



## *OFFICE OF THE CHIEF*

# *Special Acknowledgement*

The Richmond Police Department is honored to acknowledge the huge contribution Douglas Ellison made to the Department and the City of Richmond. When Officer Ellison was hired on November 1, 1946, there was only one other African American officer in a department of over one-hundred sworn personnel. His choice of service to the community, at a time when the department did not even come close to reflecting the diversity of the City, demonstrated his strong character and leadership qualities. These traits were further proven when he was promoted to the rank of sergeant by Chief Robert Murphy on April 17, 1967. Again, Sergeant Ellison was a trailblazer, assuming supervisory responsibilities at a time when equal treatment among the ranks was not assured. His accomplishments proved him to be a pioneer and a role model; and as a result, his picture is displayed in the Richmond Police Department Hall of Justice's hallway for all to see as an example of his strength of character.

Although times have changed considerably since the era of Sgt. Ellison's career, one dynamic has stayed the same. In order for an officer to have a successful career, they need the support and encouragement of their spouses and families. The nature of policing is to deal with people in crisis, who may be angry, or who have been victimized. Police officers see tragedies and hostilities which exist on a day to day basis. It takes a special person not to become jaded towards the human condition or to bring the stress of the job home with them. It is apparent that Sgt. Ellison had immense support as he continued his successful career after 20 years as a patrol officer.

The Richmond Police Department has had many milestones over the years. The Department celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in July 2009. This was a great opportunity to look back at the people and events which helped the organization develop over the last 100 years. Sergeant Douglas Ellison's service was important and ground-breaking for the community.

Today, the Richmond Police Department reflects the wonderful diversity of the Richmond community. Officers of every race and creed work side by side. The Department benefits from a diverse group of talented supervisors, including men and women who encompass a wide range of races, ethnicities, ages, and life experiences. The department's personnel continue to be its greatest asset. If Sergeant Ellison was a member of today's Department, leading a team of patrol officers, he would be proud to say he was a Richmond Police Officer.

The Richmond Police Department greatly appreciates what Sgt. Ellison and his family have done to make the Richmond Police Department and the City of Richmond a better place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Magnus".

Chief Chris Magnus

January 28, 2011