



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Marcie Scott, Human Resources Director

DATE: February 7, 2006

SUBJECT: Recognition of Employee of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Police Officer of the Year

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council recognize the Employee of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Police Officer of the Year.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended actions.

BACKGROUND:

The City's Employee Recognition Program recognizes employees who have performed outstanding work and provided excellent service to the citizens of this community. The Employee of the Year is selected among city employees who have been chosen as employees of the quarter during the year. For 2005, the Employees of the Quarter were: Christine Tomikawa, Human Resources Technician; Alyson Palmer, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager; John Loy, Police Officer and Laurie Jester, Sr. Planner.

The Police Officer of the year is selected by the Police Department's Rewards and Recognition Committee while the Firefighter of the Year is selected by the Manhattan Beach Firefighters' Association.

DISCUSSION:

1) Employee of the Year

Laurie Jester was hired as Senior Planner in October 2000. Her responsibilities include supervising three employees, reviewing projects and ensuring compliance with zoning requirements and drafting new codes. She has successfully managed the preparation of the City's General Plan which was adopted in 2003; represented our residents in the proposed expansion plans for the El Segundo Power Plant; and taken the lead role in developing and implementing the Minor Exception Permit for remodeling small homes. She was involved in drafting ordinances to address mansionization issues, implementing our tree preservation ordinance and proposing necessary changes to address a variety of community issues. Her work on the Metlox project over the past six years has been invaluable. Laurie's personal commitment and passion to this project has resulted in a mixed use development as envisioned by the community.

Laurie Jester was selected by her coworkers as employee of the year not only for her many accomplishments, but more importantly, for her commitment to public service. She is easy to talk to, provides assistance when needed and truly enjoys her work.

2) Police Officer of the Year

John Loy was hired as a police officer in August 1990. While in the patrol bureau he was selected as a D.A.R.E. officer and became a member of the SWAT entry team. In the detective bureau, his assignments include Fraud & Forgery, Local Narcotics, and Special Investigations Unit. He completed his Field Training Officer's School and is currently assigned to the detective bureau as a Juvenile Crimes Investigator. He also served at various times as MBPOA Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Officer Loy was nominated as Police Officer of the Year for his tenacity and thoroughness as an investigator. He has worked the Juvenile desk alone due to staffing issues and has been responsible for managing the investigative caseload for this desk for over a year, including a number of complicated, high profile, sensitive cases which required keen investigative and organizational skills and a high degree of professionalism.

3) Firefighter of the Year

Tom Desmond has worked for the City as a Firefighter/Paramedic since July 1999. He has continually taken on additional roles and tasks in the Fire Department. He was a Fire Inspector for two years and devoted a significant amount of time towards public education, business inspections, and oversight of the Raleigh Studio operations. Tom is also one of the department's leading CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) instructors. He is an Acting Engineer and routinely volunteers in training probationary firefighters. For the past year Tom has been a member of the MBFA Board and is currently the Association President.

Tom was nominated as Firefighter of the Year by his peers for his selfless efforts and tireless energy as a Firefighter/Paramedic. His consistent positive attitude has earned him the respect and admiration of his coworkers. Tom's professionalism, motivation and sense of community were major factors in his selection as the 2005 Firefighter of the Year.