



ANTHONY QUIMBO

— CLASS OF 2009 —

For Anthony Quimbo, Class of 2009, his desire to join the San Francisco Police Department can be traced to his high school days at Riordan.

“There was that sense of brotherhood that the police department had that definitely correlated to the brotherhood from the hallways at Riordan,” Quimbo said. “It was a no brainer.”

Quimbo has served on the force for four years now, and said he’s “experienced everything that you could possibly think of.” But his favorite moments from the job come from serving the community.

Quimbo recalled an instance in the Fillmore District at an event called Peace Hoops, a local recreational basketball event for the children in the area, where participants reported feeling unsafe. Quimbo said police officers from his district station came down to the event, to shoot hoops and provide a protecting presence for the children.

“A lot of the parents thanked us for being there and just having a presence so their kids can just focus on playing basketball,” Quimbo said.

Because of Quimbo’s commitment to protecting the community, serving others and having a good attitude – he was named Officer of the Year for 2022 for the San Francisco Police Department.

“I was shocked,” Quimbo said when he heard the news that he’d been selected to receive the award. “There are a lot of good officers in the department, so to hear that your name was selected above other people who you recognize as good officers – it was very humbling.”

Quimbo said his experience at Riordan shaped him into the man and the officer that he is today.

“Pride, purpose and performance – that’s still ingrained in me,” he said.

As a member of SFPD, Quimbo said he has pride in the badge and the uniform that he wears. He is mindful that his purpose is to serve others in the best way possible. And because he has pride and purpose in his work, the highest level of performance at his role comes naturally.

“What I learned at Riordan led me to where I am now,” he said. “Without the Riordan experience, I wouldn’t

have nearly the same amount of accomplishments as I do now.”

Being an active Crusader didn’t end after Quimbo got his diploma. In fact, he returned to lead multiple Kairos retreats for Riordan seniors years after graduating.

Quimbo said his Kairos experience “was very, very powerful. And I wanted other people to experience that too.”

Quimbo also named Mr. Michael Vezzali, Coach Liam Watters, Coach Frank Oross and Mr. Frank Ross as teachers at Riordan who helped shape him into the man that he is today.

Since Quimbo started on the force four years ago, he said that he’s heard his fair share of taunts and insults because of his uniform. However, Quimbo said that he doesn’t let the negativity bother him because he understands his main objective in his job is to help people.

“I’m Officer Quimbo, but I like to introduce myself as Anthony. I wear the uniform because it’s part of the job, but I’m not above you. You’re not below me. We’re equals and I will do what I can to help you,” Quimbo said.

He said “helping people” in his job happens in many different ways – including responding to traffic collisions, comforting victims and their families, and sometimes being a social worker.

On one occasion, Quimbo had to talk a man down from a ledge on a 10-story apartment. Quimbo said that he

came up to the roof and had a five hour conversation with the man about life, his struggles and reasons to keep on living.

“You just try and talk to them from a person-to-person level and help them realize that although you’re sad right now, and you’re going through whatever you’re going through, it will always get better,” he said.

Quimbo said that he was able to talk the man down from the ledge and get him checked out at a hospital where he would get the mental health support that he needs.

“It starts (at Riordan),”

Quimbo said. “Your work ethic, and how you handle situations, starts there at Riordan. Once you get a good grasp of what you want to do and what interests you – keep hold of it and it’ll help guide you to your future.”

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