

Star-Telegram FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1981

Police to get merit awards by foundation

By KAREN HASTINGS
Star-Telegram Writer

Organized, visible and well-financed community support—in the form of a Fort Worth Police Officers Award Foundation—was announced Thursday as the business community's personal weapon in the war on crime.

Armed with \$200,000 in donations, the 40 founders consider the foundation as a way to encourage excellence on the part of Fort Worth police officers.

Police Chief H.F. Hopkins called the foundation "the most important program to touch the police department in its entire history."

Announcement of the well-kept secret came at a luncheon presided by key administrative and executive officers of several dozen Fort Worth companies. The executives, who were not told in advance of the luncheon's purpose, sat at tables whose centerpiece decorations included brochures with instructions on making donations.

Details on the interworkings of the private endowment fund have been kept deliberately sketchy. The foundation's five trustees, led by American Manufacturing Company general manager J.E. Lott, say they want to remain "as flexible as possible" in designing their own unique attack on the problem of crime.

Awards—"but not rewards"—for meritorious service, funding for special advanced training for selected officers, and other programs to recognize "efficiency, skill and devotion" of police officers were suggested as possible projects of the new foundation.

Lott said underlying the foundation's goals is an understanding and sympathy for the thankless and heart-wrenching job police officers often are expected to perform.

"I am sure often times it is hard to keep your spirits up. I am sure sometimes you wonder does anybody really care," Lott said, talking directly to a table of uniformed police officers at the central table.

Police Chief Hopkins also alluded to the police officer's need for positive recognition, and the frustrations inherent in his job.

"All this, coupled with the nature of a police officer's day-to-day job, creates frustration. It leads some po-

lice officers to think if no one else cares, why should I, and that's when performance suffers," Hopkins said. Mayor Woodie Woods, in thanking the group for its efforts, said the city has "neglected" to properly acknowledge the good work of its police officers. He said he was glad the business community has stepped in to correct that omission.

Trustee vice chairman John M. Stevenson said the founders consider the crime problem a complicated web that involves the entire criminal justice system. The group deliberately decided to focus on the police department.

"In the broadest sense, we are interested in reducing crime through the higher performance of our police department," Stevenson said.

Those involved agreed that the idea for the foundation "started on the North Side," where Lott's company is located.

Lott said months of planning culminated in January when—in less than one month's time—the original group collected founding contributions of \$5,000 from 40 businesses, business leaders and private foundations.

The 40 founders chose Lott as trustee chairman, Stevenson and Alex Dillard, vice chairman; Thomas H. Law, secretary; and William Beuck, treasurer. The trustees will direct the awards program.

City officials like City Manager Robert Herchert were present for the announcement. Herchert said he has worked with the foundation's sponsors since the beginning of the project.

Stevenson said City Hall would be considered "an expert source, but only one expert source" in guiding trustees on the use of the foundation's resources.

Stevenson stressed the foundation would be non-political and independent of any other group or government. He said the foundation's work is expected to complement crime-fighting efforts at City Hall.

Herchert said he also expects no clashes with the new organization.

Calling the trustees a group of "outstanding, highly capable" businessmen, Herchert said he hopes the city's relationship will grow to be as stable as its relationship with other private foundations and organiza-

tion with the ultimate goal being a reduction in crime. Initially, the idea was to get 10 community leaders to become founders with a contribution of \$5,000 each. But community leaders endorsed the plan so quickly that within days 40 had signed up, giving the foundation a beginning anti-crime and pro-police war chest of \$200,000. Now, the community at large is being asked to join in the effort, so the foundation's fund will grow. So this all-encompassing program to support the police department is on sound financial footing and off to an excellent start.

Appropriately, several uniformed police officers were at the luncheon when the foundation's carefully-planned goals were announced, so representatives of rank-and-file police officers got first hand the sense of this major step in lining up community support behind them. And as the foundation moves deeper into its work and recognizes police officers with the awards, police officers will get a keener sense of citizen backing.

Police have a tough, frustrating job. They need to know that those they help protect are fully behind them as they perform that job. This foundation holds the promise of doing that better than anything that has been tried and others in the community should join in the effort, for it not only will send the message of support to police officers but it also could help reduce crime.

The foundation is indeed, as the chief said, a stroke of genius. A brilliant stroke of genius. For it is a solid, permanent foundation of demonstrated, enthusiastic support of citizens for police officers.

It all started with an idea. That idea was to establish a foundation that would support local police and recognize excellence in per-

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1981

roger summers

Award secret was well kept

POLICE PATROL: That just announced Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation quickly and quietly got off the ground last January.

Organizers hoped to get 10 "founders" to chip in \$5,000 each, making a pot of \$50,000 that would be used to recognize and award policemen for excellence. But in only 23 days, 40 signed on the dotted line to contribute \$5,000 each, making the total \$200,000. And more money is expected to come in. The entire thing was one of the best kept secrets in Fort Worth for some time. Although many business and government leaders and others were working on it, plans for the foundation leaked out only hours before the formal announcement.



SUMMERS

tions such as the Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm sure its work will be complementary of the city's efforts," he said.

Stevenson said the foundation was designed to award officers for their service, not offer rewards for solving murders or catching criminals.

Few minority business leaders or community representatives were present at Thursday's luncheon. But

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 29, 1981 ©1981 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Group suggests awards for FW police officers

By KAREN HASTINGS
Star-Telegram Writer

Awards—"but not rewards"—for meritorious service, funding for special advanced training for selected officer, and other programs to recognize "efficiency, skill and devotion" of police officers have been suggested as possible projects of the new Fort Worth Police Officers Award Foundation.

Armed with \$200,000 in donations, the 40 founders describe the foundation as a way to encourage excellence on the part of Fort Worth police officers.

City officials, police officers and key administrative and executive officers of several dozen Fort Worth businesses were present at a luncheon Thursday for the announcement of the foundation's formation.

One of five trustees, American Manufacturing Co. general manager J.E. Lott, said the foundation wants to remain "as flexible as possible" in designing its attack on crime.

"I AM SURE often times it is hard to keep your spirits up. I am sure sometimes you wonder, 'Does anybody really care?'" Lott said, talking directly

to a table of uniformed police officers at the central table.

Police Chief H.F. Hopkins also alluded to the police officer's need for positive recognition and the frustrations inherent in his job.

"All this, coupled with the nature of a police officer's day-to-day job, creates frustration. It leads some police officers to think if no one else cares, why should I, and that's when performance suffers," Hopkins said.

Mayor Woodie Woods, in thanking the group for its efforts, said the city has "neglected" to properly acknowledge the good work of its police officers. He said he was glad the business community has stepped in to correct that omission.

TRUSTEE VICE CHAIRMAN John M. Stevenson said the founders consider the crime problem a complicated web that involves the entire criminal justice system. The group deliberately decided to focus on the police department.

"In the broadest sense, we are interested in reducing crime through the higher performance of our police department," Stevenson said.

Those involved agreed that the idea for the foundation "started on the North Side," where Lott's company is located.

Lott said months of planning culminated in January when—in less than one month's time—the original group collected founding contributions of \$5,000 from 40 businesses, business leaders and private foundations.

The 40 founders chose Lott as trustee chairman; Stevenson and Alex Dillard, vice chairman; Thomas H. Law, secretary; and William Beuck, treasurer. The trustees will direct the awards program.

DONATIONS TO THE foundation are tax deductible, and can be made payable to the Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation at P.O. Box 17659, Fort Worth 76102.



The Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation

P.O. Box 17659 • Fort Worth, Texas 76102 • (817) 335-2216

Dear Fort Worth Citizen:

Crime touches all of us, almost without exception. And this year, it is expected to directly strike about one out of every seven Fort Worth citizens. After watching our city's crime rate soar, we as a community have an opportunity to help do something about it.

The Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation has been established to recognize and improve the excellence of Fort Worth police officers, hopefully to result in the reduction of crime.

Everyone is invited to join with us in this critical and unique program. Your participation is essential if Fort Worth is to be a safe place to live and work. This foundation is an "opportunity" for our community to prove that it is capable of caring for itself. Let us demonstrate this by pushing this foundation to the highest economic level possible to give it maximum strength to accomplish this task. Your contribution now can help make it unprofitable for criminals to do business in our community in the future.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

P.S. Contributions are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes. Please make your checks payable to The Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 17659, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. If you have additional questions or would like to receive a Foundation brochure, please call 335-2216.

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editorials

Solid foundation

Fort Worth Police Chief H. F. Hopkins called it a stroke of genius, just what the doctor ordered. He said it quickly will become a cornerstone in Fort Worth's war on crime. Why? Because it will let every police officer know that the community is fully supportive.

The chief had reference to something brand new in Fort Worth and, as far as anyone knows, in any city. It is The Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation. The unusual foundation was established by leading Fort Worth citizens to recognize efficiency, skill and devotion of police officers. Awards will be granted to police officers who recognize excellence in the performance of duty and to further improve their professional training.

The police chief said that is just the boost his department needs, adding that it is the "most important program to touch the Fort Worth Police Department in its entire history."

Chief Hopkins cited some of the ways the police force here has been improving. Increased manpower, expanded patrols, increased police salaries, improved use of police personnel and more. But he said this new foundation "will give the police officer the one element which the city cannot supply and an element that can turn the tide in our war against crime. That element is support by the community." Because of this support, the chief said the department could and would become one of the most effective and efficient police agencies in the nation.

It all started with an idea. That idea was to establish a foundation that would support local police and recognize excellence in per-

formance with the ultimate goal being a reduction in crime. Initially, the idea was to get 10 community leaders to become founders with a contribution of \$5,000 each. But community leaders endorsed the plan so quickly that within days 40 had signed up, giving the foundation a beginning anti-crime and pro-police war chest of \$200,000. Now, the community at large is being asked to join in the effort, so the foundation's fund will grow. So this all-encompassing program to support the police department is on sound financial footing and off to an excellent start.

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THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 28, 1981

Fund to fight crime by backing good police work

Forty businessmen and corporations have donated \$200,000 to set up a crime-fighting private program known as the Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation, a blue-ribbon luncheon audience was told today.

The foundation's announced goal is to "recognize excellence in the performance of professional duties and responsibilities and to improve further police officers' professional training."

Organizers said the foundation's efforts will focus on reducing crime.

J. Edd Lott, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees, said the foundation is open to all citizens and businessmen. "We must have the commitment of the total community if we are to combat crime effectively," Lott said.

He said crime statistics released by police this spring point out the critical need for community support. During the 1970s, crime skyrocketed 72 percent, with a 14 percent jump recorded from 1979 to 1980.

Contributions to the foundation are

deductible for federal income tax purposes and may be made by any entity, including individuals, groups, partnerships, corporations, civic groups and committees.

Hosts for the luncheon included Lott, Eddie Chiles and the Western Co. of North America, Wm. Rigg Co., the Amon Carter Foundation, Haws & Garrett, A.M. Pace, J.C. Pace, Freese & Nichols, John Stevenson, Tom Law, Baird's Bakeries and Motorola Inc., among others.