



Somerset Police Department

Public Information Office

Lt. Allan Coomer • Det. Shannon Smith
400 E. Mt. Vernon Street P. O. Box 1017 Somerset, KY 42502
Phone (606) 678-5176 Fax (606) 678-9239



News Release
SSNR09190801
September 19, 2008

SPD Adds Limited English Liaison to Staff

The Somerset Police Department has recently hired a Limited English Liaison (LEL) to narrow the language gap between them and foreign nationals.

Perla A. Mayfield is a 2003 graduate of Pulaski County High School, and was born in Saltillo, Coahuila in Mexico.

She has previously worked as a Spanish translator for the Administrative Office of the Courts before joining the police department.

The Limited English Liaison position will assist Somerset police officers and detectives by providing translating services for suspects, but most importantly to victims of crimes. Mayfield will assist with SPD's Crime Victim's Advocate program in ensuring victims' needs are met after a crime has occurred.

As the city and region become more diverse, police departments find themselves without reliable translators in crisis situations involving non-English speaking residents. Having a translator on staff has become a standard in the education, industrial, and medical communities.

The addition of the LEL will be on a part-time basis, with 24-hour availability to officers needing translation.

In preparation, Mayfield is helping the police department in translating many of the forms and papers into Spanish for when the need arises.