

## **City of Blaine – Reserve Officer Program**

### **Purpose of the Reserve Unit**

A reserve is a member of the community who has received specialist training in order to serve as a volunteer for the Public Safety Team. Reserves have been an integral part of policing in Blaine for over 40 years. Reserve members help the department:

- Assist in investigations
- Conduct citizen education
- Direct traffic
- Enforce laws
- Patrol our neighborhoods
- Provide a myriad of other services
- Transport prisoners

### **Types of Reserve Members**

Some members apply to the reserve program as an introduction to law enforcement, providing their time and effort in exchange for experience and education which is invaluable as they seek full-time employment in the field. Others join the program as a retired individual or while balancing their current career. Many find the reserve program to be a meaningful and exciting way to give back to their community. There are 3 types of reserve participation:

- Police Auxiliary members
- Reserve police officers
- Technical reserves

### **Police Auxiliary**

Members of the Police Auxiliary are citizens who apply to assist the Public Safety Department in a variety of non-technical duties and tasks which are important to delivering our agency's high quality service. Applicants to our reserve police officer cadre will often begin their service as auxiliary members until attending the academy. In the meantime, the members learn the department's day-to-day operations and assist with clerical, administrative functions as well as field work and investigation of incidents not in progress. Auxiliary members may be college students conducting work-study programs, or have special training in a certain aspect of our work.

### **Reserve Police Officers**

Reserve police officers are the visible component of Blaine's reserve program. Our reserve officers are trained, uniformed, equipped, and commissioned as police patrol officers when on duty for the city. A reserve officer applicant undergoes the same testing and evaluation process as a paid commissioned

officer. The Washington state-certified Reserve Officer Academy which every member must complete provides almost 300 hours of instruction and is followed by a documented Field Training Program at Blaine Police Department.

To maintain certification Blaine's reserve officers must provide at least 16 hours of patrol service each month and maintain skills including weapons, vehicle operation, and safety. Becoming a reserve police officer is neither simple or easy, but it is very rewarding.

### **Technical Reserves**

Technical Reserve members are experts and professionals in a variety of fields who are credentialed in their chosen career and participate in our Public Safety programs without engaging in the law enforcement component. These men and women undergo background evaluations and agency training specific to the types of volunteer services they will be providing to our department and community.

Blaine's Technical Reserve officers have included medical and electronics specialists, expert canine handlers, emergency management, business management, and legal professionals.