Media Relations Information for 05/10/2016

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LPPD celebrates another Citizen's Police Academy graduation

Members of CPA class 2016-A with LPPD staff

Pictured L to R: Ofc. Matthew Hopp, Doug Hathorn, Deb Hathorn, Blanca Solis, Olga Avila, Saranne Urich, April Roden, Malinda Juel, Trey Ely, Douglas Anderson, Chief Ken Adcox

On April 26th, 2016 the La Porte Police Department was pleased to announce the graduation of another Citizens Police Academy (CPA). Starting the year off right with a January – April session, the agency enjoyed the privilege of hosting a reception for former participants as they celebrated their new-found success with family, friends, and their local police department.

Members of the class included Douglas Anderson, Olga Avila, Trey Ely, Deb Hathorn, Doug Hathorn, Malinda Juel, April Roden, Blanca Solis, and Saranne Urich. Officer Matt Hopp, serving in the role of class coordinator, provided a notable performance as he assisted in the graduation ceremonies lead by LPPD's Chief Ken Adcox. Each of the graduates was presented with an official diploma recognizing their dedication and accomplishments over the last 13 weeks.

CPA participants attended classes at the La Porte Police Department every Tuesday night for 13 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. As with previous CPA classes the most recent participants were exposed to a large group of well-qualified instructors. Courses were all taught by city of La Porte Police Department employees, both certified police officers and civilian employees serving in specialized positions. To supplement the classroom instruction, hands-on training was offered to participants

involving 15 areas of police operations, ranging from Special Weapons and Tactics to Community Policing.

The ultimate mission and primary focus of the CPA is to bring the Police Department and the community closer together by educating one another. The Department's believes that the goal of establishing a safer community can best be achieved if the police and the community positively connect with one another. In short, the La Porte Citizen Police Academy is a community awareness program geared toward a partnership between the police department and the citizens they serve.

Participation in the CPA is free and all materials are provided by the Police Department. Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age with a clear criminal history. This means that applicants can have no convictions for felony offenses, cannot be on probation for any reason, and must not have any outstanding warrants. An application is also required to be completed and a background check will be conducted prior to the first night of class. The department asks that all applicants live or work in the City of La Porte, although occasional exception(s) may be made.

CPA graduates find an abundance of rewarding volunteer opportunities and they also become eligible to participate in the department's "ride along" program where they can experience police patrol first hand. The department reminds other citizens who desire a more meaningful connection with their police department, but are not able to attend a CPA class, that an alternate version the ride along program and similar volunteer opportunities exist. For questions concerning La Porte's Citizens Police Academy, please contact Officer Matt Hopp at 281-842-3124 or log onto the department's website at http://www.ci.la-porte.tx.us/488/Citizens-Police-Academy