

## ATTACHMENT 4

### Overview of Park Ranger Program

**September 2008**

Approximately 10 years ago, (2) Park Ranger positions were created under the supervision of the Police Department. Organizationally, the Rangers fall under a Field Operations Division/Area Command Lieutenant and are directly supervised by a Patrol Team Sergeant. The Park Ranger Detail is currently comprised of (3) rangers, working a 4/10 work week, covering our 30 or so parks and additional school/recreation facilities totaling about 60 sites. This is in a city of over 16 square miles.

Rangers are classified under the job description for Community Services Specialist (CSS). Under general supervision, these personnel perform a variety of civilian law enforcement support duties in support of Police Department services and activities including:

- Enforcing State laws and local ordinances
- Verifying appropriate permits (field use, picnic permits, etc.)
- Patrol of City parks and schools
- Respond to appropriate disturbance calls, public inquiries and complaints both in person and over the phone
- Take routine police reports from the public
- Serve as a liaison between the Police Department, other City Departments, and the public
- Dispute resolution
- Detaining Violators
- Issuing citations
- Testifying in court as necessary

Additional duties include:

- Impounding bicycles, property and evidence
- Completing logs and records
- Preparation of statistical reports/information for the Parks/Rec Comm.
- Parking enforcement
- Issue parking citations as warranted; inventory, remove, and store improperly parked and/or abandoned vehicles
- Front Desk relief officer duties (as necessary)
- Traffic Control/Directing of vehicles and/or pedestrians due to accidents, special events, and signal outages

Our Park Rangers have more first-line field contact with members of our community than many of our other CSS personnel. In particular they have a greater likelihood of contacting and/or encountering subjects that are either actively engaged in, or suspected of engaging in, unlawful activity at our parks than many of our patrol officers do.

The Rangers, by necessity, have a high level of contact with our transient and/or homeless population at such locations as Lions Park, the Santa Ana River trail and surrounding areas. Many of these subjects are chronic substance abusers (alcohol and/or drugs), are on probation or parole (some for crimes of violence), may be fugitives or have diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health issues. This frequency of contact with such individuals gives our Rangers a unique familiarity and knowledge of regular subjects and their patterns of behavior. The Rangers are a valuable resource for our sworn officers and detectives, providing information regarding these subjects and the locations they frequent.

Our Rangers are the front line in addressing park related issues such as:

- Skate park issues
- Fairview park issues (organized sports, turf damage, etc.)
- Passive park designation issues and complaints

Unfortunately, they are also frequently called upon to deal with suspected violators, disruptive individuals and groups, and others that disregard the basic rules and guidelines designed, and in place, to benefit all our park visitors. This requires a great deal of proactive involvement by way of patrol, education, warnings, reports and citations.

Most significantly, the Rangers are among our most visible ambassadors for visitors to our parks and facilities, offering assistance and resources to make their visit to our parks more enjoyable.

**Schedule:**

(2) Sat.-Weds.      (1) 0700-1730      (1) 1200-2230  
(1) Thurs. & Fri.      1200-2230 (closure of the skate park at 2100)

**Summary of the City's current deployment of Park Rangers:**

- Number of Park Rangers on duty at any given time:
  - (1) On-duty 7-days per week from 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (10.5 hrs)
  - (1) On-duty 5-days per week from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (5.5 hrs)
  - (2) On-duty 5-days per week overlapping shifts between 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. (5.5 hrs). Only for days Sun./Mon./Tues./Weds. and Sat.

(Approximately 1-2 times per week, when two Rangers are on-duty, both will ride together to address specific problems such as the Skate Park, Lions Park and Fairview Park)

- Average response time to calls:
  - No hard data. Realistic estimated average = 10 mins.
  - Approximate time to respond from one end of city to another at peak hours/traffic: estimated at 10-15 mins.
  - Average number of total parks to be patrolled by (1) Ranger each shift:  
**All**
  - Based upon assessment by the Rangers, during available patrol time periods and absent being tied up on a particular problem area, enforcement action or other call for service.

**Equipment:**

First Aid kits, traffic control cones/flares, Pepper Spray, TASER, DAR