

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

08/31/09



R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Eight officers return to work after being laid off

FORT PIERCE – After being laid off on July 17, eight police officers returned to their positions today just glad to be back at work.

Three of the officers, Nathaniel Stubley, Michael Dini and Preston DiFrancesco, were assigned to road patrol which will have an immediate impact on our service to our community. Two officers, Oscar Trinidad and Gary Eason, will be placed in their final phase of the field training program; Officer Gina Prescott will return to first phase of the field training program while officers Steven Leveille and Charles Singletary, who recently graduated from Indian River State College Police Academy, will begin the 16-week field officer training.

The Recovery Act COPS Hiring Recovery Program (COPS CHRP) enabled the department to rehire five of the officers that were laid off. The grant, received as part of the federal stimulus money, provides 100 percent funding, including salary and benefits for the six positions, for three years. The grant also provides funding to hire one new officer.

The 2008 COPS Universal Hiring Program (COPS UHP) funds 40 percent of the salary and benefits of three of the eight officers for the next two years after which the police department will assume the cost of funding the three positions.

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