



# New Boca Raton Police Foundation Launches Campaign to Raise Funds for Boca Police Services

Boca-based citizens, business owners and civic leaders united to officially launch a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization: Boca Raton Police Foundation (BRPF) to fund the supplemental needs of the Boca Raton Police Services Department above and beyond the City budget. Its inaugural kick-off event presented by BRPF President Marc Bell and founding Foundation board members drew more than 200 passionate supporters – including Boca Raton city officials – to raise \$200,000.

Held at the home of Peter and Carmel Baronoff, the event was hosted by a citizen-based committee that included founding BRPF board members and their spouses: Marc and Jennifer Bell, Peter and Carmel Baronoff, Jeff and Marissa Hollander, Jay and Kim Katari, Richard and Barbara Kendall, Adam and Suzanne Sandow, Joel Schneider, Stu and Jill Siegel, along with Sun Capital Partners.

Established by Marc Bell, the BRPF is an independent non-profit organization that engages business, professional and civic communities in advancing the mission of the Boca Raton Police Services Department. It advocates collaboration, in-kind resources and training. More specifically, the BRPF will help the Department acquire the training, software, hardware and equipment it needs to remain a highly progressive law enforcement agency.

During his welcome remarks, Bell acknowledged that for many years the Boca Raton Police Services Department has been nationally recognized as a leader in law enforcement, and that the City of Boca Raton and its government have made a significant investment in maintaining this commitment to policing excellence.

“By adding in citizen and business-based support for key initiatives via a non-profit such as the Boca Raton Police Foundation, it greatly accelerates the Department’s ability to make progress quickly, and to provide better quality service to all Boca Ratonians,” noted Bell. “The Foundation also accepts non-earmarked financial support for general use and short-term assistance for the Department, such as police officer education and the care of retired police dogs.”

By establishing the BRPF as a non-profit in 2013, Bell knew that a strong partnership with the community could “serve to focus limited police resources and attract additional support for police initiatives. Police foundations – non-profit organizations that help raise money and provide resources for police programs, equipment, and special needs that cannot be readily provided through public sector funds – offer a promising source of support in bridging funding gaps.” To move his vision forward, Bell recruited a dedicated group of founding board members: Chief Dan Alexander (serving as an ex-officio member) Peter Baronoff, Jeff Hollander, Adam Sandow, Jay Katari, Joel Schneider, Stu Siegel and Richard Kendall.

“Such community-based foundations are becoming the trend as departments seek to achieve exceptional levels of service and public safety,” noted Boca Raton Chief of Police Dan Alexander. “We are so fortunate in Boca Raton to have the advocates, like Marc Bell and Peter Baronoff supported by dedicated founding foundation board members, who understand the challenges and the significant needs our department has to be continually state-of-the-art tech-ready to protect and serve our citizens and businesses. Having a foundation for our supplemental needs is critical, but it is those who champion and fund the effort that is even more inspiring to our police department, those on the street, at the desk and including our police canines.”

“As a former deputy mayor of the City of Boca Raton,

I know intimately what the needs are, the budgetary constraints, the high cost of software and hardware needed to keep our City safe, and why it is critically important for all who live, work, and play in our great City to become part of the solution,” said Peter R. Baronoff, CEO of Promise Healthcare that employs 100 locally and 5,000 across the country. “We in Boca Raton are very philanthropic by nature and now it is time to include our courageous police force in our annual and endowment giving. By doing so we protect our fellow citizens and businesses, but statistics show that one day, crime and violence can hit very close to home affecting the folks we know and care about...like our own families, friends, colleagues and employees.”

Bell emphasized that the BRPF “is more than just a funding source.” Its board of directors works closely with the Boca Raton Police Chief Alexander’s office to explore



emerging trends and identify effective public safety strategies. The BRPF strengthens partnerships between the Department and other programs, such as the Police Athletic League (PAL) and the Police Explorers, and encourages excellence in policing by recognizing outstanding achievement.

For more information and to make a tax-deductible donation to the BRPF, visit [bocaratonpolicefoundation.org](http://bocaratonpolicefoundation.org) or call the BRPF (561) 988-1700.