

From: Martin Theophilus <martinppi@austin.rr.com>
Subject: 2017 Combined Bastrop PD/SO Citizen's Academy
Date: January 25, 2017 at 3:11:00 PM CST
To: tmcintyre@cityofbastrop.org
Bcc: ct@phantomprod.com

Hi Tamera!

Our River Crossing neighborhood "Nextdoor" posted the information on the 2017 Combined Bastrop PD/SO Citizen's Academy. I am very interested in participating, however my 70 years and a wanky knee may not make me a great resource. This also may be more information than you may want (-)

I grew up in Alpine and while dating the daughter of an Alpine police officer, I was given the opportunity for nightly ride-alongs. Loved it! My primary mentor was the Brewster County Sheriff, Carl Williams (one of the founders of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education). He sponsored an Air Explorer Squadron and we made up part of the Brewster County Rescue Squad. I was one of the City/County police dispatchers for 3 years while attending Sul Ross State University. As a dispatcher I also consistently rode with the area DPS officers. While my major was music, when I graduated, I wanted to go into law enforcement. The state college security services had just been created and I was sworn in as a Sul Ross University State police officer full time. I was subsequently offered a State job (not in law enforcement) at twice the salary, so I took it.

I moved to the Midland/Odessa area where Carl Williams was now working for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education and his Chief Deputy was working for DPS narcotics. Carl arranged interviews for me with the Midland Police Dept. and TxDPS. I was turned down due to my losing a kidney at age 4 due to cancer, and they said that made me a high risk as an officer. So I went back to work for the State in Odessa and rode with the DPS narcotics on occasion. Then I was offered an investigation position in Child Protective Services. Turned out it was a good fit even though more social work.

An aside - Carl allowed me to retain my law enforcement communications radios from Brewster County and Ector County assigned me a Sheriff's radio unit to co-ordinate law enforcement support to our custody cases for the 7 years I was there. It was extremely handy. After 7 years, I was promoted into training and then management. When I moved to Austin, I was responsible for the 3 major Texas training centers and 100 trainers statewide. I left the state in 1990 and then went back and worked for UT for 3 years to recoup my retirement and health insurance.

My wife Chris and I own our own entertainment booking and media (video and web) production company.

I have always regretted that my loss of a kidney kept me out of the work I thoroughly enjoyed. I have never stopped monitoring public service communications at home and in my car.

So when I saw your notice I thought maybe there is something I can give back to law enforcement. I will surely understand if I'm too far over the hill. When I renewed my DL last, I asked DPS if I could do ride-alongs and they said I'd have to be applying for a DPS position and of course I greatly exceeded the age limit.

Thank you for your time in considering my information!

Martin Theophilus DOB 04/08/1946

One final thought and a photo you might appreciate. My friend and mentor Carl who is still in Midland sent me a photo of his 1957 DPS car with one of the first radar set ups. He started with the El Paso SO, then became a DPS officer. He said of the photo "This is my RADAR car when I was stationed in Van Horn, pictured is the reading car, and the radar machine, the catch car was a mile down the road, the reader would check a vehicles speed and then radio the catch car with the speed, color and model of the car, the catch car would then write a ticket or warning. A far cry from the moving radar that is used today." Carl



*Carl Williams' Texas DPS
"radar car" - 1957 Van Horn, Texas*