

The Hispanic Pulse

Hispanic Police Officers Association



Special points of interest:

- **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the Association Hall at 7:30 p.m. on January 29, 2006. All members are welcome to attend.
- **Monthly meetings are now being held on the last Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.**

Hispanic Police Officers Association Executive Board

President
Miguel Palacios

First-Vice President
Jose Gonzalez

Second-Vice President
Oscar Jimenez

Secretary
Arnold Palmer

Treasurer
William Hernandez

Sergeant-At-Arms
Eric Garcia

Association Attorney's:

Mark Seiden

Tim Martin

Toby Soto

Joel Kaplan

Larry Ploucha

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Miguel Palacios



Well, another year has gone by and the work is never done. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays with their families and that the new year brings good things to all of us.

This will be my last month as your President. I have to say that although it has been trying at times, I have enjoyed the opportunity that I had to better the organization as much as possible. This of course would have been impossible without the constant assistance and guidance of the current Board (Jose Gonzalez, Oscar Jimenez, William Hernandez, Arnold Palmer, and Eric Garcia).

I want to personally thank each of them for making my job easier by stepping up and taking on the responsibilities of running such a large organization without hesitation. Their assistance and guidance was invaluable to me.

I would also like to thank my wife Lourdes and my children Marco and Carolina for supporting me and putting up with the many hours I spent away from home.

As I leave the presidency, I do so knowing that the organization has grown in a positive manner and that I leave the HPOA in great hands. I am fully confident that your new Board will continue to run the organization in a professional manner always keeping the best inter-

est of the HPOA in mind.

I look forward to the changes and improvements that your new Board will be implementing in the near future.

I would also like to thank you the members for the trust, support and confidence you bestowed upon me to lead the HPOA. I hope that all that was accomplished in the past two years has done nothing but made our members proud to be a part of such a great association.

It's been a pleasure to serve as your President and I look forward to assisting the organization in any way that I can as a "Regular Joe."

Strength In Numbers (American Police Beat –Online)

by Cynthia Brown

If you want to understand the special bond that exists between two cops working together on patrol, consider this – there isn't a piece of equipment or type of training that can provide the safety and peace of

mind that comes with the knowledge that your partner will risk life and limb when the bullets start flying.

In Houston, Texas, the law enforcement community is mourning the loss of one of their own in addition to asking some

tough questions in terms of departmental policy and officer safety.

Houston Officer Rodney Johnson was shot and killed by a handcuffed man sitting in the back of a patrol car.

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Strength In Numbers (cont.)



The Houston Police Department is mourning the death of one of their own Officer Rodney Johnson

According to reports, Johnson, 40, had apparently missed a gun concealed in Juan Leonardo Quintero's waistband after arresting the landscaper during a traffic stop and a pat-down for weapons.

Officer safety advocates say that when an officer is working alone performing multiple duties at once as Johnson was, bad things can happen.

"A second officer may have prevented it," Hans Marticiuc, president of the Houston Police

Officers' Union, told Houston Chronicle reporters Peggy O'Hare and Steve McVicker. Marticiuc says a second cop in the cruiser might have prevented the killing by providing a second pair of eyes to focus on the passengers in Quintero's vehicle, freeing up Johnson to concentrate fully on the pat-down.

Unfortunately, one-person patrol units are the norm in the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Sheriff's Office and many other police agencies

nationwide.

The Houston PD does not prohibit two-person units but the department says it must make sure that it has enough officers on duty to staff police cars in every beat across the city. In addition, the community policing model used in virtually every major metropolitan city across the country requires more police cars and more officers on the ground to reach out to larger numbers of citizens.

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1st Vice President's Message (By Jose Gonzalez)

Folks get your Valentine Day Dance tickets early, because do we have a show for you this year. If you are a regular at this event, you know that for the past 10 years "Carlos Oliva and Los Sobrinos del Jues" have been the chosen band for our event. Well this year, we hired international singer and two time Grammy winner Albita Rodriguez "Albita" to be our main entertainer for the evening.

Yes this year's tickets went up \$10 per person. But for the price you can not beat what we have to offer, open bar all night, Valentines pictures, a great dinner, DJ, and live music. So come out that night and join us for our biggest event of the year. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 17, 2007, at the Airport Hilton, ordure's start at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person, or you can purchase an entire table. Please contact any of

the below listed members if you need to buy tickets.

Miguel Palacios (Airport District) 305-345-6592

Julio Padron (Homicide Bureau) 305-970-7808

Joe Gonzalez (RID) 305-970-5273

Hiram Rodriguez (Narcotics Bureau) 305-525-1101

Oscar Jimenez (Northside District) 305-905-2301



Upcoming Events

2007 VALENTINES DANCE

As stated above, our Valentines Dance will be taking place on February 17, 2007, at 7 p.m. The Miami Airport Hilton will once again be our venue .

We did raise the ticket prices to \$60 per person to assist us in off setting the cost of hiring Albita as our live entertainment

this year. This is going to be our best dance yet.

2007 HPOA PICNIC

We are still awaiting a firm date for our annual picnic. We are considering holding our picnic in the month of March. As soon as we have a firm date, we will be notifying our members via the newsletter.

As usual, food, drinks, music, and rides will be provided to our members at no cost.

Come out and enjoy a good day with your family and friends.

Strength In Numbers (Cont.)

The situation in Houston is already the norm as staffing shortages force police departments toward one-officer patrol units until cities decide to make police salaries attractive to young people, said Glenn White, the Dallas Police Association's president. "You've got to get officers out on the streets," White told the Chronicle. "You've got to get them in squad cars. So, you have to get the most out of what you've got. And the end result is usually one-man squad cars."

Marticiuc says the workload for an officer making an arrest or stop by themselves in the last

hour of the tour makes it difficult to make sure they've got all their bases covered.

"You're multitasking, you're doing a whole lot of things," he said. "If a suspect has multiple layers of clothing on, then it's very easy to miss something."

Officer Johnson was struck by four shots that went through the plastic shield separating the police car's front and back seats.

"That's part of the problem," Marticiuc explains. "-Rodney

had to open the Plexiglas to communicate with the suspect and to give him ventilation. Without a movable partition you will suffocate someone back there. Until they figure out how to put air conditioning in the back of those cars so people don't roast, the problem will persist."

New enforcement policies

The tragedy has also prompted implementation of a new policy where people arrested for minor crimes are asked for identification. **(Cont. Below)**



Strength In Numbers (Cont.)

Those who have no identification will have criminal background checks run.

After Rodney Johnson was shot and killed, officials discovered that Quintero illegally returned to the U.S. after being deported following a felony conviction.

Mayor White said the city was negotiating the policy change with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials before Officer Johnson was shot to

death on September 21 and that a large number of officials from the police department and City Council, as well as several immigrant advocates, supported the policy change.

"We are specifically targeting those people that have been convicted of felonies in this country and have been previously deported and re-entered the country," Chief Hurtt said.

Under the new policy, Houston

police will ask all arrested suspects whether they are citizens, then fingerprint anyone without identification and check for criminal histories in a national database.

If that search shows a person is accused of returning to the country after being deported for a crime or defying an order to leave the country —

(Cont. Below)



Strength In Numbers (Cont.)

both of which are felonies — Houston officers will hold the person for immigration officials. Those who cannot provide proper identification but have no criminal record will not be turned over to immigration officials.

Under the former policy, police generally did not hold anyone for immigration authorities, even if there were outstanding

federal warrants. Officers still aren't allowed to ask people they do not arrest about their immigration status, which means police can't arrest anyone solely for being in the country illegally.



Hispanic Police Officers Association

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The Hispanic Pulse

We are on the Web:

WWW.HPOADADE.ORG

We are available 24 hours!

HPOA HOTLINE:

786-924-0100

HPOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM (Circle one)

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

HOME /BUS PHONE: _____

SSN/BADGE #: _____

DOB/MARRIED? _____

DISTRICT/ASSIGNMENT _____

RANK _____

Email Address _____

I am interested in joining the Miami-Dade Hispanic Police Officers Association. I hereby request the HPOA to deduct from my earnings each payroll period the sum of \$10.00. This amount shall be paid to the HPOA and represents payment of my dues. I understand that these deductions can only be terminated by giving the HPOA prior written notice as provided by law.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The purpose of the Hispanic Police Officers Association is to inform, educate, unify, and stimulate the membership. The author of each article contained within the newsletter is solely responsible for all information contained within his/her article. Opinions expressed are that of the author and not necessarily those of the Hispanic Police Officers Association or its membership.
