

## Volunteer of the Month Ofc. Sid Palmieri

Traditionally we focus on efforts that are completely separate from any paid work that volunteers do, but this month's volunteer is nearly impossible to extract from his day job. Ofc. Sid Palmieri is the Hartford Police Department's Asylum Hill Community Service Officer. This means that barring any emergencies, he is tasked with serving as the face of the Hartford Police Department in Asylum Hill.

Asylum Hill has had CSOs assigned here going back to the late 90's, and we are fortunate that they have all been very good at their job, each bringing a different part of themselves to the job, but all of them being dedicated to Hartford and Asylum Hill.

Ofc. Sid is blessed with a very friendly and open personality, and his first reflex in any situation seems to be " how can we fix this so everyone benefits". He began as a civilian booking officer for the Bridgeport Police Dept. This gave him exposure to the population of offenders arrested for a wide range of offenses. Even then, Sid's instinct was to treat each one first as a person, and then as a person with a problem.

When he decided to become a police officer, he applied to Bridgeport and CT State Highway Patrol, and because of his friend Joe Sherbo, he also applied to HPD. In the end Hartford moved quicker than the others and in 2008, Sid signed on with HPD and began training at Stanford Police Academy.

Before coming to Asylum Hill, Sid worked as a beat officer in the North End where he got to know many of the residents. All of this was great training for his work here in Asylum Hill. As Asylum Hill's CSO he has connected with many of the residents, business owners and landlords as well as panhandlers, drug dealers and others with little regard for the law. In every case his goal is to keep them safe and within the law. Whether it's Hartford High students acting up or criminals robbing Craig's List buyers, he's always looking for solutions both short and long term. His newest solution is to have a few hundred trading cards printed with his picture on the front and 'stats" on the back including his cruiser number 155. He paid for them out of his own pocket, and passes them out to the young children that he meets. This, along with the hours he spends at PAL with the youngsters there goes a long way to making the future of Hartford and Asylum Hill a better safer place to live.

