



*Fourth Annual
Attorney General's Award
for Distinguished Service in Policing*

2020





Honoring and supporting the work of law enforcement is a top priority for the President of the United States, and it is an opportunity for me to personally express my gratitude and commitment to those who risk their lives daily to protect our communities.

Earlier this year, I was pleased to announce the fourth annual Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing, which honors individual state, local, and tribal sworn rank-and-file police officers, deputies, and troopers for exceptional efforts in innovative community policing strategies, criminal investigations, and field operations that have proven effective in enforcing our laws. This noble work far too often goes unacknowledged, but through this award we seek to highlight the importance of policing and the vital public service that our nation's law enforcement personnel provide.

On behalf of the entire U.S. Department of Justice and the American people we are privileged to serve, I thank our country's law enforcement officers for their exceptional work that embodies the principles of innovative policing and the spirit of the award. I am proud to have the opportunity to honor those who ensure we have a safer, more secure, and more just nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W.P. Barr".

William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States







ABOUT THE AWARDS

Criminal Investigations. Examples in this category include solving a particularly difficult case such as a cold-case homicide investigation, conducting a comprehensive gang or drug investigation that results in the disruption and dismantling of a known gang responsible for significant violence in the community, using creative and collaborative investigation techniques to apprehend a prolific burglary or serial robbery suspect, working in collaboration with the community on an investigation, or developing an effective program or strategy that increases the department's criminal case clearance rates.

Field Operations. Examples in this category include heroic, quick, innovative, or otherwise exceptional police work in partnership with other officers, agencies, or the community to make a significant arrest or solve a noteworthy case or community problem; solving a particularly challenging crime through community partnerships and the use of stellar preliminary investigation techniques; working with other officers, agencies, or the community to effectively enforce violations of state or federal criminal laws impacting the community including immigration and violent offenses (including drug trafficking and firearm crimes); and working to abate neighborhood blight and reduce crime, engaging at-risk youth to reduce crime and victimization and build trust, or successfully using de-escalation techniques to resolve a potentially violent situation such as a suicide, a person in a mental health crisis or struggling with substance abuse, a hostage situation, or a barricaded suspect.





Innovations in Community Policing. Examples in this category include engaging in significant problem-solving activities; creating productive community partnerships; or implementing new policing programs or initiatives that have led to reductions in violent crime or have had a significant impact on public safety problems, building and enhancing trust, or respect for police and community satisfaction. The ideal nominee for this award promotes public safety through a dedication to innovative policing strategies to reduce violent crime such as human trafficking, gun crime, drug trafficking, and gang violence.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing would not be possible without the active participation of representatives from the following organizations and agencies:

- Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, U.S. Department of Justice
- Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice
- Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Department of Justice
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- Information Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)





- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of the Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Partner Engagement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. Department of Justice Libraries
- U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Justice





LARGE – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Kenneth Williams

Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, D.C.)

Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



Between 1991 and 1998, an unknown person known as the Potomac River Rapist terrorized two jurisdictions as he brutally preyed upon and attacked at least 10 women across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. The first attack, in May 1991, was the sexual assault of a 32-year-old woman who had just returned home; the last, in August 1998, was the abduction, assault, and murder of a 28-year-old woman in Georgetown. For 20 years, Metropolitan Police Department Detective Kenneth “Todd” Williams—along with colleagues in neighboring Montgomery County, Maryland, as well as federal law enforcement—exhausted investigative leads, conducted interviews, and participated in searches. They had the suspect’s DNA but no match to a known individual. Finally, using genetic genealogy as an investigative tool, they identified the attacker and used forensic evidence to locate the assailant in the small town of Conway, South Carolina. The suspect had lived in Maryland at the time the crimes were committed, and he was soon taken into custody by local authorities and extradited to Washington, D.C.





Detective Williams is currently a member of the Metropolitan Police Department's Investigative Services Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, Major Case / Cold Case Unit. His diligent efforts, unwavering commitment to justice, and innovative use of technology as part of a criminal investigation led to the capture of this serial rapist, bringing closure to the survivors and the victims' families and making the community safer.





Special Agent Ryan Kedley

Iowa Department of Public Safety

Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



In February 2018, the former brother-in-law of an Iowa Barnstormers Youth Basketball Amateur Athletic Union coach discovered a covert video recording device in the coach's residence in Monticello, Iowa. The brother-in-law handed in the device to the Monticello Police Department, which soon contacted the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The DCI initiated an investigation led by

Special Agent Ryan Kedley.

Over the course of the following months, Kedley orchestrated a massive investigation, assigning leads to and overseeing the work product of dozens of sworn DCI personnel and Division of Intelligence analysts as well as several Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and local sworn law enforcement. In one of the largest sexual exploitation investigations in state history, Kedley's team determined that for nearly two decades, the coach had been secretly amassing a digital collection of thousands of videos and photos of his players and their friends. In all, he is known to have victimized more than 400 young men and sexually assaulted at least 15. It is strongly believed more young men were victimized, but those individuals remain anonymous and unknown to law enforcement.





On May 2, 2019, the coach was sentenced to 180 years in federal prison—the maximum possible term for the charges he faced. This would not have happened had it not been for Special Agent Kedley’s investigative skills, determination, and leadership.





MEDIUM – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Bryan Bennett, Detective Ty Deichert, Detective Fred Longobricco, and Detective Ian Ranshaw

Thornton Police Department (Colorado)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



On January 15, 2018, Walmart alerted the Thornton Police Department that they were investi-

gating a scheme involving stolen credit card information being used on Walmart digital wallet accounts. The out-of-state suspects would load various amounts of money onto the Walmart wallet accounts and use that money to purchase gift cards from Walmart stores in Colorado. Confidence schemes targeting senior citizens were the sources of millions of dollars of fraudulently obtained funds being laundered and sold as gift cards overseas.

Detective Ty Deichert identified criminals' use of gift cards as a novel form of currency largely untraceable by law enforcement; identified a key subject of the investigation; and coordinated and led several surveillance operations of the subject. Detective Fred Longobricco conducted numerous interviews of elderly victims of the scheme.





He also obtained a photograph used to convince unidentified overseas subjects that U.S. law enforcement had not yet detected their activities. Detective Bryan Bennett conducted multiple trash investigations of a main subject's residence. He authored more than a dozen warrants and participated in the reassembly of dozens of shredded gift cards allowing for their tracing to East Asia. Detective Ian Ranshaw assisted with multiple trash runs, assisted with authoring multiple warrants, and conducted hundreds of hours of surveillance. These detectives' networking skills and relentless spirit took this investigation from a local case to an international case investigated in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. State Department.

In December 2019, two defendants pleaded guilty and 25 more defendants—both in and out of the country—are being monitored. In January 2020, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado specifically listed the City of Thornton Economic Crimes Unit as having provided substantial assistance to the FBI in this investigation.





SMALL – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Ryan Flood, Officer Vance Henning, Jr., and Investigator Denny Vokes

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office (Wisconsin)

Fond du Lac Police Department (Wisconsin)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



In 2008, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, began experiencing an increase in shooting, illegal gun, drug, and gang-associated incidents. Detective Ryan Flood, Officer Vance Henning, Jr., and Investigator Denny Vokes built a task

force coalition with regional and federal agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. They identified more than 50 active armed participants in illegal drug trade activities in and around Fond du Lac, many of whom had criminal gang ties to Milwaukee or Chicago.

ATF agents also assisted the officers in identifying several active participants in firearm straw purchasing. The investigation revealed that residents of Fond du Lac were purchasing firearms and exchanging them for illegal drugs. The firearms were then used for criminal activities in Milwaukee and Chicago. The officers have led the coordination of hundreds of hours of surveillance and interviews and dozens of warrant executions and arrests. The number of suspects has increased to 67, of whom 35 have been arrested and charged, with many additional arrests and indictments pending.





As the officers' efforts progressed, numerous others were arrested for drug-related conspiracy charges unrelated to weapons. These cases involve the disruption of networks distributing cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, including the largest single heroin seizure in the history of Fond du Lac.

The Fond du Lac Police Department and the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office have been reassuring the community that they were committing every possible resource to investigating the growing number of shooting incidents. Building community support for and confidence and trust in law enforcement is critical for any law enforcement agency. The efforts of the nominated officers have been instrumental in helping the police department and the sheriff's office remove significant amounts of illegal drugs, guns, and violent criminals from city streets and deliver on those critical promises to the community.





LARGE – FIELD OPERATIONS

Officer Sherrelle Mitchell and Officer Felix Rivera

Philadelphia Police Department (Pennsylvania)

Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



On August 3, 2019, at approximately 8:30 p.m., police were monitoring a large party when Officer Felix Rivera heard multiple gunshots come from the rear yard of the location. Rivera immediately radioed requesting “Assist Officer” and rushed toward where the gunshots came from. Upon arrival in the rear yard, Officer

Sherrelle Mitchell, responding to the “Assist Officer” call, located a female victim suffering from a gunshot wound to her left upper thigh and bleeding profusely. Additional responding officers located a second victim who was struck by gunfire but was not as severely injured; she was transported to Jefferson Torresdale Hospital.

Officer Mitchell attempted to apply a tourniquet to the first victim, but because she was losing so much blood, she and Officer Rivera decided to place her in the back of their vehicle. Rivera drove in emergency mode, with Mitchell and the victim in the rear, to Jefferson Torresdale Hospital. Mitchell was finally able to successfully apply a tourniquet and dramatically slow down the bleeding but then observed the victim lose consciousness. Mitchell checked for a pulse and breathing and found none, so she began CPR.





After two full cycles of both rescue breathing and chest compressions, the victim regained consciousness and Officer Mitchell felt a pulse and observed her breathing—while still en route to the hospital, the victim stopped breathing again. After a second round of CPR, Mitchell got the victim breathing again and detected a pulse. At this point, Rivera arrived at the hospital, where the officers removed the victim from the vehicle and she was rushed into the emergency room for surgery.

Officer Mitchell and Officer Rivera performed heroic acts and applied techniques that saved a human life.





MEDIUM – FIELD OPERATIONS

Officer Natalie Eucce and Corporal Seay-Peter Floyd

Fayetteville Police Department (Arkansas)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



On December 7, 2019, at approximately 9:40 p.m., Officer Stephen Carr was sitting in his patrol unit in the parking lot of the Fayetteville Police Department, waiting for his partner, Officer Natalie Eucce, who was inside speaking with one of their supervisors, Sergeant James Jennings. A suspect approached from the rear of the vehicle and shot Officer Carr in the head 10 times, killing him.

As the suspect walked away, he continued to fire at Officer Carr's vehicle and another unoccupied patrol vehicle in the parking lot. Corporal Seay-Peter Floyd heard the shots and observed the suspect shooting at Officer Carr's vehicle. Without hesitation and with no regard for his own safety, Floyd immediately exited the building and confronted the suspect. Floyd fired his handgun at the suspect as the suspect moved to cover.

Officer Eucce and Sergeant Jennings also heard the shots. They immediately responded to assist Corporal Floyd. All three ran toward the threat to engage the suspect, who hid in a dark alleyway alongside the police department. The three officers moved with precision, giving them a tactical advantage when they located the suspect. The still-armed suspect emerged from the alleyway and advanced on the officers. Eucce and Floyd fired, striking the suspect multiple times. Officers attempted lifesaving measures, but the suspect died at the scene.





The suspect was carrying nearly 100 rounds of ammunition. His full intentions are unknown, but most of the incident was captured on video and showed him reloading his firearm after shooting Officer Carr; it is believed his purpose was to murder more police officers. No connection could be found between Officer Carr and his killer; an investigation into the suspect's background has shown he had anti-police sentiments and ideologies.

Corporal Floyd and Officer Eucce demonstrated great courage in the face of danger that night. They moved into the line of fire and located and stopped a murderer before he could harm anyone else. If it had not been for their bravery, courage, and valor, many more lives might have been lost.





SMALL – FIELD OPERATIONS

Sergeant Jason Thien

Curry County Sheriff's Office (Oregon)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



A widespread manhunt involving authorities in Oregon and California along with the U.S. Marshals Service was concluded on May 22, 2020 around 5:00 p.m., when Curry County Deputy Jason Thien (since promoted to sergeant) arrested a 41-year-old man from Bakersfield, California. The man was arrested on a homicide warrant following an incident in Kern County, California, in February 2020. His criminal

history includes attempted murder, robbery, and battery on a peace officer. He was found to have family connections in Portland, Oregon, and the Oregon State Police alerted the Curry County Sheriff's Office to his warrant and potential presence in Oregon. All Curry County patrol deputies and detectives were notified of this information, but one deputy took it upon himself to go the extra mile to keep his community safe.

Deputy Thien used every resource available to the sheriff's office (including social media, criminal justice information, property ownership records, and Trans Union resources) to identify associates and a potential location for the suspect. He coordinated a covert approach on the property and worked in cooperation with other deputies and the Oregon State Police to locate and apprehend the suspect safely and without incident. The suspect was booked into the Curry County Jail and will be returned to California to face charges.





Deputy Thien would say he was just doing his job when he tracked down and led the capture of this fugitive. What he would not say is that he generally works alone on day shift providing service to the entire 1,600-square mile county and more than eighty miles of the Pacific Coast Highway, which attracts people from all around the world. Thien does not let a stack of pending reports to be written bog him down or distract him from the important work of taking care of people with a smile on his face. This man of character and compassion makes his agency proud and challenges everyone to be better deputies and neighbors.

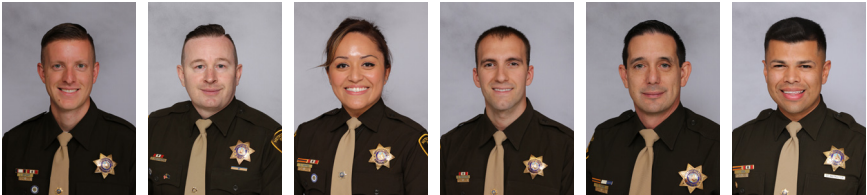




LARGE – INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

**Officer James Bryant, Detective Traves Humpherys,
Officer Darling Mapes, Officer Strahinja Pavlovic, Detective
David Shive, and Officer Luis Vidal**

*Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Nevada)
Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*



It is proven that youth sports play a vital role in children's success in school academics and in life. The youth in the Bolden community historically had low graduation rates and academic success. Bolden Area Command (BAC) was also known as one of the most difficult communities in Las Vegas for the police to build trust. A local merchant had the idea to create a free fully accredited baseball league for the youth living in the community and ask police officers to coach the teams for an entire season. The idea became Bolden Little League (BLL).

The league began in the spring of 2017 with five teams comprising 70 children between 8 and 10 years old. As relationships between police officer coaches and the children and their families strengthened, the league expanded in 2018 to 11 teams and 145 children and in 2019 to 14 teams and 186 children.





The age range also increased, allowing children from the ages of 6 to 12. Even with the increase in size, the league remained free for the families. The league focused on reducing violent crime by building trust and positively affecting the children and families who lived near the ballpark. The 2019 season of BLL was extremely successful: The neighborhoods surrounding the park saw a 76% reduction in violent crime from 2018 to 2019.

The BAC Community Oriented Policing (COP) unit and Detective David Shive were vital in ensuring the league continued to operate and grow, but every officer involved in BLL was vital to its success. It was extremely demanding and difficult to ensure a fully accredited and cost-free Little League but hundreds of families and the community were positively impacted by the relationships built between the officers and the children. There may be no greater way to mentor children than by spending four months teaching them the hard work and discipline required to play baseball. BLL has been one of the best examples of how to truly partner with the community.





MEDIUM – INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Officer Philip Smith

Evansville Police Department (Indiana)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



Officer Philip Smith is the special projects coordinator for the Evansville Police Department. He has created an atmosphere in the community that helps every officer in this department be relatable and approachable to maintain a great partnership. Since Smith has been engaging the community on social media, page views have grown by the thousands. Evansville is a city of around 117,000;

the department Facebook page has more than 45,000 subscribers and the Twitter account has more than 18,000 followers. Smith is the main reason for this engagement.

Officer Smith's social media activity includes weekly videos celebrating different officers and community members, nationally trending videos that he passes along, and photos and clips of police and kids on department-sponsored trips to theme parks. He also helped create the department's breast cancer awareness fundraiser and established a program where salons and barbershops host officers for informal chats with their patrons. All this community outreach engages the public and brings more attention and communication to the department. When the department posts a news release, explains an officer involved shooting, or asks the public for help in recognizing a criminal, there are many people it can immediately reach out to now because of his influence. Most importantly, his efforts in doing all this demonstrates the character of the agency.





Officer Smith is a husband, father, police officer, elementary basketball coach, and member of several boards in the city. Most of all he is a community member who cares, and he cares to show the rest how those in uniform are just the same.





SMALL – INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Officer Sally Landrum

*Willingboro Police Department (New Jersey)
Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



In August 2019, the Willingboro Police Department selected Officer Sally Landrum as its inaugural Community Engagement Officer. Landrum had no precedents to follow; she essentially helped define what the position was each day she came to work. Her one goal was to build trust and legitimacy by engaging residents of all backgrounds in positive nonenforcement interactions.

Officer Landrum was instantly effective in this new role. She quickly earned the respect of local religious leaders and community organizations. She was able to create new ways for the police department have positive engagement with populations that are particularly vulnerable to crime such as children, older adults, and homeless people. Her initiatives include recruitment events; story times where police read to children at the local library; anti-drug programs in the schools; toiletry drives for homeless community members; telephone scam and mail fraud training presentations for older adults; breast and prostate cancer awareness campaigns; Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach efforts; food, coat, and toy drives; a partnership with a local store where kids can earn frozen drinks for being good citizens; a resiliency program for officers in distress; and a community service diversion program for young offenders.





Officer Landrum is the Willingboro Police Department's best resource for building trust and legitimacy through positive nonenforcement interactions in this diverse community. She has become an integral part of the community and she has been inundated with requests from community groups and churches for her attendance at their events. Recently the president of one local organization publicly praised her in a community meeting and nicknamed her "Can-do Sally" because she has become a driving force in the betterment of the community.





Detective Archie Lidey

Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (Oregon)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



In 2012, Josephine County, Oregon, suffered a funding crisis: Sheriff's office staffing was reduced to 40-hour coverage, and only life-threatening calls for service were answered. The Josephine County Jail was reduced to minimum staffing, limiting the number of offenders that could be housed. Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) officers issued citations to most criminal offenders instead of custodial arrest.

Detective Archie Lidey began working to solve the significant funding crisis. Lidey holds an Advanced Police Certification and has had a long and accomplished career as an officer; he has been serving with the GPDPS since 2002. As the funding crisis crippled Josephine County, he rallied numerous people in a grassroots effort to find and maintain funding for the criminal justice system. Initially, the effort was to find and pass levies; Lidey was then a founding member of a local nonprofit, Securing Our Safety (SOS), formed specifically to overcome the law enforcement-funding crisis. In 2014, Detective Lidey organized the Run for the Law 5k for SOS. This walk/run event began with 300 participants and grew to more than 700 participants in 2020. From 2017-2019, Lidey and SOS raised more than \$60,000 to complete a comprehensive independent study of justice and law enforcement programs in Josephine County.





In 2015, Detective Lidey and SOS formed a nonprofit called Grace Roots, the goal of which is to establish a residential treatment center for people with addictions. He was also key in establishing the Grants Pass Treatment Center (GPTC), a methadone and suboxone treatment program for substance abuse addiction. Before GPTC, Josephine County did not have a facility, and more than 200 people suffering from addiction traveled an average of 45 minutes every day; now, more than 300 patients visit the center daily for medication.

Since 2013, Detective Lidey has coordinated special events with a gross revenue and charitable contributions of approximately \$324,000. His persistence in problem solving and engaging the community has led to numerous positive changes.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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