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Legislature heading to town

The regular session of the 81st Texas Legislature convenes at noon on January 13. During the 140-day session, legislators will consider such issues as recommendations from the Sunset Advisory Commission on the future of DPS, laws to improve DPS' ability to fight crime, and appropriations to fund various law enforcement initiatives. These issues will be considered in light of economic forecasts that indicate money will be tight.

"State lawmakers will have many difficult decisions to make when they are writing the 2010-2011 state budget. We must ensure we provide them with the information they need so they can decide which tools will help us to help protect the citizens of Texas," said Col. **Stan Clark**, interim director of the DPS.

Among the funding needs that DPS will discuss with legislators:

- Critical salary adjustments for key employees. The agency will request funding that will allow significant pay increases for driver license technicians, examiners and customer service representatives, as well as crime analysts and Information Management Service employees. DPS has had trouble retaining many of those employees because of lower salaries than other state agencies and private employers. The agency also is requesting an increase in commissioned officers' salaries.
- Information technology infrastructure. DPS needs to drastically upgrade its entire computer system infrastructure—including hardware and software. Many of the DPS databases are outdated and would function better if they were contained in one data warehouse that would be accessible by all divisions across the Department.
- Operating shortfalls. DPS has been paying for operating shortfalls out of salaries for positions that have not been filled. However, DPS intends to fill all commissioned and noncommissioned positions and will not be able to use those unfilled jobs to pay for the agency's operating costs. Those costs include gasoline and utilities.

Stay tuned for more information on the session!

Dear fellow employee:

DPS will certainly be in the mix when the Texas Legislature convenes in its 81st session. The Sunset Commission will have made its recommendations about our agency, the Legislature will be considering our appropriations and we'll certainly be affected by at least some of the hundreds of bills that are introduced.

As the session progresses, we will continue to receive calls from legislative staffers—and possibly from the legislators themselves—requesting information on many subjects. Please be sure to answer their questions promptly. If you need additional assistance in fulfilling a legislative request, please contact our legislative liaison, **Michael Kelley** or his assistant, **Janie Smith**, at 512-424-7272.

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Happy New Year! Here's to a productive and healthy 2009 for all of us.

Briefs

Many DPS employees have had their lives changed by receiving a cancer diagnosis. A cancer diagnosis changes the life of the patient as well as the lives of family and friends. Most of us in the DPS family have been touched by cancer in some way. Cancer support groups are designed to help those coping with a cancer diagnosis or cancer treatment by providing resources, education and emotional support. The cancer support group at DPS Headquarters meets in the Crime Records conference room from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month. Cancer patients, survivors and family members are welcome. For more information, please contact **Charlene Cain** at 512-424-2090 or **Frances Douglas** at 512-424-5251.

Mile Markers

Promotions

CLE

Corwin Neil Schalchlin, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Garland to Capt., Bureau of Information Analysis Austin; **Guadalupe Ramon**, Sgt., MVT Corpus Christi to Lt., MVT Corpus Christi; **Phillip Carlton Harris**, Sgt., MVT Garland to Lt., MVT El Paso; **Lucinda Russell**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Amarillo to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Amarillo.

DL

Reginald Bernard Fields, Lt., DL Houston to Capt., DL Garland.

THP

Robert Lynn Bailey, Lt., HP San Angelo to Capt., HP San Angelo; **Justin Jack Chrane**, Lt., HP Austin to Capt., HP Austin; **Larry Lee Allen**, Lt., HP Houston to Capt., HP Waco.

Director's Staff

Judy Kathleen Mitchell, Tr. II, CVE Dalhart to Sgt., Aircraft Section Austin; **Bryan Clifton Kolb**, Cpl. II, HP Snyder to Sgt., Aircraft Section Austin.

Retirements

Anthony Mark Provirus, Sen. Tr., HP Austin, 28 yrs., 5 mos., 19 days; **Audrey Marie Gifford**, Evaluator, DL Austin 36 yrs., 11 mos., 22 days; **Rickey Lee Bentley**, Sen. Cpl., HP Tulia, 30 yrs., 6 mos., 6 days; **Gilbert Lloyd Durocher**, Capt., CIS Houston, 29 yrs., 9 mos., 5 days;

Thomas Jeffery Holland, Sgt., CIS Denton, 29 yrs., 5 mos., 17 days; **Mark Dennis Rogers**, Maj., HP Austin, 29 yrs., 5 mos., 17 days; **Alvin Richard Schacht**, Sen. Tr. CVE San Antonio, 26 yrs., 10 mos., 17 days;

Marvin Udall Mead, Crime Analyst, BIA Austin, 26 yrs., 2 mos., 29 days; **Dempster Gayle Elder**, Sgt., HP Austin, 17 yrs., 2 mos., 6 days; **Laura Lynn Lucia**, Tech., VIS Mineral Wells, 15 yrs., 2 mos., 29 days; **Margaret Sue Gregory**, Clerk, HR Austin, 12 years, 7 mos., 15 days;

Patricia Ann Buchner, Coordinator, Accounting, Austin, 2 yrs., 11 mos., 11 days; **Raymond Leonard Coffman**, Chief, Rang-

ers Austin, 33yrs., 2 days; **Russell William Gauthier**, Sgt., Rangers Mineral Wells, 26 yrs., 9 mos., 18 days.

Deaths

Howard Colson, Tr. II, DL Ft. Stockton (February 1951 – November 1981) died November 26, 2008; **Edgar Brannan**, Assist. Supv., CIS Austin (December 1947 – August 1980) died November 27, 2008;

William Burton Jennings, Cpl. IV, L&W Big Spring (June 1972 – August 1995) died November 19, 2008; **Ralph Winston Seamans**, Tr., IV, HP Beaumont (December 1968 – August 1996) died July 31, 2008;

Betty C. Mellem, Admin. Asst., DL Mineral Wells (March 1979 – April 2008) died October 23, 2008; **Margaret "Ann" Mize**, Secretary, Rangers Waco (May 1977 - August 1999) died December 8, 2008.



On the mend...

Tr. **Michael Earheart**, HP Gainesville, injured in fleet collision;

Tr. **Ronald R. Ramirez**, HP Alice, injured during a struggle;

Tr. **Steven Hoppas**, HP San Marcos, injured when vehicle struck by alleged drunk driver; and

Tr. **Jeremy Alaniz**, HP Corpus Christi, injured in a fleet collision.