



June 26, 2023

On April 13, 1983, Grand Rapids Police Chief Harold Snyder approached City Council in hopes of establishing what he identified as a “volunteer, unpaid Reserved Police unit.” Chief Snyder detailed that due to budget restraints the department had become “understaffed and non-essential police services had been cut back.” Chief Snyder asked for six (6) Police Reserved Officers to fill the void, proposed roles, responsibilities, provided success stories from other area communities, and asked for a start-up budget of \$300 per Reserve Officer.

Mayor Vernon Sackett and the council unanimously passed the agenda item, and the official start of Grand Rapids Police Reserve Unit became a reality.

Juan Lazo was one of the original six Grand Rapids Police Reserve Officers in 1983. He was provided a badge number of #352 and has respectfully served this community tirelessly for the past forty years. He has represented this uniform, the department, and the profession with great honor. He has volunteered countless hours as a GRPD Police Reserve Officer helping provide a police presence at community events, high school athletics, police functions and whatever else the department has had a need for.

To dedicate forty years to anything is admirable. To dedicate forty years to a volunteer position shows an amazing passion and commitment. Juan Lazo’s forty-year commitment to this department and to the service we provide to this wonderful community is greatly appreciated. He certainly will be missed.

Thank you for your selfless service, Juan.

Andy Morgan
Grand Rapids Police Chief

