



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 21, 2014
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: David L. Snowden, Chief of Police
Subject: Proclamation Honoring Officer Lynnsey Diamond
Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

Officer Lynnsey Diamond is a two-year veteran of the Beverly Hills Police Department and she is currently assigned to the Patrol Bureau. Officer Diamond has also worked with the Temporary Crime Suppression Unit, and serves as an advisor for the Police Explorer Program.

BACKGROUND

On Tuesday, December 3, 2013, Officer Diamond assisted the Crime Suppression Unit with a plain-clothes operation designed to target property crimes in the residential area north of Santa Monica Boulevard. During that operation, Officer Diamond learned that the City of Beverly Hills had been the victim of several thefts of copper wire from underground vaults. The copper wire in these vaults powers streetlights and the resale of the wire is lucrative for thieves.

On Friday, December 6, 2013, Officer Diamond was assigned to work patrol in the area north of Santa Monica Boulevard. At approximately 1:40 a.m. Officer Diamond was driving on Lomitas Avenue and noticed that the streetlights between Alpine Drive and Crescent Drive were all out. As she continued to drive in the area, she also noticed that the streetlights on Rexford Drive between Sunset Boulevard and Elevado Avenue were also out. Armed with the information she had just learned about copper wire thefts, she searched the area for any suspicious vehicles and or persons. Parked along the west curb of the 700 block of N. Rexford Drive, Officer Diamond saw a red Chevrolet Suburban. The vehicle pulled away from the curb, and Officer Diamond stopped it when she observed a lighting violation.

When Officer Diamond contacted the driver, he was unable to provide her with identification, and was not sure of where he was despite telling Officer Diamond he had been in the area visiting a friend. As Officer Diamond talked to the driver, she smelled the strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Having probable cause to enter the vehicle, Officer Diamond asked all five occupants to step out in order to conduct an

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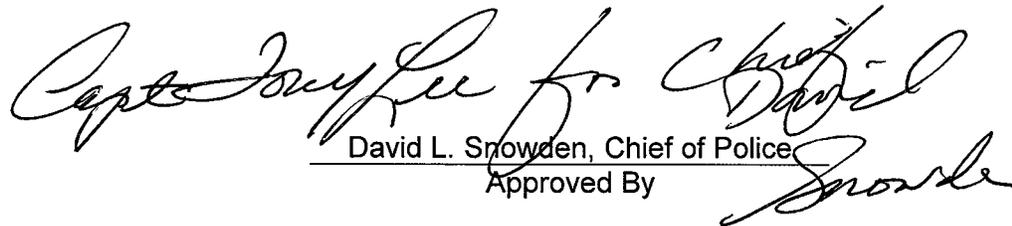
investigation. Officer Diamond's search revealed the contents of the vehicle as flashlights, wire cutters, gloves, and a screwdriver. The items found further heightened her suspicion that the individuals detained were possibly involved in the theft of copper wire.

Assisted by Officers Orth, Lawrence and Hecht, Officer Diamond directed them to check the area for signs of a crime. In the area where Officer Diamond saw the vehicle pull away from the curb, Officer Orth located a street light vault that had a cover removed, and the copper wires inside the vault had been cut. Officer Diamond separated all the individuals and further questioned them about the cut wires that had just been discovered. All the individuals denied knowledge of the wires; however one of the individuals told her it was the driver of the vehicle who had cut the wires with the intent of recycling them. Because Officer Diamond spotted them, they were unable to remove all of the wires.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, and the information provided by the occupants, Officer Diamond arrested all the individuals, and charged them with Attempted Grand Theft, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, Vandalism, Obstruction of Electric Lines, and Possession of Burglary Tools. On Tuesday, December 10, 2013, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed four felony counts on each arrestee, including Vandalism, Possession of Burglary tools, Theft of Copper Wire, and Obstruction of Electric Lines.

There is no doubt that Officer Diamond's initiative prevented the City of Beverly Hills from suffering a significant financial loss had these individuals been successful in removing the copper wire. Officer Diamond's exemplary action in this case shows she is truly committed to living up to the Beverly Hills Police Department's values which state: "We work collaboratively to fulfill our paramount duty: the protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension and prosecution of criminals and the relentless pursuit of justice."

Staff recommends that Officer Lynnsey Diamond be presented a Proclamation to acknowledge her outstanding work in the Patrol Bureau.


David L. Snowden, Chief of Police
Approved By