



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-5900, TDD: (510) 981-5799, police@ci.berkeley.ca.us



COPS CONTRIBUTE To Fight HIV/AIDS

Media Contact:

Sgt. Kusmiss S-6
Public Information
Officer (PIO)
(510) 981-5881

Chief of Police
Douglas N.
Hambleton

City of Berkeley
Main Line
(510) 981-CITY

Berkeley, California (Friday, June 1, 2007) - City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD) personnel are excited about embarking on a seven-day 556-mile pedaling journey to raise money for HIV/AIDS awareness and patient care.

This year, seven officers ranging in rank from Officer to Captain are using their own vacation time to ride the AIDS LifeCycle 6 from June 3 to June 9. The ride will take them and 2,500 other cyclists from San Francisco to Los Angeles in seven days.

This year's group of BPD participants - three Officers, three Sergeants and one Captain - has collectively raised nearly \$25,000 in donations. The money they raise will go to services that benefit persons living with HIV/AIDS and to increase HIV/AIDS awareness. AIDS LifeCycle is sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

The AIDS LifeCycle is one of the many ways BPD officers express their commitment to the community. Sergeant Randolph Files, a Motor Sergeant of the BPD Traffic Bureau, has taken part in AIDS LifeCycle for 5 years and the California AIDS Ride for 4 years. "This experience has enriched my life in more ways than I have ability to convey. My child several years ago at age six said it best, 'I am proud of my daddy 'cause he rides his bicycle a long, long way to help sick people he doesn't even know.'"

Sgt. Files has vowed to ride every year until there is a cure.

"I have ridden in many multi-day bicycle rides over the last 25 years that have supported Berkeley Boosters/Police Athletic League (PAL) and the delivery of hundreds of holiday baskets to families in need each year," said Captain Bruce Agnew, Field Support Division, a 33-year BPD veteran. "This will be my first AIDS LifeCycle, but I will be riding with others from BPD who have done the ride many times. We'll keep riding until AIDS and HIV are a thing of the past."

BPD personnel who are participating in AIDS LifeCycle 6 2007 are:

Captain Bruce Agnew, Field Support Division
Officer Griselda Ferrera, Patrol
Sergeant Randolph Files, Motor Sergeant
Sergeant Jennifer Louis, Youth Services Detail
Sergeant Joe Okies, Bike Detail/Special Events
Officer Roderick Roe, Patrol
Officer Jennifer Tate, Motor Officer

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