

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Date: October 4, 2006
Time: 3:50 p.m.
File: PUBLIC NOTICE

PROMOTION CEREMONY

Promotion Ceremony

FROM:

Lt. Gay Schaffer
Sgt. David Willingham
Ofc. Courtney Pero
Ofc. Richard Gonzales

TO:

Captain
Lieutenant
Sergeant
Sergeant

Friday, October 6, 2006
Toler Room
3 pm

Lieutenant Gay Schaffer

Gay began her 17 year career at Plano PD as a dispatcher on August 25, 1986. She processed for the position of recruit police officer and was hired on April 11, 1988. Gay spent a large portion of her police career in the Patrol Division, but also had assignments in the Professional Standards Unit and the Criminal Investigations Department. Gay was promoted to Sergeant on June 3, 1996. During her tenure as a Sergeant, Gay was assigned to the Patrol Division, the Criminal Investigation Division (in General Assignments and CAPERS) and the Intelligence Team within the Emergency Services Unit. Gay was promoted to Lieutenant in August of 2003, and held the positions as a Patrol Watch Commander and Administrative Lt. in the Chief's Office.

Gay has received numerous internal and external commendations, including:

- Rookie of the Year in 1989
- The Civic Achievement Award for her participation in Christmas Cops,
- Chief's Unit Award,
- Meritorious Service Award, and
- Supervisor of the Year in 2000.

Sergeant David Willingham

David began his career at Plano PD on December 12, 1983. During David's 23 years with the Department, he has served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Training Academy Sergeant, Field Training Officer Coordinator, and most recently as a Criminal Investigations Sergeant, supervising the Family Violence Unit. David has received numerous internal and external commendations, including a Chief's Unit Award in 2000 for distinguished police presence in the community and the apprehensions of felons. David has a B.S. from UCLA, and is currently a graduate student in the MS-Management Science program at Amberton University. He holds a Master and Instructor Certification from TCLEOSE. David and his wife Rhonda have 2 daughters.

Officer Courtney Pero

Courtney began his career at Plano PD in May of 1995. During Courtney's 11 years with the Department he has served as a Patrol Officer and in the Neighborhood Police Officer Unit; both as a Parks Officer and Problem-Oriented Policing Officer. Since 2001, he has been assigned to the Narcotics Unit where his focus has been as a Hotel/Motel Investigator and the Overdose Investigator for the unit. He is also a member of the Emergency Services Unit, specializing in Intelligence. Courtney has received numerous internal and external commendations including:

- Four (4) Chief's Unit Awards
- Five (5) Civic Achievement Awards
- Two (2) Meritorious Service Awards
- One (1) Excellence in Problem Solving Award while in Narcotics

Courtney is working towards his college degree, and holds an Advanced and Instructor Certification from TCLEOSE. Courtney and his wife Jenny have 2 children, a son and a daughter.

Officer Rick Gonzales

Rick began his career at Plano Police Department in September of 1983. Prior to Plano, Rick was raised in Kansas City, Missouri, joining United States Marine Corps in 1972. After his Honorable Discharge from the Marines, he accepted a position with US Steel's Oil Well Division in Texas in 1981. During Rick's 23 years with the Department, he has served as a Patrol Officer and a Detective with the Family Violence Unit. Rick has received numerous internal and external commendations, including a nomination for Officer of the Year in 2001. Rick has a B.S. in Education from Missouri State, and holds a Master and Special Investigator Certification from TCLEOSE.