allow and moreover discouraged those from leading. We have had a form of leadership in power that has displayed complete disregard for the General Orders and has picked and chosen when and to whom the rules apply. Because of the selective use of departmental rules and when chosen to use them has decimated this department and the morale of the rank and file.

The officers for decades have understood that the city sees them as only numbers and not as actual people with careers and families. They have shown time and time again that they have little regard for the way they treat their employees, always falling on the common theme of "you don't like it then leave". This has always surprised me that a city the size of Dallas would fail to attempt to retain and almost dare those they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on to leave. This thinking of we have 500 waiting in line to take your place never struck me as productive or business smart.

The council and city leaders say time and time again how they want to hire the best and that public safety is a top priority. And then they turn around and make budget cuts that greatly reduce the funding levels of public safety, but then cry when the quality of service decreases. As I write this article the department stands at 2,917 and falling. We have 4 more months to go and the "new pension" plan takes into effect on September 1st, who knows what happens after that date. It's funny when you talk to officers from the youngest of PO to the administrative staff; I hear everything from "blow this thing up" to "it will all work itself out".

I'm not sure where I fall; do I believe we need to blow this thing up? I don't see how you can but the

tree needs severe shaking. The old school of thinking and police leadership path needs to be completely changed. Do I believe we still need to continue with our community policing? Sure I do, but how about lets stop creating new units to do the job that old street cops used to do. I sat in CORE last week and heard the instructor talk about Police Legitimacy and how it is important in maintaining the trust of the community. I sat and laughed at the ever-growing list of what the public expects in this new age of policing, and to tell you the truth it isn't anything new. We just stopped letting the patrol officer do these things because we put more importance on satisfying the city's call of doing more with less. So we told the officer learning "your beat" isn't important anymore. The past police leaders let the city convenience them that technology and social media can take the place of a face to face conversation and a firm handshake, AND THEY WERE WRONG.

Now we have created an officer that doesn't know he/she is supposed to get out of the car and meet the public, and you know what it's not their fault they were never taught that. What's even worse, we have had past leadership that saw this engagement as "officers screwing off" and disciplined those who tried to continue to do so. We as a department discourage officers from getting out of the car in their beat areas to meet and engage the public, in an attempt to earn respect and make relationships.

We took that ability away when we no longer had beat responsibility, and no longer allowed an officer to bond and have ownership in a beat and a neighborhood. There were days when the public gave nick names to the officers, and those names weren't out of fear, more often those names were given from earned street respect. There were days you were invited to sit and have a meal with a family on a porch. Now this department wants you to just drive by them and hope they come to a "chief on the beat" or a "coffee with cops". The folks the police need to reach don't give two cents about coffee or a dance contest. We are failing our communities and we are failing our future department.

So what do I need from our new Chief ????? I need an old soul, I need a cop that has spent time on a beat. I need a leader that sees what is good in their officers not what the control number says they supposedly did. I need a leader that sees that it is these men and women that are sacrificing their lives and their health for them and this city. They need a leader who will not pander to political pressure or elected leaders but will do what is right, even when the public might see it as wrong. I need a leader that shows up on a call as your cover not

to check up on you and wait for you to do something wrong. I want and need a leader that says answering call is “part of his job” description too, and he will fill out that book in sheet and he will transport that burglar to jail.

But we have had a Chief in the past that says, “ I’m just too busy to do that”. How are you too busy to do the work that you are asking your men and women to do? Or how can you say I know what you face on the streets but you haven’t answered a call or placed handcuffs on a person in 20 years. We need a Chief that leads from the front lines not from the office cubicle. We need a leader that we can believe in, one that understands that the life of his department is the men and women that serve it. We need a leader we see ourselves in, not one who makes money on the deaths of our fallen heroes. We need a leader that will admit when he/she is wrong and accepts the consequences and decides integrity is more important then glory and fame. We need a leader who cares about our families and our futures. We need a leader that values the lives he leads and understands.....

these officers are not replaceable.

Stay safe and stay ready,
Michael Mata
President
Dallas Police Association



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Extra Dues Schedule
May 2017 - Full Month
 Lorne Ahrens #8193
June 2017 - Half Month
 Hans Campbell #10452
July 2017 - Half Month
 Tim Casey #7299
August 2017 - Half Month
 Mitchell Hamm #8779
October 2017 - Full Month
 Patricio Zamarripa #10112

UPCOMING DPA MEETINGS

Board Meetings

August 8, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

September 12, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

General Meeting

July 18, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

All members are encouraged to attend any of the scheduled meetings.

Lunch is always served!

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Second Vice President

Looking For A Few Good Cops

By Beth Sundquist

Each month we award one member the title of Cops' Cop. This is not a title to be taken lightly and everyone I know who has received it has been honored when they received the award. This award is a unique award it is nominated and chosen by members of the Dallas Police Association, not command staff or a supervisor.

This is truly a Cops' Cop award. It is a cop who nominates the member and it is graded by cops (former recipients).

The nomination of a member for Cops' Cop is painless and easy. Send me an email letting me know who you are nominating and briefly tell me why you are nominating the officer. Attach another supporting letter from an additional person, can be an outside letter from the community or can be anyone within the department regardless of membership. The more supportive documents you provide the better. That's it you are done! The rest is on me.

Start thinking! I know every one of you know an officer that deserves this award. Do them justice and nominate them!

You can email me at bsundquist6918@gmail.com or [call/text 214.232.5053](tel:214.232.5053) with any nominations and questions.



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Joe King



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Brett Rosen



March
Stephen Bishopp



April
Robert Millin



May
Jeffrey Jacobs

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As Mourning Turns To Honoring: 07/07

by Dan Russell

I can't imagine the number of times each of us has thought, dreamt, pondered, counseled, blogged, discussed, griped, wept, heard, or read those two formerly innocuous numbers in the last year.

Our collective hearts were broken on that night, as gunfire rang out in our city. No mere 6G this time, no signal 19 of a stranger we've never met on the wrong end of a dope deal.

No, this time, it was we who were targeted. And it was our brothers who were the victims; slain doing their duty on that hot Thursday night in July.

None of us will forget where we were, what we were doing, when we heard that Officers were down. Whether you were standing near Elm & Lamar and heard the shots ring out, whether it was your own voice calling for help on the radio, whether you responded from elsewhere in the city, or whether you were off duty in the comfort of your own home and had a tranquil night destroyed by terror and anguish.

As months have passed since we lost five good men, we have collectively mourned. First the candlelight vigil, the funerals, the tear-choked details as we each tried to put our lives back together, some more shattered than others. There were tributes, concerts, ball games, and television interviews. As the Detectives continued to build the case and clarify what really happened, the world continued to turn and we each found ways to cope, albeit with differing levels of success.

Police week has now come and gone, where our fallen were consecrated on the polished concrete walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial; engraved beside the names of 21,000 American peace officers that have died in the line of duty over the last two centuries.

The word "Dallas...Dallas...Dallas..." was uttered by every political leader and orator that spoke at official gatherings in Washington D.C., and the President of the United States addressed our losses on that terrible night in a nationally televised speech; one pledging continued support for the Thin Blue Line as we continue to Serve and Protect, even in the face of tragedy.

We had our own memorial here at our own Police Officer Memorial across Akard Street from City Hall; where the families of the 84 officers we have lost since 1881 gathered to commemorate their loved ones and celebrate their Service.

Now, as 07/07 again approaches on the calendar, we ready ourselves to again celebrate especially Sergeant Michael Smith, Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens, Police

Officer Patricio Zamarripa, Police Officer Michael Krol, and Police Officer Brent Thompson of DART PD.

My brothers and sisters, let this be a time where our collective mourning turns to honoring those we have lost, as we celebrate their sacrifice by continuing to serve in their memory, and allow ourselves to heal.

Many continue to wear the black mourning band around their badge, and have done so for the last year. It is worn as a sign of grief, of sadness, of loss, of pain. It is time to take the mourning band off.

We will forever carry in our hearts our friends, and speak their names with reverence and respect; just as many of our other fallen are often spoken of with tenderness and the immortality of their presence.

Norm Smith. Mark Nix. Brian Jackson. John Chase. 79 men and 1 woman that lost their lives in the performance of their duties before last year.

As our department has faced tragedy and loss before in the 136 years that the Dallas Police Department has stood watch over what was once a settlement on the banks of the Trinity River in the North Texas Prairie, so we will again face loss.

It is only a matter of time before we confront the death of another Officer in the line of duty.

When that time comes, we will again come together in love and remembrance.

When that time comes, we will again wrap the mourning band around our badges and honor their memory by continuing to Serve, just as Mike, Lorne, Michael, Pat, and Brent would want us to.

It is time for mourning to turn to honoring, and to allow ourselves to heal, to celebrate, to rejoice that we knew these men. It is time to take the mourning band off, and carry on the performance of our task.

And, as 07/07 passes us this year, as you return to your duty assignment to Serve, say a silent prayer of thanks for those that have gone before us, and ask for the protection of those that will continue to put themselves in harms way.

There is much honorable work to be done.





I love bingo, so I anxiously waited for tickets to go on sale. They sold out within 90 minutes and I missed out. People said “Volunteer! It’s more fun than playing!” It sounded like a ploy to appease those who couldn’t get tickets, but I still signed up to help. I had a blast! I could talk forever about the fun I had, but would rather tell a story about two ladies I met and their question: “What does ATO do?”

I gave an overview about when assistance is provided. I explained officers can submit requests on behalf of officers in need. I shared about when my own family experienced a tragedy and ATO helped us. In the end, the ladies summed up ATO with these words: “It’s about family helping family.”

Those two ladies taught me a lesson. In my mind, bingo was like Cops Cop except we get to watch guys shake their booty as they model purses. It was an event put on FOR the spouses group, right? Nope. We host it and work it. It is fine to attend, have fun, and raise money for ATO; however, there IS another side of it. We call it volunteering, but it’s really not. It is about family helping family.
Colleen Smith (Spouse of SC Ben Smith #8371, SE Patrol)





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Cops' Cop

June

Gregory Ceraso

Senior Corporal Gregory Ceraso has been selected as the June 2017 Cops' Cop for the Dallas Police Association. Senior Corporal



Ceraso has been with the Dallas Police Department for 9 years. He currently assigned to the K-9 unit. Senior Corporal Ceraso has received 48 commendations and was officer of the month March 2012.

Senior Corporal Ceraso created a challenge coin in honor of the fallen officers of July 7th to raise money for the families. He dedicated his personal time to this fundraiser and raised \$150,000 for the Assist the Officer Foundation. Senior Corporal Ceraso never hesitates to assist others.



The Dallas Metro Police Pipes & Drums

If you have ever attended a police funeral, awards banquet, or opening ceremony of a law enforcement conference in Dallas, you more than likely have heard the Dallas Metro Police Pipes & Drums. We are made up of active and retired police officers, and civilians with a connection to the law enforcement community.

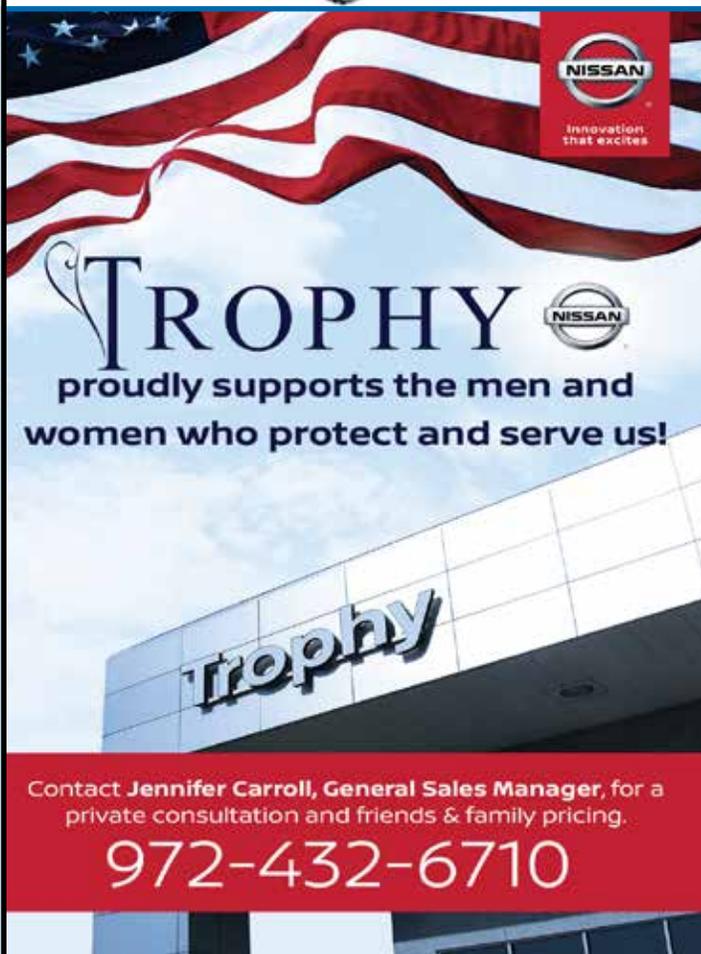
The band evolved from the Dallas Police and Fire Pipe Band which started in 1995. Over the years, membership has changed due to transfers, retirements, promotions, and work and family conflicts. By 2004, the band was no longer affiliated with the Fire Department and I was the only Dallas police bagpiper standing. In order for the band to continue, I sought out pipers and drummers from area police agencies and we became the Dallas Metro Police Pipes & Drums.

When I retired from the Dallas Police Department in November 2013, I wrote a farewell article for *The Shield*. In it, I expressed my hope that another Dallas officer would pick up the bagpipes and continue the tradition of playing for the police department. Sadly that didn't happen, but meanwhile, the pipe band was invited to play at the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination later that month and we received international media coverage. We were in the national spotlight once again when we played at the funerals for the Dallas officers who were killed in last July's tragedy.

It has been an honor to play for and represent the Dallas Police Department over the years. The bagpipes are not an easy instrument to play, even if you have played another instrument and can already read music. It requires constant practice and commitment. It is not an instrument you can lay down for three months, pick up, and give a respectable performance the next day. It is also a temperamental instrument, sensitive to temperature changes and requires constant tuning. But when they are well tuned, they produce a brilliant sound.

If you would like to know more about the bagpipes, or the pipe band, feel free to contact me at dwc Casey3976@verizon.net, or visit us on Facebook.

SC Don Casey (retired)



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Birth Announcements

Big Brother, Chase, is proud to welcome Liam Andrew, born to parents **Officer Michael Bono** (Narcotics) and wife, Jennifer on May 8, 2017 weighing 6lbs, 9 oz and 19.25 inches.



Big sister, Addison and big brother, Wyatt are proud to welcome Natalie Hope born to parents **Senior Corporal James Verhalen** (South Central) and wife, Anna on April 19, 2017 weighing 8lbs, 4 oz and 20.5 inches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 7th - Tribute 7/7

August 24th - Kevin James Sporting Clay Shoot



Sharing Is Caring

Have something you'd like to see in The Shield? Contact DPA at 214.747.6839 or info@dallaspa.org for more information on being a guest contributor.

People

Our Deepest Sympathy

The family of Mr. Bernard Tooker, Jr., Brother of **Sergeant Jeff Tooker** (Central Business District).

The family of **Retired Senior Corporal Charles Stark #1869**. Senior Corporal Charles Stark retired May 1, 1992 after 28 years of service.

The family of Mr. Juan Jose Sarmiento, Brother of **Lieutenant Samuel Sarmiento** (Gang), **Sergeant Saul Sarmiento** (North Central) and Cousin of **Retired Lieutenant Miguel Sarmiento**.

The family of **Retired Sergeant Donn Wheeler #5252**. Sergeant Donn Wheeler retired February 4, 2009 after 23 years of service.

The family of **Retired Police Officer Frank Willis #1161**. Police Officer Frank Willis retired July 5, 1977 after 22 years of service.

The family of Ms. Kina Zoe Duke, Mother of **Police Officer William Eichholtz** (Southeast).

The family of Ms. Maryann Briguglio, Sister of **Sergeant Matthew Peebles**.

Thank You

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us.

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Venetia Lowe & Family

Thank you for the beautiful plant that was delivered after the passing of my mother, Kay Evans. It was very thoughtful.

Kasey Evans

Have a birth announcement in The Shield? Call 214.747.6839 or email info@dallaspa.org for a submission form. All announcements must be received by the 15th to be included in the following month's magazine.



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Third Vice President



A Simple Hello By Jaime Castro

I know we have bigger issues at hand right now. The pension bill, retention, who will be our new chief, etc., etc. Therefore, I've decided to stray from what seems to be our standard topics to talk about something that has concerned me for some time.

One day while my partner and I were having lunch, a couple of officers walked in. The officers saw that we were there. Yes, we were in uniform. They went and ordered their food to go, and left. I sat there thinking how times have changed. I remember the days when we walked in and took the time to introduce ourselves if we didn't know each other. I thought of the times when trainers would mark you for officer safety violations if you didn't pass by to check on officers marked out on a traffic stops. I've also noticed the same trend starting to creep inside the halls of headquarters. I know, I get it..we all have bad days. There are times we don't want to be bothered, much less talk or say hi. Taking the time to say hi and check on each other demonstrates the respect and value we have for each other as Dallas Police Officers. We need to remember that the public notices these things. They notice if we acknowledge each other. They notice if we check on each other. They notice if we are alone or divided or if we stand as a family. We need to make a point to check on each other and say hi when out in public view. Remember, what we thought used to be "safety zones" is no longer the case. It's just not about saying hi...it's also about officer safety! A simple hello can go a long way. It's a powerful word. It has the power to change someone's day. I personally believe it has the power to promote unity and camaraderie that we so desperately need. Let's make it a point to take a few seconds to use it!! Stay safe out there and say hello to each other!

BACK THE BLUE

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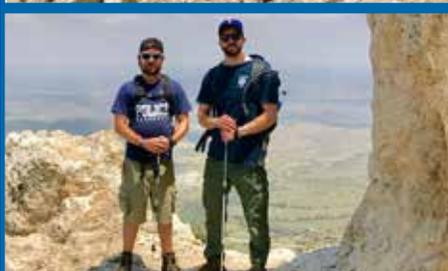
Cops On Top by Steve Myers

Late last year after 7/7, I decided to participate in an often overlooked and sparsely attended law enforcement memorial event. If you've never heard of it, Cops on Top is an event begun in 1998 where cops from around the nation hike to the highest points in their respective states in honor of fallen officers. Some states are more challenging than others though. Compare Florida's lowly Britton Hill at 345' to Alaska's gargantuan Denali at 20,310'. Luckily, we did not have to hike up nearly four miles in the air, but Guadalupe Peak's 8,749' proved far more challenging than I had expected.

Two-thousand and seventeen's hike began at 6:30 AM (MST) at the trailhead of the Guadalupe Peak Trail which lies within the Guadalupe Mountains National Park on the border of New Mexico and Texas. Fun fact, this national park is ranked 48 of 59 in annual visitors, meaning there are excellent opportunities for solitude. Thirty-nine, fresh faced people gathered up and took a group photo before heading out on the trail; three of those people were Dallas police officers: Mike Dana, Dana Heter, and me. Camelbacks filled, trekking poles firmly in hand, and trail mix at the ready, we all set out. Heter soon left the pack; we would not see him for another four hours until we summited the mountain. As we climbed, the mountain began to trick us. On

three separate occasions, we incorrectly thought we were nearing the peak, only to be told that we were not even close. I remember at one point after reaching a ridgeline after hours of hiking, we asked a Houston lieutenant who had experience on the trail how close we were, expecting to hear an encouraging "Not too far" or "Just around this next bend." Instead, we got a matter-of-fact, "You're a little less than half way." Damn it!

As we continued to put one foot in front of the other, the scenery began to motivate us as did our fallen five. This particular mountain range rises out of oppressively flat, dry land that makes the Chihuahuan Desert infamous. The views were spectacular and endless: salt flats to the south, oil fields to the east, and mountains to the north and west. Eventually, we reached the peak. Heter had been waiting over an hour for us. We all congratulated each other for the accomplishment and posed for pictures at the top of Texas. As we sat down to eat our freeze-dried lunches, we reflected on the past year. Our physical pain was relative, but for one day, we were able to toil in our five fallen officers' honor, and in turn, we improved both physically and mentally. The trip down the mountain was only slightly easier than the trip up, but we made it in good time. Our total time on the mountain was eight hours and fifteen minutes, but it felt like it flew by. We were tired, in pain, and hungry, but there are only a handful of times I can remember feeling as euphoric as I did at the end of that hike. This is most certainly an event I will participate in next year, given I am able. I hope you will join me. As always, stay safe!



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No consultation fee for DPA members and their families.



2017

BENEFITING ASSIST
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Thursday, August 24, 2017

8AM Registration | 9AM Shoot | 11AM Lunch
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Individual Shooter : \$125

Includes Shells and Lunch

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For sponsorship or registration information, please contact Vicky or Jennifer at
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Jerry Hast
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Jerry Hast has been in the investment/pension fund industry for 37 years. Jerry was the Administrator of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System from 1982 through 1992. He also served as the Accountant of the Pension System from 1977 to 1982. During his tenure, the System's assets grew from \$56 million to \$719 million and saw the funded liability grow from seventeen cents to over sixty cents for every dollar of liability owed. From 1992 to 1995, Jerry served as the Executive Director of the Kansas City, Missouri Public School Retirement System.



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Business



DPA Board Minutes

The Board of Directors, Dallas Police Association, met at the offices of the Dallas Police Association (referred to as "DPA"), 1412 Griffin Street East,

Dallas, Texas 75215 on June 13, 2017, at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was called to order by the President, Michael Mata. The following proxies were received: Forness to Figueroa; White to Taylor and Janse to Garst.

Minutes of the meeting.

- The meeting was called to order by the 1st Vice President, Frederick Frazier.
 - Marsh gave the invocation.
 - The minutes of May 9, 2017, Board Meeting was presented to the Board. The following corrections are noted: Change Gonzales from "A" to "E"; change Helms from "A" to "P".
- ***MOTION*** by Taylor seconded by Helms to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passes, no opposition.
- Parnell and Frazier discussed Texas HB 3158 and the impact on the Dallas Police and Firefighters Pension System. Discussion and questions.
 - DPA President Mata arrived at 10:15 a.m. and presided over the meeting.
 - Mata discussed the upcoming events: June 16 - Red River events; June 24 - Bags for badges event; June 30 - First Responder Night; July 7 - Tribute Night; Jul 15 - Celebration of Service Gala; and Aug 24 - Kevin James Sports Shooting event.
 - Mata recognized the untiring efforts of Frederick Frazier and James Parnell in working on Texas House Bill 3158 and its final passage and becoming law as well as many other pieces of legislation affecting Texas Law Enforcement.
 - Frazier discussed the numerous legislative bills which became law in the Texas Legislature in 2017 and their impact on law enforcement.
 - Mata stated a Special General Meeting has been called with the special guests being Texas State Senators Royce West and Don Huffines; Texas House Representative Dan Flynn to discuss their reasons and efforts at passing Texas House Bill 3158 which dealt with the Dallas Police Fire and Pension System issues.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m., June 13, 2017.

The minutes of the Dallas Police Association were duly recorded on June 13, 2017.

E. J. Brown

Recording Secretary

DPA Board Minutes

June 30, 2017

The Board of Directors, Dallas Police Association, met at the offices of the Dallas Police Association (referred to as "DPA"), 1412 Griffin Street East, Dallas, Texas 75215 on June 30, 2017 at 4:21 p.m. The special meeting was called to order by the President, Michael Mata.

The status of each member of the Board of Directors for this meeting is as follows:

The following proxies were received: Rickrman to Myers; Belew to Myers; Lybrand to Gordon; Gonzales to Sundquist; Forness to Figueroa; Janse to Garst; Tharp to Myers.

Minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was called to discuss pending legal litigation involving the lawsuit of Ahrens v. DPA.

Mata called the special meeting into executive session on June 30, 2017 at 4:23 p.m. The elected board of directors, Secretary/Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Kim Mayfield, Steve Brody, John Nash, Joe Schutz, Chris Marsh, Jennifer Brown, Bob Gorsky and Zack Horn were allowed in the Executive Session.

Mata ended the Executive Session on June 30, 2017 at 4:58 p.m.

MOTION by Gordon seconded by Duran to approve funding outside the approved DPA budget for the legal defense of the Ahrens litigation. Motion passes, Woolum opposed.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m., June 30, 2017.

The minutes of the Dallas Police Association were duly recorded on June 30, 2017.

Original Signed

E. J. Brown

Recording Secretary

Dallas Police Association

1412 Griffin Street E.
Dallas, TX 75215

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