

Welcome to the *BPF Bulletin*, a bulletin from Bellevue Police Foundation about the most recent happenings at the Foundation and more.



Bellevue City Councilmember Conrad Lee, Interim Chief Shirley and friends

Stay informed about recent activity, upcoming events and other relevant items. We plan to send the Bulletin at least once a calendar quarter. Read on for the latest!

July 2021



Bellevue Police Foundation

Bellevue Police Department Acquires New K9 Officer – Walter

In late May, Sergeant Robin Peacey and Officer Ben Bradley journeyed across the country on a very special mission - to get our newest K9 recruit. They were successful, and on June 1st, they returned to Bellevue from North Carolina with the department's newest K9 officer – Walter. K9s are an incredibly important part of policing as dogs assist their human partners in a wide variety of ways and we want you to know more about our newest officer.

Bellevue Says Goodbye to Chief Mylett and Welcome to Chief Shirley

It is with sadness that the Bellevue Police Foundation says goodbye to Chief Steve Mylett, who has served our community faithfully since April 2015. He will depart our fair city to assume the role of Police Chief in Akron, Ohio on August 9, 2021.

City Manager, Brad Miyake recently named Assistant Chief Wendell Shirley as our Interim Police Chief while the city seeks a permanent replacement.



"I'm pleased to announce that Chief



Here is Walter right before heading off to his first day of school

Human law enforcement officers need to be a special type of person, and police dogs must also be a special type of dog. These impressive animals come from generations of dogs specifically bred to perform the complicated tasks that police dogs are required to accomplish. Generally speaking, this isn't something all dogs are able to do, and that's why we usually see just a few specific breeds being trained as police dogs.

Why did we choose Walter in particular? Walter was born in Slovakia on June 25th, 2020 and came to us via Tarheel Canine in North Carolina. That's right, he just turned 1 year old! According to Officer Ben, who is Walter's handler, "Walter is a mix breed German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois. So far this young pup is showing clear traits of both his breeds; he is loveable, social, and an excellent tracker like a German Shepherd...and sometimes he just goes nuts, like a Belgian Malinois."

Sergeant Peacey, who oversees the K9 program and is a dog lover herself, says "Dogs used in law enforcement are trained to either be "single purpose" or "dual purpose" K9s. Single purpose dogs are used primarily for either patrol duties or detection duties. We have single purpose K9s that are used only for tracking, lost persons location, or cadaver detection."

K9s and their handlers go through extensive and ongoing training. Says Officer Ben, "Walter is about 100 hours in to his initial training (with an estimated 300 hours to go), and so far he is doing very well. He and I are both looking forward to getting on the street!"

Welcome New Board Member

The Bellevue Police Foundation is thrilled to welcome our newest board member, Matt Van Der Peet, and we want you to meet him, too. Matt has extensive experience in the hospitality industry and held a variety of general management roles for the Sheraton, St. Regis, Westin and W Hotels before joining Kemper Development

**Bold for the Blue Breakfast -
February 4th, 2022
Save the Date!**

Shirley has agreed to serve as interim chief during this transitional period within the Bellevue Police Department," said City Manager Miyake. "He has my full confidence and I look forward to working with him."

Shirley, a former long-time officer in the Santa Monica, California Police Department, had retired in 2019, but felt called to return to public service after national protests over social justice and police reform last year.

"I am honored and humbled at the opportunity to serve alongside the outstanding men and women of the Bellevue Police Department," said Chief Shirley. "The department will continue to make community safety our highest priority, and we are committed to an inclusive and diverse approach, which better serves everyone in Bellevue. And while policing in America is facing some serious challenges, I am confident we will emerge even better."

Shirley will take over the official duties of police chief beginning in early August. The Bellevue Police Foundation welcomes him as our Interim Chief and fully supports him in this role. We look forward to working closely with him as he leads the Bellevue Police Department.

Company in 2019 as Senior Vice President of Operations.



Originally from Indiana and a graduate of Purdue University, Matt's been highly involved in the Puget Sound community since first moving here 1985. He has served in numerous board roles including Board Chair for both the Washington Hospitality Association and Visit Seattle, Executive Board Member for the Seattle Hotel Association and Seattle Sports Commission, Advisory Board Member for the South Seattle Community College Hospitality Program, and Board Member for the Fred Hutchinson Holiday Gala. The Boys and Girls Clubs of King County recognized him as Corporate Board Member of the Year in 2002.

For the Bellevue Police Foundation, among his other board duties, Matt has already stepped up to help us organize our first ever golf tournament planned for 2022. "The Bellevue Police do an incredible job in our city, and I am honored to be part of the Bellevue Police Foundation. We help provide resources to the police that benefit the entire community. We're committed to keeping our city safe for all. I believe a golf tournament provides a fun way for more people to get involved with the Foundation and support that same mission. "

Welcome aboard, Matt! We are lucky to have you!



We know it's like planning Christmas in July, but plan to meet Bellevue Police officers and civic leaders at the 12th Annual Bold for the Blue Breakfast. Bellevue Police Foundation is planning our next annual fundraising breakfast in Winter of 2022. Registration will open in Fall 2021.

Until then, we look forward to seeing you in the community!



Thank you to our individual donors, businesses and volunteers who contributed their time and money to make our first ever National Police Week campaign a great success.

Bellevue Police Foundation raised over \$30,000 in honor of our officers who put their lives on the line for us every day. This funding will help us continue to make grants to the police department for the K9 Program, Community Connections Fund, officer training and recognition.

We are grateful and proud that our community in Bellevue and beyond supports our police!

Officer and Child

National Police Week a Success!

Donate to Support Your Police

Bellevue Police Foundation fosters business and community support to fund equipment, training, tools of accountability and efforts that build connections between the Police Department and the community. You can help provide critical support by donating now.

Donate Now!

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