

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

## POLICE OFFICER

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TREASURE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Treasure Island Police Department is a progressive and professional agency serving a pleasant beach community in Pinellas County, Florida. Treasure Island is just west of St. Petersburg. There are 20 sworn officers plus 9 support staff which includes communications, records and property/evidence management as well as administrative support staff. We are a city of about 7,500 full time residents. The population increases as many as 20,000 during the peak season. While our city is small and located on a gulf coast barrier island, we are part of the major Tampa-St. Petersburg metropolitan area.

As a Treasure Island Police Officer you get the opportunity to invest in our community in a very real way, every day! As you investigate problems and create solutions, you maintain the quality of the neighborhoods and a sense of safety citywide. We are serious about our police work and our team. You will join a department of professionals that maintain the highest policing standards while keeping its hometown feel. Our department is small enough to know everyone by name, and large enough to offer specialty assignments in K-9, criminal investigations, crime prevention, marine patrol, bicycle patrol and several certified disciplines.



## **Community Support**

Our community likes and supports their police department. Treasure Island enjoys the benefits of having its own police department. These benefits include a direct personal familiarity between department personnel and residents, a professional familiarity with city associations, clubs and the personality of the community; and a high quality and closeness of service stemming from the department's local presence and management.

## **Patrol Assignments**

The department protects the city with regular patrols, through the special service patrols described below, and by directed patrols, which are specific assignments to areas needing special attention at any one time. Four-wheel drive vehicles are used to access 3.5 miles of beach. In addition, our department utilizes an A.T.V. to patrol the beach areas. TIPD officers typically perform more follow up on their own criminal cases than do officers in larger city or metro area agencies. This allows patrol officers to continually develop their investigative and report writing skills. It also means that TIPD officers are well prepared in court. Most officers typically work a 4 day on / 3 day off cycle. All sworn personnel are provided with new equipment and uniforms, including an 800 MHZ portable radio, an X-26 Taser, a Glock 9mm sidearm, and all leather gear.





### **Marine Patrol**

The Marine Patrol is a full time dedicated unit focused on marine enforcement, safety and education. The department utilizes a 24' Boston Whaler Justice, equipped with twin 200 hp Yamaha engines as well as state of the art radar and chart plotter. During the peak boating season from May until September, and on holidays and weekends, additional officers may be assigned to increase protection and safety.

### **Bicycle Patrol**

Specially trained officers are assigned to bicycle patrol, which provides a greater degree of access, closeness and increased interaction between the officers and members of the community. The department utilizes several patrol bikes, including three fully equipped Mercedes Mountain Bikes.

### **Detectives**

Officers trained and assigned in the detective bureau perform the more complex criminal investigations. Typical cases include crimes against persons, burglary and fraud. Our detectives use state of the art equipment such as a ventless workstation for latent impression examinations as well as the latest digital technology. Both detectives are certified Crime Prevention Practitioners. In addition to their regular duties, our two detectives are actively involved in the C.A.R.T. program. The Child Abduction Response Team is a group of law enforcement professionals who assist other agencies statewide with child abduction cases. Both detectives were also involved in the investigation into the disappearance of Jessica Lunsford in Pasco County which resulted in the arrest of a convicted sex offender. Our two detectives are assigned take home vehicles to assist them with their duties.



**Det. Kathi Lovelace and Det. Dave Schilt**

## K-9



**Cpl. Daren Chiaputti and K-9 Sasha**

Our K-9 team is a highly valued department resource. The K-9 team is comprised of a black Labrador drug dog whose handler is Cpl. Darren Chiaputti, an 8 year veteran of the police department. The K-9 lives with its handler, and our K-9 handler is assigned a take home vehicle. During 2006, the K-9 team was deployed numerous times and enjoyed a very high success rate.

### **Career Track Training**

In addition to state mandated and department directed training, each officer consults at least annually with the Chief to propose additional professional development training in areas of interest to the officer.

### **Education Assistance**

The City of Treasure Island encourages all employees to continue their education and earn a post-secondary degree. The city will reimburse you for expenses (tuition, lab fees, books, other materials) involved in pursuing a college or university degree that is related to their city employment. For police officers, this can be successfully completed courses toward an Associates, Bachelors, or Graduate degree in majors such as Criminal Justice, Criminology, Public Administration, Business, one of the Social Sciences, Psychology or in a Natural Science such as Biology or Chemistry. Traditional classroom as well as distance learning programs is available. TIPD officers participate in the **Florida Retirement System**. The FRS benefit is currently 3% of an officer's average final compensation times his or her years of service. Officers may retire after 6 or more years service and age 55, or with 25 years service regardless of age (all creditable service counts toward the 25 year requirement, including service with other **FRS** employers and military service credit). The City pays all contributions toward each officer's retirement plan —no pension contribution is deducted from the officer's paycheck.



## **The Selection Process**

### **Employment Application**

We expect that you will take the time to complete all areas of the application form and sign it. Resumes and other documentation you wish to submit may be added, but resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a fully completed City application form. The information you provide will be verified. If there are omissions, falsifications, or misrepresentations, we will have to withdraw your application from consideration. Should any omissions, falsifications, or misrepresentations be discovered after you start employment, your employment will be terminated. Some parts of your application are a public record and can be viewed and/or copied upon request from any person. Other parts, such as social security number, active and former police officer addresses, etc. are confidential and exempt under Florida Public Records Statutes.

### **PASS**

The Police Applicant Screening Service (PASS) provides candidate evaluation and background investigation services for the TIPD. They can be contacted at 727-864-3822, or online at [www.policestandards.org](http://www.policestandards.org). During the selection process, TIPD investigators will conduct a further background investigation in addition to the one provided by PASS. Applicants who are certified law enforcement officers in another state, a federal agency, or recently discharged military policemen do not have to initiate the Police Applicant Screening Service procedure prior to their interviews. This PASS process can be started by experienced law enforcement personnel after you receive a conditional job offer from TIPD.

### **Review of Written Employment Application**

Police Officer application forms are reviewed and the most qualified of the applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will be selected for an oral board interview. Applicants selected for interview will be notified by telephone. Applicants from out of the local area must arrange for travel and lodging at their own expense to attend interviews and examinations. None of these expenses will be reimbursed by the city. However, we will make every effort to schedule interviews and examinations to accommodate your travel plans. This could involve changing the sequence of the interviews and the ride-along opportunity. If you are not selected for an interview you will be notified as soon as practicable.

## **Oral Review Board Interview**

An Oral Review Board made up of at least four sworn officers interview each candidate. The board evaluates each candidate and makes a recommendation to the Administrative Sergeant and the Police Chief. This Oral Review Board interview is videotaped for possible further review. If you are not recommended by the Oral Review Board, you will be notified as soon as possible.

## **Ride Along —Work Preview**

A “ride-along” with one or more Field Training Officers allows a candidate to get a close up preview of the position as well as providing another opportunity for more members of our staff to evaluate candidates.

## **Polygraph and Psychological Examinations**

If there is still mutual interest after the oral board and ride along, you will be scheduled for a polygraph examination, a psychological screening and a physical agility test. Candidates who have satisfactorily completed the screening process will advance to the next step and be interviewed by the Police Chief.

## **Interview with Police Chief**

If the candidate successfully completes each phase of the selection process, he/she will receive an offer of employment that is contingent upon passing a drug screen, physical examination, and a completed background investigation by TIPD investigators.

## **Equivalency of Training**

New officers in Florida must pass a Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Equivalency of Training Review. Typically this is for officers who are certified in another state, with a federal agency, or have recent military police experience. As a TIPD Officer, you will be on paid duty status while attending this training.

## **Field Training Program**

Newly hired officers enter a Field Training Program. The length of this program varies depending upon your previous training and experience. Your employment is considered probationary for one year from your date of hire.

## **Reimbursement Contract**

New officers are required to sign a reimbursement contract, agreeing to reimburse the city for its investment in your training and personal equipment should you decide to **voluntarily** leave the agency within two years. The amount of reimbursement is reduced by 1/24th for each month of employment.

### **For Additional Information**

If you have any questions, you may contact the Personnel Office, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Feel free to stop by in person or telephone (727) 547-4575. Our address is 120 -108th Avenue Treasure Island, FL 33706 e-mail to: [fturner@mytreasureisland.org](mailto:fturner@mytreasureisland.org). The City of Treasure Island has a web site. The URL is [www.mytreasureisland.org](http://www.mytreasureisland.org). Applicants are not removed from consideration because of age, race, sex, religion, national origin or any other non-merit factors. We believe that one of our greatest strengths as an organization is the diversity of our people.



**T**                      **I**                      **P**                      **D**  
**Trust**              **Integrity**              **Professionalism**              **Dedication**