



For Immediate Release
March 9, 2022

Contact: Kristy Bansemer
788-1519/393-8549

Ben Ray Honored with Key to the City

Derby, Kansas – The granting of a Key to the City is an historic civic honor that reflects trust and friendship between the community and the holder of a key.

Ben Ray was honored with a Key to the City by Mayor Randy White at the March 8 City Council meeting. Ray became the 18th known recipient to be honored with a key to the City of Derby dating back to the 1970s.

“Ben Ray is a well-known and well-respected member of our community and is highly deserving of this honor,” said Mayor Randy White. “We can’t thank him enough for all he does for Derby.”

Ray serves as the head pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Derby and has coordinated the Derby Police Department Chaplain program for more than 15 years. He was also awarded the Derby Community Foundation Generosity Award in 2017 for his community mentoring and philanthropic efforts.

“Pastor Ray is truly a great man, pastor and community partner” said Robert Lee, Police Chief. “He never hesitates when asked to participate in a project, and we can always count on him to help. Derby is a better place because of him.”

Ray has been ingrained in many community activities over the years. Here are a few notable things:

- On call 24/7 for any issue a chaplain may be needed such as death notifications, comforting families experiencing loss, debriefing on critical incidents, etc.
- Sponsor of the annual Police Appreciation Banquet, which is popular with department members and their families. He works with local businesses to provide meals and door prizes for officers.
- Coordinates the Derby Ministerial Alliance, which is a key partner in our community policing efforts.
- Participates in promotional interview boards.
- Participates in ride-a-longs with police officers.
- Instrumental in launching the MyID program and provided \$900 for the first 100 packets of QR codes for the program through his church.

- more -

- Attended chaplain training to enhance his skills and promote networking with other chaplains.
- Served on a committee member to help with the Police Department's strategic plan.
- Led the effort to provide an alternate short-term place to stay for the victims of domestic violence in need of lodging. He provides vouchers for them to stay at local hotels should they be at risk by staying at home.
- Key community partner for the DPD as he is always willing to help and understands the vital role he plays in our community.

Other keyholders honored by the City of Derby include Chuck Warren (2020), Jack Pulley (2018), Dion Avello (2015), Ken Mulanax (2014), Jim Meidinger (2011), Jack Everson (1987), Keith "Ed" Fitz (1987), Police Chief J.R. Haga (1983), Robert Baker (1981), Lester Depperschmidt (1981), Oakie Payne (1981), Col. James "Cliff" Hughes (1980), Darrel Crosby (1980), Albert "Al" Dextras (1980), Larry Gould (1980), Polly Jones (1979), Norma Coles (1970s).

- end -