



Perris News

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Police Officer and Employee of the Quarter Honored by City Council



Mayor Daryl Busch reads a proclamation honoring Officer Manny Campos and Community Service Officer Sandra Balos at the last City Council meeting. The pair were honored by the Perris Police Department. Police Chief James McElvain stands to the left as the Mayor reads the proclamation.

A Perris Police Officer who keeps track of gang activities in the City and who has interrogated, investigated and arrested dozens of suspected gang members in recent months was honored recently by the Perris City Council.

Manny Campos monitors the activities of several gangs in Perris, coordinates parole and probation searches of gang members and testifies at criminal proceedings against them.

He teamed up with FBI agents in San Diego to locate and arrest a suspected member of the Mexican Mafia in Perris. He also assisted the Department of Justice and a regional car-theft task force that targeted Perris gang members suspected of stealing cars.

His work earned him honors as Officer of the Quarter, a proclamation from Mayor Daryl Busch and a pair of engraved handcuffs presented by Perris Police Chief James McElvain. Campos works for the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, which provides law enforcement services to Perris under a contract with the City.

A Perris police employee who conducts fingerprint scans and performs a host of other duties at the station was honored as the Classified Employee of the Quarter.

During the first quarter of 2009, Campos wrote 13 enhancements against gang members, which allows police to more closely monitor their behavior and scrutinize their activities. He completed seven registrations of gang members who were required to register as part of their parole/probation terms. He testified three times as a gang expert in criminal trials of suspected gang members, wrote Sgt Tim Elwell, who nominated Campos as Officer of the Quarter.

In his written recommendation, Elwell noted that Campos has closely monitored the formation of a new gang in the City.

"As members of this gang were released from jail, he printed their pictures, along with probation terms, and briefed the City's Special Enforcement Team and patrol officers with their pictures, information and history," Elwell wrote.

Campos put together a book on the gang, listing all their members and associates, along with their monikers, dates of birth, probation or parole terms and home addresses. He has also visited their houses for probation searches or interviews upon them being released from jail.

Campos assisted in documenting the gang and its history. He was also the first deputy to testify in court on a gang case involving one of its suspected members. This gang has approximately 14 members and associates and Campos has personally contacted, interviewed and or arrested 10 members.

Campos is also monitoring tensions between another Perris gang and a splinter group that is seeking to break away and form an independent gang. Having knowledge of this tension, Campos responded to a call of a disturbance at a location where the gang congregates and arrested one member with a loaded firearm and in possession of methamphetamine, according to Elwell's nomination paperwork.

Over the past four months, Campos contacted and documented over 50 gang members, and investigated or assisted in the investigation of approximately 25 gang cases. During this period, Deputy Campos has presented briefing training to patrol numerous times about the gang activity in the city of Perris. During these presentations, Campos did an "excellent job of not only giving key details to patrol about recent gang activity, but he also speaks about the officer safety issues regarding contacts with gang members," Elwell said.

Classified employee Sandra Balos was honored for her work ethic and determination to complete all her assigned duties while looking to take on added responsibilities.

Not only did she have to take duty direction from patrol sergeants and lieutenants, an administrative sergeant and lieutenant, detective sergeants and lieutenant, but she also had to field questions, suggestions and requests from other detectives and deputies.

She managed to juggle all these tasks as well as handle walk-in questions and reports from the public and run away follow-ups.

Balos has also been known to call different work areas and ask if anyone needs her assistance with other tasks at the station. She also completes live-scan fingerprints for the public.

Balos also receive a pair of engraved handcuffs as part of her award.