

Weekly Deployment Meeting Highlights

April 17, 2015

Every week, Linda Hansen attends the Evanston Police Department's Deployment Meetings, takes notes on various topics and writes about other police-related matters of interest to ordinary citizens like her.

Inquiring Minds: Recently, members of Leadership Evanston participated in an exercise where civilians and police officers changed roles. What's the point of a program like this and what did participants take away from the experience?

Commander Joe Dugan suggested I speak to PST Officer Enjoli Daley who led in this week's event at the Ecology Center. Here's what she said:

"Members of the PST unit did a scenario-based presentation for Leadership Evanston yesterday. If you're not familiar with it, Leadership Evanston is a program offered by the Evanston Community Foundation that gives citizens an opportunity to learn about various facets of the community.

Yesterday, our presentation involved three different scenarios - typical service calls that officers deal with all the time. We switched roles, the attendees were the officers and the officers were the citizens. What many citizens don't realize is that most police issues involve social issues. These are problems that plague most communities - homelessness, mental illness and domestic violence. So we gave our role players three situations to handle - loud teens in the park, a suspicious vagrant and a domestic disturbance.

They formed groups, made decisions and shared their approaches with the rest of us. Afterward, we all discussed the incidents which led to a spirited Q&A. The attendees really enjoyed the experience but what we are really

after is for citizens to gain a different perspective of officers and the work that we do. We are always looking for ways to initiate a conversation with the community and this is one way to do it.”

Note: This and other interactive exercises are also part of the 12-week Citizen Police Academy. The 42nd Class will begin this Fall.