



October 2, 2018

Hawaii Native Brings the Aloha Spirit to Fontana



Fontana, Calif.- As a ray of sunshine, a bright smile and a positive spirit, this Training Specialist with the Fontana Police Department brings a little piece of Hawaii to Fontana. Say aloha to Lynndee Gomes, also known by her Hawaiian name Kaonohiokala, which translates to "Eye of the Sun."

Lilo and Stitch may have said, "Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten," but this saying rings true when it comes to Lynndee. "I get to work with the best of the best who take care of each other. For new employees: consider yourself part of the family," says Lynndee. To her coworkers, she is always willing to go above and beyond to help others, has a warm personality and radiates optimism - the very definition of the Aloha Spirit.

As the Training Specialist with the City of Fontana Police Department, Lynndee is responsible for handling training compliance for the sworn officers. Fontana officers must complete a minimum of 24 hours of Continued Professional Training in areas such as firearms, mental health and arrests. Lynndee coordinates these trainings, along with assessing training needs. "Training is a living, breathing, ever-changing entity that challenges me to use creative ideas to keep our training program fresh."

Come February, Lynndee will celebrate her fifth year with the City. However, she wasn't always set on a career with the police department. "I began my career in Hotel Management, not police work. I consider each day an accomplishment because this department pushes me to become the best and to think outside the box."

Born and raised in Hawaii, Lynndee first came to Fontana in 2007 when her brother moved to the City. The name Kaonohiokala came to Lynndee's mother during the pregnancy. "Someone visited [my mom] in a dream carrying this name and it stuck with her. At the time, my mom did not understand the connection to this individual, but after some extensive research through our genealogy, it turned out this spirit was a distant uncle in my 'Ohana," explains Lynndee.

Growing up, Lynndee enjoyed paddling canoe competitively from the age of 5 until 19. Her ancestors, both Hawaiian and Portuguese, worked on a sugar plantation. From the plantations, Hawaii became a melting pot of many different cultures. However, when Lynndee came to Fontana, she realized that "the Fontana community resembles Hawaii with its diverse culture and friendly environment. It was very easy for me to fit in."

Outside of work, Lynndee enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. Her dream after retirement with her husband is to travel the country in an RV.

Lynndee has been selected as the City of Fontana Employee Spotlight for the month of October based on nominations from her peers who describe her as "a positive and shining light in the police department."

To learn more about the career opportunities available at the Fontana Police Department, please visit www.fontana.org/125/Recruitment.