



# QUARTZSITE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **2016 A Year-In-Review with the Quartzsite Police Department**

12/22/2016

In January, QPD received a brand new Chevrolet Caprice patrol vehicle for crime prevention and criminal interdiction.

In March, Officer Janice Power was hired and joined the QPD Team. Officer Power is a veteran police officer with over twelve years of service in Arizona law enforcement.

In May, Officer Clifford Finch began his law enforcement career with QPD. Officer Finch was a recent graduate of the Western Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy in Lake Havasu City.

In June, the Quartzsite Police Department and the Arizona Attorney General's Office announced the arrest of 27-year-old Thomas Daniel on charges of First Degree Premeditated Murder and Arson. A State Grand Jury indicted Daniel for his alleged involvement in the murder of 65-year-old Linda Garrett, a long-time resident of Quartzsite.

In June, QPD partnered with Grey Mountain Construction LLC on a project to enhance traffic safety at the Quartzsite Elementary School. QPD Officers and Grey Mountain Construction workers donated their time, labor, equipment and materials to install speed bumps in the school parking lot.

In June, Chief H. Ernest Renfro retired from QPD.

In July, Officer Jason Beard joined the QPD Team. Officer Beard is a former Navy Combat Medic who served in Iraq and served six years as a peace officer in California.

In August, QPD held a Bicycle Safety Fair to promote bicycle safety and education at the Quartzsite Elementary School.

In September, William Ponce took charge as QPD's new Chief of Police.

In September and October, the Quartzsite Police Department with the assistance of the La Paz County Narcotics Taskforce and the La Paz County Sheriff's Office made numerous arrests in connection with illicit drug activity at the "Totem Swap Meet" located at 1130 West Main Street and other locations in Quartzsite. A total of nine adults were indicted on felony charges including Possession of Dangerous Drugs for Sale, Weapons Misconduct, Burglary, Theft, Vehicle Theft, Trafficking in Stolen Property, Tampering with Evidence and Conspiracy to Commit the previously mentioned crimes. As a direct result of this multi-agency cooperative effort, the Totem Swap Meet was vacated, demolished and is now under new ownership.

In October, the QPD Explorer Post 928 was established to educate the area youths (ages 14-20) in careers in public service.

In November, QPD K9 Wodan received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9's Inc., sponsored by Little Wolf Paracord of Rochester, NY.

In December, QPD is still actively investigating the disappearance of sixty-five year old Marie Brodine who has been missing since 2014.

**Town of Quartzsite Police**  
***"Our Community...Our Commitment"***