



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

POLICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Florida Bicycle Association Names Punta Gorda Police 2014 Law Enforcement Agency of the Year

“Proactive, but friendly” – words used by Punta Gorda Police Lieutenant Joe King on Wednesday to describe the Police Department’s bicycle education and enforcement initiatives. Lieutenant King, along with a number of Punta Gorda Police staff and personnel, was on hand to accept the Florida Bicycle Association’s **2014 Law Enforcement Agency of the Year Award**. The award was presented by Becky Alfonso, Executive Director for the FBA.



The City of Punta Gorda’s long-time vision of creating a destination for cyclists to come and enjoy miles of scenic pathways showcasing the charm and beauty of Punta Gorda has come to fruition. With this accomplishment comes the responsibility of offering a safe bicycling and driving environment. The Florida Bicycle Association honored the police department for its efforts in helping to facilitate this safe environment. Ms. Alfonso also acknowledged the Police Department’s excellent communication and interaction with the community as well as their commitment to Florida’s *Share the Road* philosophy. “I’m sorry to say, that’s not the case everywhere,” Ms. Alfonso added.

With the influx of cyclists utilizing the numerous miles of pathways throughout Punta Gorda, the department has taken numerous steps in educating the public in ways to enjoy our city safely, to include;



- ✓ Public bicycle safety presentations
 - ✓ Educational efforts in local schools
 - ✓ Safety evaluations of local pathways
 - ✓ Strategic partnerships with local bicycling organizations
 - ✓ Development of communication strategies to enhance bicycle safety
 - ✓ Proactive and innovative enforcement (for bicycles and motorists)
- ...and much, much more.

As with any recognition the department receives, we recognize that an award of this kind could

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not be possible without the influence, partnership, and hard work of all city stakeholders, Lieutenant King added. This includes residents, City staff, our business community, TEAM Punta Gorda, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the many representatives of local bicycle clubs.

Punta Gorda Police Chief Albert A. (Butch) Arenal added “This tremendous recognition truly belongs to the great men and women of the Punta Gorda Police Department. They understand that as Punta Gorda continues to become more of a destination for visitors and residents alike, the economic engine that drives our progress is fueled. It’s about partnerships, it’s about service to our citizens, and it’s a win-win all the way around.”

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