



2024

# S.O.L.I.D. DISPATCH

Supporters Of Law Enforcement In Devonshire

Vol. 2 No. 1



## Captain Kathleen Burns

One of the most important roles in a Police Geographic Division such as Devonshire is the administration of the Patrol Officers functions. As the Commanding Officer of Devonshire Division, I must rely daily on the diligent work of various supervising senior officers, and the highest-ranking supervisor is the Patrol Captain.

The Patrol Captain will supervise the daily assignments of police officers, evaluate performance, make sure all personnel follow proper procedures coordinate with special units of the Division as they relate to patrol activities.

I am very pleased to introduce the new Patrol Captain for Devonshire Division, Captain Eric Eppollito.

### Meet Patrol Captain Eric Eppollito

Captain Eric Eppollito began his career with the Los Angeles Police Department in 1997 when he was 21 years old. One of his first assignments after graduating from the Police Academy was undercover narcotics in Los Angeles High schools. As an officer, Officer Eppollito worked Hollywood Patrol, Hollywood Prostitution Enforcement Detail, and the Devonshire Vice Unit. He was promoted to Field Training Officer in 2005 at Mission Division and was responsible for training probationary police officers. Eric had a short loan in 2007 at Training Division as a

firearms instructor of new recruits until he was promoted to sergeant in 2008. Eric was assigned as a field supervisor to Topanga Community Police Station when it opened in 2009.

Eppolito was promoted to Topanga Division assistant watch commander in 2014 and later supervised the Gang Field Unit, responsible for the apprehension of violent criminals citywide in the Gang and Narcotics Division. In 2017, he was awarded the Police Meritorious Unit citation for his leadership in the Gang Field Unit. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2019 and returned to Topanga Community Police Station. As a lieutenant, Lt. Eppolito worked several assignments. He served as a watch commander, the assistant commanding officer in Topanga Detectives, and as the Officer in Charge, in Internal Affairs Group assigned Workplace Section. Captain Eppolito's law enforcement tenure includes over 15 years of supervisory experience.



Captain Eppolito graduated from Union Institute and University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 2013. He is also a graduate of the LAPD Leadership and POST Management Courses. He is passionate about providing mentorship, promotional seminars, and mock oral interview sessions to help employees advance in their careers.

Captain Eppolito resides in LA County with his family which includes his young daughter and his wife, who is a Lieutenant in the LAPD.

### ***A word from the S.O.L.I.D. President***



The tremendous support the Los Angeles Police Department Devonshire Division receives from the community is impressive. Over 300 citizens donate their time in support of our officers. This is the largest volunteer force in the entire police department.

Donations from individuals, businesses and Neighborhood Councils show the officers how much their safety and moral means to them. Having the support of our city officials also shows how important our officers are to all.

On behalf of the SOLID board of directors, I thank you all for the support of the October 6, 2023, Pasta Dinner. These funds go towards the many projects at Devonshire the city does not supply. A great big shout out to the many volunteers who helped in the success of the pasta dinner.

We are on to a new year, and I look forward to future events with you.

Many blessings in the New Year.

Dianne Kartiala,  
President  
Supporters Of Law Enforcement in Devonshire

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



The annual Devonshire Division community open house and the **S.O.L.I.D. "ALL YOU CAN EAT"** Pancake Breakfast is returning Saturday, April 20.

Watch this newsletter and for flyers with more information soon.

## **Meet Senior Lead Officer Sandra Zamora 17A67**

Officer Sandra Zamora was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She graduated from Alemany Highschool and then She studied at Santa Barbara City College where she obtained her Associate of Science degree in criminal justice. She began her Law Enforcement career with the Santa Barbara Police Department as a Police Explorer and then eventually as a Paid Cadet (Student Worker) and later obtained a part time job at the Beverly Hills Police Department as a student worker while she continued her education. While at Beverly Hills Police Department, Sandra was also able to work in the capacity as a jailer and Dispatcher. Sandra felt that working these various assignments at a young age of 18-20 yrs., helped her solidify her decision of continuing as a Police Officer.

Sandra joined the LAPD at the age of 22 and joined the academy 2 weeks after the 9/11 events. She successfully graduated and was 1 of 3 woman and 1 of 34 graduates. She was assigned to Foothill Division as a probationary Officer for one year and then transferred to Rampart Division as a Police Officer II. Sandra worked at Rampart Division for 10 ½ years and worked in a variety of assignments such as Patrol, Juvenile car, Missing Persons, Community Relations Officer, Youth Service Officer and then eventually promoted to Field Training Officer.

In 2013, Sandra transferred to Devonshire Division and married her High School Sweetheart and is now mother to 3 beautiful kids. Sandra wanted to work in the area that she grew up in. In 2020, Sandra promoted to the position of Senior Lead Officer. She passed her Sergeant exam but chose to remain a SLO as she states, "this is where my heart lies. I love working with the community." Sandra is fluent in Spanish and feels that she can contribute to the Hispanic Community in Devonshire Division.

Little known facts about Sandra is she is a huge Disney and Dodger fan, She loves to Volunteer and does so on her days off with her family. Sandra has 3 dogs, a turtle, and a fish. She was a Girl Scout Troop leader for 8 years for her daughters and now is a baseball mom to her son.

Area 17A67 is bounded by Lassen on the north, Roscoe on the south, Corbin on the west and Lindley on the east. Basically, around Northridge Fashion Center.

## Here are your Senior Lead Officers

OIC	Sgt. Jose Torres	<a href="tel:(424)364-5339">(424) 364-5339</a>	<a href="mailto:32324@lapd.online">32324@lapd.online</a>
17A23	Officer Efren Corral	<a href="tel:(424)339-4079">(424) 339-4079</a>	<a href="mailto:35472@lapd.online">35472@lapd.online</a>
17A35	Officer John Parker	<a href="tel:(424)364-9377">(424) 364-9377</a>	<a href="mailto:36560@lapd.online">36560@lapd.online</a>
17A49	Officer Allen Sellers	<a href="tel:(424)364-5568">(424) 364-5568</a>	<a href="mailto:31934@lapd.online">31934@lapd.online</a>
17A67	Officer Sandra Zamora	<a href="tel:(818)832-0827">(818) 832-0827</a>	<a href="mailto:35947@lapd.online">35947@lapd.online</a>
17A81	Officer Sean Taylor	<a href="tel:(818)832-0773">(818) 832-0773</a>	<a href="mailto:41422@lapd.online">41422@lapd.online</a>
17A95	Officer Jerome Knopp	<a href="tel:(323)382-1526">(323) 382-1526</a>	<a href="mailto:37244@lapd.online">37244@lapd.online</a>

## Comendable Caper

Devonshire Division can brag that the largest number of civilian volunteers, in the entire LAPD, are in our division. Over 300 residents volunteer time in various programs. This month we highlight one of the more famous groups, The Volunteer Surveillance Team, or VST.

Begun in 1992 by Captain Vance Proctor and Lieutenant Kyle Jackson, the VST was formed with about 50 volunteers. This group was trained in basic LAPD procedures, criminal behavior identification and radio use. The concept was to deploy the citizens in safe areas on the lookout for criminal activity or to assist in crime suppression activities. Assigned to the volunteers was a supervisor and several sworn officers in patrol or unmarked police cars. When a crime went down the VST members would make the call to the waiting officers and arrests were made.

In its first year Devonshire Officers, with the assistance of VST, made 40 arrests. It was so successful that it was recognized by the local press and eventually received national news coverage. It was replicated in many police departments around the nation.

The VST does not use guns or patrol cars as its weapons, but camcorders, binoculars, radios, and notebooks. About 44 members currently work the unit and log many late-night hours watching drug dealers, burglars, car thieves, and vandals. After just a few years of operation, then Lt. Jackson (later Deputy Chief) stated “it is the most pure form of community-based policing.

Since its founding VST is credited with over 5,000 arrests, over 100,000 of volunteer hours, and saving the city more than \$8 million.

Frank Peters, the current volunteer director of the project related two interesting arrests made back in 2015. The VST were regularly given the patrol officers “Crime Alerts” information sheets. While in the parking lot on Devonshire and Balboa they spied a white van parked in the Ralphs lot. It matched the description of a bank robbery suspect working in the area. Frank called Officer Mark Blizzard on the radio and reported it. Blizzard was just getting mobile and asked them to keep an eye on the van. As the suspect came out and got into the van, he drove south to Nordhoff and east toward the 405. Blizzard met them and conducted a felony stop. With several other officers responding, the suspect was taken into custody. Upon searching the van officers found a gun and several bundles of money with markings from the various banks that had been robbed.

A few months later they also saw a motorcycle parked in a lot with a helmet on it that matched another bank robbery suspect. This time Reserve Police Officers Gary Kristoff and Dennis King were there to take the suspect down before he was able to enter another store. The FBI later connected the suspect to 17 other robberies.

While Peters states “surveillance can be boring” sometimes it is very exciting and rewarding.

The Devonshire Police Station has over 300 Volunteers. That is more than any station in the **entire** City of Los Angeles!

***HERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP:***

**CEMP** (California Emergency Mobile Patrol)

**C-PAB** (Community Police Advisory Board)

**CADETS** (Law Enforcement Cadets)

**DEVONSHIRE LEADERSHIP UNIT**

**PALS** (Police Activity League Supporters)

**VBP** (Volunteer Bike Patrol)

**VCCRR** (Valley Community Cavalry Rough Riders)

**VCP** (Volunteer Community Patrol)

**VST** (Volunteer Surveillance Team) **LAPD Reserve Police Officers S.O.L.I.D.**  
(Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire)

**OUR GRATITUDE TO:**

**Officer Mike Duarte**, Reserve/Volunteer Coordinator , for his 30 years of service.

**Reserve Officer Gary Kristoff**, for his 46 years of service.

*Enjoy your retirement!*

**WELCOME: Officer Ginger Harrison** as the new Reserve/Volunteer Coordinator.

Email: [31445@lapd.online](mailto:31445@lapd.online) Phone (818) 374-4578





**IMPORTANT EVENT**

# State of Devonshire

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

**6:30 pm**

InChrist Community Church  
19514 Rinaldi, Porter Ranch

Captain Kathleen Burns  
CD12 Councilman John Lee  
9-1-1 Dispatcher, Alyssa Isomacki



Stay In Touch With Your Devonshire Station



LAPD Devonshire APP

nextdoor



LAPD Devonshire Community Police Station

[DevonshireSLO@lapd.online](mailto:DevonshireSLO@lapd.online)