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Lafayette's Citizens' Police Academy graduates recognized

By Lou Fancher



The ceremony finished with a group photo of graduates taken with Lafayette City Council members, Crime Prevention Commissioner Judy Peterson, and Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt. Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

background check, including not having been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in the past year.

The participants give of their time during five to seven sessions to learn what police officers do, Alldritt said. "I appreciate the investment community members make to do that."

"We just want to honor them," he added. "The goal is to pull back the curtain and explain why we do what we do, talk about where we all come from."

Judy Peterson (along with Denise Brown, who was unable to attend the ceremony) are on the Crime Prevention Commission that leads the organization and logistics of the academy. In his closing remarks, Alldritt said although the program is a lot of work for the department to put on, the feedback about the law enforcement services provided to the community is always valuable and rewarding to receive.

The department will be hosting a Spring 2024 academy he encouraged interested Lafayette citizens to sign up for and attend. He noted that the graduating classes included four couples, indirectly suggesting it is an activity enjoyed by spouses or life partners.

The Academy takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition to programs involving field visits, the programs are held at the Library and at various criminal justice sites throughout the county. The firearms session is optional and is conducted on Saturdays at the range in Clayton. The academy is offered at no cost and each graduating class is limited to 18 participants.

As the liaison to the public safety commission, Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok thanked graduates for taking the extra time to observe the police department and encouraged them to recruit other people who might enjoy the program.

For more information, contact Commissioner Denise Brown at cpddenise@gmail.com or Cathy Surges-Moscato at csurges@lovelafayette.org. To apply, fill out the application form (www.lovelafayette.org/home/showpublisheddocument/

5738/636856772935200000) and bring the signed form to the Lafayette Police Department for processing.

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