

January 2011

THE "BEAR" NEWS

HOUSTON POLICE
ORGANIZATION OF SPANISH SPEAKING
OFFICERS



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The author's opinions or views do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of the Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers.



President's Corner

Chiquito pero picoso

Happy New Year to all our members, I hope everyone's Christmas went great and I pray that all of us will have a better year in 2011 in our police lives. There are so many important issues that we must all pay attention to this year, such as the City of Houston budget and what our mayor is going to do regarding the police officers in this city. Our overtime budge is at risk and I believe that once police pensions anywhere are compromised then it will be a domino effect leading straight to us. I pray that the mayor and the citizens in Houston realize that we as police officers work hard in our police lives, I pray that the mayor realizes our worth in that we do not enlist with salaries that the white color world does and that we in a sense take pay cuts to follow this career. I pray that she realizes that it's our pensions that we strive so hard to achieve, we consider it a reward for all the hard work that we officers do, all the abuse that we endure when we are just trying to help solve our cities problems. I pray that I have the time and stamina to work as an HPD officer and still keep myself abreast of all the issues that affect our officers. I pray that I will be able to juggle this presidency and at the same time that I will be able to attend the meetings that will help me remain knowledgeable of all the issues regarding our members and their lives so that I will be able to speak out on those matters. The HPOU and the HPPU have decided to merge and I hope that the decision is good for us all.

I have been a member of O.S.S.O. since 2004 and I am a proud member and glad to say I am a working member of O.S.S.O. It takes a lot of dedication along with time and effort to keep an organization running. It takes many members to hold it together in many ways and in the tasks that the members volunteer to do. I have been loyal to my members and to my sister organization the H.P.O.U. How do you define loyalty? I have made it my business to do what it takes to keep our organization running, such as, helping our events coordinator plan blood drives and attending the drives, planning and attending fundraisers of all types, join other organizations so that O.S.S.O. will be kept in the know regarding our cities functions, participate in meetings with the Chief, with Gary Blankinship, the Mayor and political people that will help O.S.S.O. with important issues in the future. I try to always keep the needs of our members and board members in my mind so that I may do what's best for our membership. Our board is very important because they are the glue that keeps us together and the fuel that keeps O.S.S.O. going. I know there are times when we criticize each other when we are frustrated and tired and of course during elections but I hope that we all keep in mind that when we criticize O.S.S.O. or members that others are listening and the opinions that they may come away with may not be the best. I hope that every board member will remember this when they are out representing our organization. We recently had a member question the loyalty of another member. I looked at this in a positive manner because I know we have members who love O.S.S.O. so much that they would be hurt at some criticism thrown our way.

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Although it was time consuming in speaking to everyone involved I handled the situation with patience and understanding but as hard as I work this was a reminder to me to stay steadfast in what I do no matter who criticizes or how weary I am. I try to be forgiving because sometimes criticism is a cry out for help or change, to understand that there is a side to every story and that although members make mistakes we are all human and that sometimes we must forgive and overlook what was said but look at the hard work put into our organization by all concerned. Loyalty means a lot to our members, as I have always said we are small but we are strong. We must all work together towards a common goal and not let our frustrations steer us off a goal oriented path, the betterment of our organization and the welfare and future of our members.

As I look towards 2011, I see many meetings in my future regarding overtime cuts, pension wars, immigration issues within the department, members who need help with various issues, grievances, etc complaints, and legislation issues but I also see progress for our members, new members in the horizon, board members of O.S.S.O. out representing with loyalty and honor, and organizations working together towards a common goal. I want to say thanks to all who keep our organization running because without you and all the concerns that you bring forth to me O.S.S.O. just wouldn't be OSSO. Love to all y Feliz Ano Nuevo.

Godspeed,

Your President

Linda Ybanez

Past and Current Presidents of O.S.S.O.

Jesse Garza	04-1981	*	04-1982
Victor Trevino	04-1982	*	04-1987
Justo Garcia	04-1987	*	04-1992
Ismael "Iffy" Flores Jr.	04-1992	*	04-1993
Ignacio "Nash" Aranda	04-1993	*	04-2000
Jorge Gaytan	04-2000	*	04-2002
Richard "Rico" Garcia	04-2002	*	04-2007
Richard "Rick" Rodriguez	04-2007	*	04-2009
Rosalinda "Linda" Ybanez	04-2009	*	current

OSSO Directors		
Rosalinda Ybanez President Cell # 832-293-1495 E-mail: littledonkey@yahoo.com		
Cecil Mosqueda Vice-President Cell # 713-264-1665 houstonosso@yahoo.com	Tony Saldivar Treasurer Cell # 281-236-2362 jsaldivar@comcast.net	Michael Ybanez Secretary Cell # 832-752-1841 littledonkey@yahoo.com
Ruben Zermino Director #1 Cell # 713-498-4391 rubenzermino@aol.com	Domingo Garcia Director #2 Cell # 713-632-4289 medievknight1@att.net	Frank Fernandez Director #3 Cell # 713-823-6790 flore623@hotmail.com
Gregory R. Henson Director #4 Cell # 281-236-5428 Henson.greg@gmail.com f15152002@yahoo.com	Steve Benavides Director #5 Cell # 832-381-7305 steveraymond@msn.com	Jeff Gallardo Director #6 Cell # 832-527-1070 jef-
Ignacio Aranda Parliamentarian Cell # 281-530-6244 iaranda@aol.com	Jesus ' Jesse ' Sosa Sergeant-At-Arms Cell # 281-787-1944 jsosa1310@msn.com	John M. 'J.G.' Garza Webmaster Cell # 832-875-1377 jghuff3113@aol.com
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By: Mike Ybanez

Reflections on a Career

As a graduate of Houston Police Academy Class 138, I recently celebrated my 20th year of service to the City of Houston. I and a number of my classmates reported to the HPOPS Pension office to sign up for DROP (Delayed Retirement Officers Pension) and made our way to Molina's for some well deserved food and margaritas! It goes without saying that it was good to see old classmates and congratulate each other on making it to this milestone safe and without tragedy. This is an accomplishment that I hope that each and every Officer someday celebrates if that is their desire. My career has not been without tragedy of some sort. I have lost several friends and co-workers to line of duty deaths.

My beat mate and friend Michael Roman lost his life in 1994 as a result of trying to assist in a police chase. Rodney Johnson, who I met when he was City Jailer, lost his life in a well documented shooting tragedy.

Most memorable was the loss of my own Cousin Albert Vasquez who was murdered on an extra job by drug dealing scum the same night that Linda and I were celebrating the birth of our own son on May 22, 2001. I am reminded of him quite often when I find officers who worked with him and many times when I look at my own son.

Despite these tragedies, I have no regrets about my career. My first day on the street, May 24, 1990, in Central Patrol my trainer George Buchanan initiated a chase that lasted about 20 minutes and involved going the wrong way on the service roads of I-45 North. The strong arm robbery crook rode till his rims gave out throwing stolen purses along the roadway as he went and then he fled into a small wooden house in the vicinity of Hardy. Two strange looking Officers went in, took care of the apprehension, and turned him over to us. I stood in awe of these long haired plainclothes officers whom I later found out was the Burglary/Tactical Unit of Central at the time. They congratulated me on my driving and not losing the crook and patted me on the back and commented "fine job rookie". I was hooked from that day and I knew I had found my profession. Of course my trainer had to process the crook and do all the paperwork because since it was my first day, I had not been trained on any of booking process. I learned fast though! Thanks George for that exciting first day.

Soon after we responded to the riot at Hermann Park where I made national television and relatives in other states were calling saying "we saw Michael on television all the way up here".

I think George was happy to get rid of me after those first three weeks saying I caused him too much work. Adam Auzenne (now Sergeant) and Hector Ortegon (now Sergeant) were my next two trainers and I learned how to stand my ground and survive the gritty streets of Houston from these two fine officers. If you ever met any of these three officers, you stood in fine company.

After a year in Accident (now Mobility Management) Division, I spent the next five years on Central Nightshift chasing and cuffing Houston scum. My beat buddy was Steve Casco (now Lieutenant in CRU). We stayed together and answered calls through countless nights and even more countless foot chases and police chases. I estimate we were involved in at least 80 car chases during the six years we rode Central nights. It seems every chase in Houston at some point or another came through the I-45 and I-10 Interchange and we took advantage of jumping into every chase we could. We had great crew on nightshift and I remain friends with them to this day. It seems great. All young officers have great friendships they can count on through the years.

After transferring to the Homicide Division in 1996, I spent the remainder of my career investigating crimes against persons with Family Violence, Murder squad, and now Sex Crimes. It is strange the things a human being can do to another human being, but I am glad that there are great investigators assigned to these cases that I have been fortunate enough to work alongside and learn from. I feel that I am now one of these older investigators and I love to help the new guys get through their investigations. The feeling is great.

When things got really tough sometimes though, I turned to the O.S.S.O. Organization and soon found another set of friends just as tough, just as giving, and just as dedicated as my old beatmates. I have socialized with these fellow members and in passing, soon found new friends associated with Los Carnales, HPPU, HPOU, Texas Hispanic Peace Officers Association, and MASO (Mexican American Sheriffs Organization) led by the infamous Al Rivera.

Saving the best for last, I found my wife Linda Ybanez here at HPD and together we have endured and raised a beautiful family. That was the best part of my career. I have no regrets about my career and wish everyone the best in their own careers. May it be as fruitful as mine.

OSSO Election Notification !!!

This years OSSO Election is coming up real soon. The Odd Numbered 1,3,5 and Executive Board positions are coming up for Re-Election. The board positions are for a term of 2-years. The Parliamentarian and Sergeant At Arms are appointed by the President of OSSO and must be approved by the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in running for a Board Position, please follow the guidelines stated below in the OSSO Constitution.

OSSO Constitution

Article II

Section 7. Qualifications of Office

No member may be a candidate for office who is not in good standing in this organization. No officer may continue in office or perform the duties of office or exercise the powers of an office who is not in good standing in this organization. Good standing is deemed to mean that all dues and assessments have been paid, and that his or her membership in O.S.S.O. is not in jeopardy due to the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws. Any retired member in good standing shall be eligible for any Board Position except the office of President and Vice President

Article IV Procedure

Section 9. Filing as a Candidate for Office

Any member desiring to run for an office of O.S.S.O. must file with the Secretary between January first and seven(7) calendar days prior to the general membership meeting of February. The Secretary shall furnish the member an application for filing for the office he/she desires. The member must fill out the application, sign it, and return same to the Secretary. The application shall contain the name, division and/or assignment of the member and the office he/she seeks. ***No member may file for more than one office.*** The Secretary shall certify and inform the member at the time of filing if he/she is so qualified for certification. At the close of the filing date, the Secretary may post a list of all candidates who have qualified for office on the Organization of Spanish Speaking Officer's website.

Section 10. Nomination of Officers

All candidates' names which have been filed with the Secretary and so certified, shall be read to the membership at the regular meeting of the general membership in the month of February. ***Members who have not filed as a candidate may be nominated from the floor and must physically be present at the February regular meeting to assure their acceptance.*** Nominations shall not cease until a motion has been entertained and properly carried.



BBQ Fund Raiser

For

“2” Year old Elias Hernandez son of HPFCU Employee Angie Hernandez **Sponsored by HPD O.S.S.O**



Baby Elias was diagnosed with a Chronic Rare Lung Disease called (NEHI) NeuroEndocrine Cell Hyperplasia of Infancy in 2009. There is No Cure and very little awareness about NEHI. In 2010 he was diagnosed with an Immune Disease called Partial DeGeorge Syndrome. Elias is undergoing daily treatment and possible Bone Marrow Transplant. All funds will go to Medical expenses and Awareness.

Where: JD’s Ice House 850 McKee Houston, Tx 77002

Tickets Available at HPOU Building or Contact

When : Saturday, January 22, 2011

Retired Officer Dee Leal 832-605-3645

11am-food is gone \$8.00 a Plate

Angie Hernandez 832-371-1461

Donations are Welcomed and Appreciated!!!

Please Mail all donations to:

HPOU C/O Retired Officer Dee Leal: 1602 State St. Houston, Tx 77007

Please make checks Payable to: Elias Hernandez III C/O Angie Hernandez

OSSO Christmas Party 2010

Fore those of you that missed this years OSSO Christmas Party, this is what you missed.



See you next year !!!

Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers

Name of Employee	Payroll Number	Date of Birth
		<u>Male</u> Female Married <u>Single</u>
Mailing Address(city & zip)	Home Phone	Circle

Date of Employment	Division	Assignment & Hours
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E-Mail Address _____

I am actively employed today as a regular full-time, full-pay employee and I hereby apply for membership in the Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers.

Date of Application	Signature & Rank
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City of Houston
Payroll Deduction Authorization and Cancellation Form

_____ hereby authorize the City of Houston to deduct/stop
Print Name (circle one)

\$15.00 from my pay each scheduled cycle and remit to the Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers,
901 North Loop, Houston, Texas 77022

I understand the City of Houston neither sponsors nor endorses the product or services purchased from the above company, nor does it attest to the worth or value of the product or service. I understand, except when restrictions by federal laws apply, that I may cancel this authorization at any time, in writing, by executing a Form 6(revised 10/91). In consideration of the City providing this service, I agree not to hold the City liable for any loss resulting from failure to deduct and/or remit the payment specified. I will pay directly to the Company and moneys not withheld during a payroll cycle. I will request directly from the Company any change to my address, however if I fail to do so, I authorize the City to release my address of record to the company. I certify that no portion of this deduction is for Political action Committee(PAC) or any other purpose prohibited by City of Houston Legislation.

Employee's Signature	Date of Signature
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(TO BE COMPLETED BY PAYROLL CLERK)

Employee SS# _____ Dept. No: 10 Dept. Name: POLICE

Check	Appropriate	Amonut	Type	Plan	Date	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start	<u>\$15.00</u>	<u>HPOSS</u>	<u>Assoc</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change if New amount	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop Amount:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	One-Time Deduction:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	One-time Refund	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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