

Thursday 16 September 2010.

MAN CONVICTED FOR RANGER ASSAULT

A 26 year old man has been convicted and fined \$879 for assault against two City of Ryde Rangers.

The man pleaded guilty at the Ryde Local Court to one counts each of Offensive Behaviour and Use of Intimidation. The incident took place in August over the issue of parking in a No Stopping Zone on See Street, Meadowbank.

City of Ryde Manager – Regulatory Services, Leon Marskell, said: “This, and other recent successful prosecutions, sends a very clear message that violent and aggressive behaviour towards Council employees will not be tolerated by the Council, the Police or the Court.

In support of the prosecution, Superintendent Peter Marcon of Eastwood Area Command, said: “Rangers undertake important work in keeping our roads, school areas, shopping centres and parks safe for the community.

“The majority of the public supports the action of the Rangers, but that minority who act aggressively or violently towards Rangers should understand that we will take action to have the matter brought before the Court and prosecuted to the fullest extent.”

The City of Ryde has adopted a zero tolerance approach to workplace violence against Rangers following a Council report that revealed Rangers are subject to verbal abuse on a daily basis with at least 350 individual incidents of abuse or assaults occurring in the past 12 months. Of these, seven serious incidents resulted in the Ranger being physically assaulted.

Details of a recent survey carried out by the United Services Union, showed a worrying picture of physical and psychological injuries or illnesses sustained by Council Rangers as a result of their work.

United Services Union Survey Extract : 39 Councils provided the following information:

Detail of illnesses or injuries resulting from violence, aggression or other forms of abuse by members of the public	Number of councils
Broken/fractured or dislocated bones	2
Cuts	10
Bruises or swelling	16
Head or facial injuries	9
Internal injuries	3
Anxiety or depression	27
All of the above	2
Other – specified e.g. glass splinters in the eye, shoulder charging, minor assault, stress from verbal abuse, muscular injury, scratches etc.	8
Unknown	2

Note: some Councils indicated officers had received multiple injuries and 2 Councils indicated that all the injuries listed had been experienced by staff.
http://www.usu.org.au/usu/artman/publish/article_1238.shtml

Photo Opportunity:

**Friday 17 September 2010, 11.00am, Eastwood Police Station
City of Ryde Manager – Regulatory Services Leon Marskell,
Superintendent Peter Marcom, Eastwood Area Command, Acting
Superintendent Linda Howlett of Gladesville Area Command**

Media contact:

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