



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

*COMPENDIUM OF AWARD RECIPIENTS*





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## ABOUT THE AWARDS

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The **Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing** recognizes individual state, local, or tribal sworn rank-and-file, non-supervisory police officers and deputies for exceptional efforts in innovative policing strategies, criminal investigations, and field operations that have proven effective in enforcing our laws.

Within and across this country's more than 18,000 local law enforcement agencies, individual rank-and-file officers and deputies serve important and invaluable roles in the communities they serve by practicing proven policing strategies that are effective. The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to supporting initiatives and opportunities that reflect the enormous importance of law enforcement officers and deputies to keep this great nation's communities safe and make them even safer.

The winning officer(s) or deputy and deputies will have demonstrated active exceptional performance in one of three areas:

1. Innovations in Community Policing
2. Criminal Investigations
3. Field Operations

By distinguishing and rewarding these efforts, the Department of Justice strives to promote and sustain its national commitment to policing and to advance policing practices that are fair and effective.

Within each category, awards will be given to law enforcement agencies serving small, medium, and large jurisdictions:

- Small: Agencies serving populations fewer than 50,000
- Medium: Agencies serving populations 50,000 to 250,000
- Large: Agencies serving populations over 250,000

Following are examples of eligible activities for each award area. Nominations are not limited to these specific activities; however, the nominated activity should exemplify policing and problem-solving principles.





**Innovations in Community Policing.** Examples in this category include engaging in significant problem-solving activities, the creation of productive community partnerships, or the implementation of new policing programs or initiatives that have a significant impact on public safety problems, building and enhancing trust, or respect for police and community satisfaction or have led to reductions in violent crime. 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.

**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.





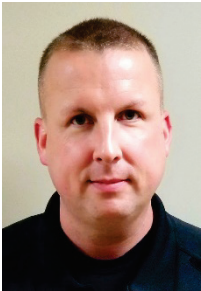
## INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

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### **Officer Andy Dobbins and Officer Curt Vajgrt—2016**

*Urbandale Police Department (Iowa)*

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



In 2009, Urbandale Police Department (UPD) Chief Ross McCarty asked his staff to develop and introduce a behavior-based educational program focused on social issues and pressures being placed on youth today as well as teaching the importance of character, integrity, and community.

A basic framework for Chief McCarty's new Culture of Integrity program was developed in the Support Services Division but was never finalized for implementation. In June of 2014, Officers Andy Dobbins and Curt Vajgrt were tasked with finalizing this framework and moving it to implementation. Officers Dobbins and Vajgrt took on this challenge with a positive and creative mindset along with the drive to get it ready for implementation at the Urbandale Middle School in the 2014–2015 school year. Officer Dobbins demonstrated exceptional computer skills and creativity during the early developmental phases. Officer Vajgrt brought a vast amount of experience regarding classroom instruction and student interaction, having been a former Urbandale School Resource Officer (SRO). The officers worked collaboratively to develop this program. Officers Dobbins and Vajgrt managed all of the details regarding the development of the Culture of Integrity program. They organized the content of the workbooks to be used by their students, which included a pre-test and post-test. They worked with an art teacher at the Urbandale High School in the design and creation of a logo to be used on the workbooks and t-shirts. They worked with school officials to get approval of the proposed curriculum and to coordinate a schedule to teach the program.

In the fall of 2014, the UPD introduced the Culture of Integrity program at the Urbandale Middle School to develop and maintain communication with today's youth. During the first year of instruction, Officers Dobbins and Vajgrt co-taught the class. The goal of the program was to develop and maintain communication with youth regarding current issues by having local law enforcement officers teach the program. Those issues are presented within four core topic areas: bullying, social media, personal safety through good choices, and keys to success.

Once the four core topics have been covered, high school students are brought in for a mentor day. Mentors express the importance of integrity, why character counts, and what it means to them. Mentor day concludes with the mentors covering the issue of peer pressure and assisting in proctoring the post-test. The program is concluded with a graduation day, where students are given a Culture of Integrity t-shirt. During the first year of the Culture of Integrity program, approximately 250 students took the course.



Because of the program's success at the Urbandale Middle School and celebrated reputation within the education community in Urbandale, the Culture of Integrity program was expanded for the 2015-2016 school year.

The feedback from school officials, students, and community members in regard to the Culture of Integrity program has been extremely positive, which resulted in the expansion of the program to two additional schools. It is anticipated that more than 500 students will take the Culture of Integrity course by the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The success of this program is a direct reflection on the dedication and efforts of Officer Andy Dobbins and Officer Curt Vajgrt. Chief McCarty's vision was to instill selected core values in youth through the Culture of Integrity program. Officers Dobbins and Vajgrt took this vision and have made it into a reality.





## Sergeant Sean Crotty—2018

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



Sergeant Sean Crotty of the Little Egg Harbor Police Department is the school resource officer at the local high school. His main responsibility is the protection of the school community. However, he also takes on the arguably greater role of getting involved with students, shaping the way they view law enforcement, and helping mold them into productive community members. He shares with students the dangers of illicit drugs, underage drinking, drunk driving, and the inappropriate use of social media. His interactions include memorable demonstrations and activities as well. For example, he has the senior class wear “drunk goggles” and drive golf carts through a course to show the dangers of underage drinking and drunk driving. In addition, he has traveled with the school’s Lead and Seed program to local liquor stores educating business owners on the dangers of selling alcohol to underage persons.

While Sergeant Crotty’s “beat” is the high school, this does not limit him to creating relationships with the younger students in the community.

In his years with the department, Sergeant Crotty started a Junior Police Academy for middle school students, enhanced free Police Athletic League (PAL) programs, and added a Junior Police Explorers program.

Sergeant Crotty is also very involved with the agency’s Coffee with a Cop program; he holds Coffee with a Cop events approximately once a month in local businesses throughout his township. He ensures that a wide variety of locations are selected to allow officers to interact with the broadest possible segments of the community. This program allows the police department to hear directly from community members regarding problems so that they can be addressed efficiently.

Most recently, Sergeant Crotty attended training and received his certificate as a Police Chaplain. As part of these duties, he developed a program to have local churches interact to foster understanding and to create open dialogue with one another to share ideas and concerns. He has also held active shooter seminars along with the New Jersey Department of Justice to educate the religious community on the importance of being prepared for these incidents.

Sergeant Crotty has fostered a large number of relationships throughout his community. These relationships are intertwined and directly related, from facilitating local community interactions with their police department to addressing the fears of local churchgoers and school officials; his youth-related efforts range from enabling children to attend PAL and police events to having those children grow to become Police Explorers, student leaders, and productive citizens. Sergeant Crotty has developed an effective community policing web where he helps foster an entire community network of sharing, collaborating, and helping one another.





## Sergeant Audrey Mazzuca—2016

*Gainesville Police Department (Florida)*

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



In 2013, Sergeant Audrey Mazzuca began to recognize the disproportionate number of youth of color being arrested in the Gainesville community. Sergeant Mazzuca, working alongside many community stakeholders, spearheaded a set of comprehensive programs to change the traditional approach to youth engagement.

Sergeant Mazzuca was instrumental in the development of police-youth dialogues, a program to eliminate school-based arrests and reduce overall arrests, a comprehensive system of care, and a summer enrichment program. She instituted changes in school policies that discouraged arrests and encouraged officers and school administrators to develop accountability solutions that did not include arrests. Her first priority was to recommend that the Gainesville police stop arresting students who were suspended from school and on probation, as school attendance is usually a condition of probation. This practice was stopped, and instead officers are now working together with school staff and juvenile probation officers to implement various alternatives to arrest. This resulted in a 79 percent reduction in on-campus arrests in 2015.

Sergeant Mazzuca extended her collaborations to include trauma awareness training for both officers and school officials. Sergeant Mazzuca currently leads more than 40 community leaders in a monthly group dedicated to providing a comprehensive system of care. She was able to convince the school board to take a leadership role in the system of care. This program provides wrap-around services to youth that include mental health services, food, therapy, drug abuse, counseling, and life skills. Currently there are more than 65 students and their families enrolled in this program.

In the summer of 2015, Sergeant Mazzuca recognized the need for immediate services and attention for the most at-risk youth in her community. She identified 13 African-American teenagers whose lives were on a negative trajectory. These young people were all gang members; most were in danger of dropping out of school; and many had already been sent off to detention or placement centers for extensive periods of time. They had all experienced some combination of arrests, school expulsions, a lack of parent or familial support, poverty, unresolved mental health issues, trauma, and overall adverse childhood experiences.

Sergeant Mazzuca embraced these youth by providing them with hope and opportunity. Sergeant Mazzuca developed a summer enrichment program that included vocational training, community service, life skills, and other activities. She accompanied them to the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College, where they met and were exposed to the lives of other young adults. In addition, Sergeant Mazzuca challenged them to give back to their community and their neighborhoods, and they came up with the idea of cleaning up a specific neighborhood. With help from waste management, they spent an entire day wearing safety vests, picking up trash, raking leaves, and removing blighted objects. The program lasted the entire summer. For two







and a half months, these youth experienced life as many other kids experience it. They did not get in trouble; they did not belong to a gang; they received positive attention; and they genuinely believed that someone cared about them.

Many of these youth redirected their lives as a result of this program, staying in school and out of trouble. Some have obtained high school diplomas and are now employed.

Through Sergeant Audrey Mazzuca's passion, leadership, and vision, the Gainesville Police Department reduced barriers between police officers and youth. She has forever impacted the lives of countless students and in doing so has improved the quality of life and public safety of the entire Gainesville community.





## Detective Michael Rastetter—2018

*Canton Police Department (Ohio)*

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



Detective Michael Rastetter's work with those suffering from opioid addiction has set him apart even among a department full of dedicated officers continuously looking for innovative ways to serve their community. Recently, that community has been hit hard by the opioid crisis—2016 was the worst year in Canton's history, with 49 opioid-related deaths, and the worst year in Stark County's history, with 102 opioid-related deaths. Canton accounted for 48 percent of all opioid-related overdoses (fatal and nonfatal) in Stark County in 2016.

In June 2017, the Canton Police Department began a collaboration with two local mental health and addiction recovery agencies and put together a team consisting of a nurse, a social worker, and a vice detective. Using report analysis, the team created lists of all individuals who overdosed in the city and survived, then visited each person to offer services. Detective Rastetter was assigned to be the point person of this quick response team, which was called the Stark Outreach Support (SOS) team.

Detective Rastetter's compassion and professionalism help him make real connections with people who are suffering with addiction. He shows great compassion when working with opioid addicts and their families. He partners with other professionals to guide individuals through the detox, treatment, and rehab process. He meets with neighbors who report drug activity and discusses the need for long-term intervention rather than eviction, and he has been able to stop those complaints from building.

In the year following the introduction of SOS in June 2017, the team attempted 170 outreaches. They engaged 70 overdose survivors and 33 family members. The team has linked 30 individuals with rehabilitation services, provided 19 Naloxone kits, and made 67 referrals to other professionals.

The statistical decline in opioid-related overdoses since the team was put in place has been dramatic: Canton had only 20 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2017, a reduction of nearly 60 percent. In addition, there were 19 percent fewer nonfatal opioid overdoses in Canton in 2017 than in 2016. In 2017, Canton only accounted for 27 percent of all Stark County opioid-related overdose deaths—half the 2016 rate. These reductions came at a time when the state of Ohio had the third-highest rate of fatal overdoses in the country and when the state was experiencing a 35 percent year-on-year increase in drug overdoses according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SOS has been recognized statewide as an example of a successful collaboration between police and community partners and is currently being replicated by the Stark County Sheriff's Office.





## Officer Scott Clinger and Officer Lawrence Geis—2016

*Columbus Division of Police (Ohio)*

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



Community Liaison Officers (CLO) Scott Clinger and Larry Geis began looking into criminal activity along a major corridor at the behest of community and business groups. They examined police reports and calls for service and discovered a pattern of drug, prostitution, and fight calls to several hotels.

In response to this complaint, Officer Geis and Officer Clinger worked with local hotel and business associations to provide information on best practices; how to recognize criminal activity; how to address language barriers and cultural concerns given that many owners and managers were new immigrants; how to reduce criminal activity on their lots; and how to watch for signs of possible human trafficking activity, make repairs and maintain a safe business, and be good residents in the community. Several hotels and businesses took advantage of these resources to improve their management practices.

Despite these improvements, a number of hotels continued to be problem properties. In response to these ongoing issues, an ad hoc hotel task force was created. The task force comprised a wide range of city partners, including the city prosecutor's office, code and building enforcement, and the health department, among others. The officers played a significant role in the many meetings that were held with the community, business, and government entities creating plans of action.

This ad hoc hotel task force moved forward to address the problems at the hotels and businesses and allowed the owners time to rectify problems. For those that continued to be nonresponsive, Officers Clinger and Geis, with the help of the City Prosecutor's Office, were able to close one problem hotel in 2013 and three in 2014. The officers have continued to improve and expand their efforts with the city of Columbus, and they are now examining more hotels and liquor establishments. In 2015, the officers partnered with the State Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to sponsor legislation in the Ohio statehouse to address one major shortcoming of the current nuisance law: crimes of violence cannot legally be considered when moving to close a business for being a nuisance through civil action. The Ohio Revised Code allows only for the consideration of liquor violations, prostitution, and drug and gang activity. A location can have hundreds of fight calls or multiple murders, but if they are not gang-related they cannot be considered as a reason for closing a business for nuisance. The officers hope that strengthening this law will help incentivize owners to take a more direct approach to controlling criminal activity on their properties.

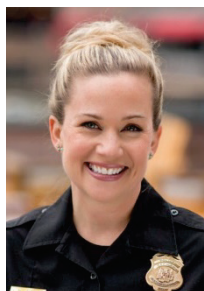
During the last three years, in large part due to the sustained efforts of Officer Lawrence Geis and Officer Scott Clinger, calls for service from hotels and motels have decreased more than 40 percent.





## Officer Laurie Reyes—2018

*Montgomery County Police Department (Maryland)*  
*Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*



In 2005, Officer Laurie Reyes—then an eight-year veteran of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)—noticed that repeated searches for the same critically missing people (individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities [IDD], and Alzheimer’s disease) demanded a large proportion of departmental resources, both in money and in officers’ time.

With buy-in from executive staff, Officer Reyes piloted the Project Lifesaver program in the MCPD, which gives radio bracelets to frequent nonverbal wanderers. Officers trained by Officer Reyes maintain the bracelets, engage with the participants, and (if necessary) use their equipment to trace the radio frequency and locate the wanderer much more quickly the next time they go missing. Currently, Officer Reyes maintains more than 40 participants in this program in Montgomery County; the success of searches for these individuals has improved, search times have been cut, and lives have been saved.

Officer Reyes has now pivoted to focus on attempts to stop the wandering in the first place. She saw the need for police to partner with and provide for a safe, understanding, and well-informed community for these individuals (especially those with Alzheimer’s disease, who wander the most frequently). By 2010 she had created the MCPD’s Autism, Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, and Alzheimer’s Outreach Program, which is now a nationally recognized model that promotes awareness and safety through education, outreach, follow-up, empowerment, and response. Part of the program is a brochure (with safety tips and MCPD contact information) and safety kit (including a t-shirt reading “If I am alone, call 911”), designed and produced by Officer Reyes. The kits can be custom created for individuals and are given to them at no cost.

Officer Reyes also develops and instructs curricula for police officers and the community, using dynamic scenarios to teach officers safety procedures and tips for dealing with this special needs community and teaching parents and caretakers safety precautions and how to reinforce them. In 2013 she planned and coordinated Montgomery County’s first Autism / IDD National Night Out, now an annual event and a national model.

Officer Reyes also works with local and national legislators to be sure the community is beginning to get the recognition and services that it needs. She is now working with researchers to develop a virtual reality-based curriculum to be used in conjunction with law enforcement instruction that will help engage the younger generation in training and will be able to integrate many more interactive scenarios into the curriculum.





## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

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### **Detective Jessie Gonzales—2016**

*Tohono O’odham Police Department (Arizona)*  
*Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



The Tohono O’odham Nation, a reservation roughly equivalent in size to the state of Connecticut, lies along the United States-Mexico border in southern Arizona. The tribe’s land covers three separate counties and consists mainly of rural villages that can take hours to reach from the Tucson metropolitan area. Detective Jessie Gonzales is a Criminal Investigations Detective with the Tohono O’odham Police Department, assigned to the crimes against children and sex crimes unit since 2009. Occasionally, because of turnover or reassignment, he has been the only detective in the agency working these particular types of cases.

Despite the challenges he faces, Detective Gonzales consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty when conducting investigations. He is described by members of the department as smart, meticulous, ethical, and a tireless worker. But where Detective Gonzales really shines is working with victims—many of whom are distrustful of law enforcement—to make them feel heard and believed. He treats victims with exemplary kindness, compassion, and professionalism.

Detective Gonzales maintains crucial lines of contact with them during the often lengthy court process, spending days tracking victims down if necessary.

Three recent cases exemplify Detective Gonzales’s tenacity and skill as a criminal investigator. First, Detective Gonzales investigated a 2011 rape case from the Tohono O’odham Nation. This case was challenging because it involved an acquaintance rape during a party in which the defendant and the victim were both intoxicated. The victim was a very reluctant witness. Detective Gonzales, along with an assisting agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, diligently put together an investigation that collected extensive physical and forensic evidence, phone records, and witness accounts corroborating the victim’s statements. As the case went on, Detective Gonzales did extensive follow-up investigation and proactively maintained contact with the victim. Without his efforts, the case would likely have been dismissed. The defendant eventually pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and received two years in prison.

Another case involved the sexual assault of a 10-year-old victim that was disclosed by the victim several years after it occurred. Although there were no eyewitnesses to the crimes, Detective Gonzales located and interviewed the victim’s friends and acquaintances from years past who could corroborate aspects of her disclosure. He also tracked down the victim and her mother through numerous relocations around the state. Because there were no witnesses and no physical evidence, this case rested squarely on the testimony of the victim. Detective Gonzales’s belief in her and his ability to develop a rapport with her allowed a very distrustful





and traumatized teenage girl to fully cooperate with law enforcement and the prosecution. Detective Gonzales's investigative efforts ensured that the case could be charged and led the defendant to plead guilty to one count of abusive sexual contact and he was sentenced to jail time and lifetime supervision.

Finally, Detective Gonzales took on the investigation of a case technically outside his area of responsibility involving a reluctant domestic violence stabbing victim. Detective Gonzales patiently and deliberately interviewed the victim multiple times to obtain details regarding the case and also uncovered evidence concerning other acts of domestic violence the defendant had committed against her.

He expedited the investigation with the knowledge that the victim would likely recant her statements. The defendant eventually pleaded guilty and received a lengthy prison sentence.

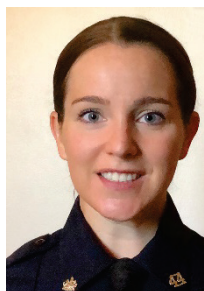
Detective Jessie Gonzales consistently produces high-quality work on a substantial caseload and does so in an organized and effective manner without complaint. In addition to his detective duties, Detective Gonzales participates on the Tohono O'odham special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team and acts as a certified instructor to other officers in the areas of sex crimes, child crimes, and high-risk stops. He also frequently provides logistical support with transporting victims and witnesses long distances to Tucson for child forensic interviews, sexual assault examinations, meetings, and court hearings.





## Officer Megan Freer—2018

*Middletown Township Police Department (Pennsylvania)  
Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



In the summer of 2017, Officer Megan Freer responded to the missing person report of a missing 19-year-old man in Middletown Township, about 20 miles south of Solebury Township, Pennsylvania. After being given the approval to run with the case by her patrol supervisor, Officer Freer began an intensive investigation into the man's disappearance; she obtained video of the truck that he was last seen getting into near his home.

Officer Freer obtained the name of the truck owner and talked to the missing person's friends, who told her that he was supposed to go dirt bike riding with some other people. She found that the truck owner's family had a farm property in Solebury—an ideal place to ride dirt bikes. At the large farm, she met up with other officers and soon discovered two vehicles belonging to two other missing teens from different parts of the county. The team had the farm secured as a potential crime scene, and Officer Freer went to the eventual accused murderer's home in Bensalem, about 25 miles south of the farm. Officer Freer spoke to his mother, who seemed nervous and upset but stated that her son was not at home.

Eventually, through a week-long intensive crime scene investigation—in which several police departments, county detectives, the county district attorney's office, the state police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation all participated—the bodies of four young men were found buried in graves on the farm. All had been murdered execution-style. Cosmo DiNardo and his cousin Sean Kratz, both 20 years old, were both charged with the murders of the four young men. DiNardo has since confessed to the murders. Kratz has not.

This was a tremendous effort of policing and police investigation, and Officer Freer has received several awards for her investigative effort including the Philadelphia National Liberty Museum Award of Valor in September 2017. Officer Freer also had her actions read into the record of the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. Officer Freer brought closure to the families of these missing young men whose bodies were found on the farm. Without the investigative effort of Officer Megan Freer, the family farm where the bodies were found might never have been discovered.





## Detective Adam Beha and Detective Joseph Milewczik—2016

*Chesapeake Police Department (Virginia)*

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



Detectives Adam Beha and Joseph Milewczik recently concluded a long-term investigation involving a heroin distribution organization that funneled large amounts of heroin to the streets of Hampton Roads, Virginia. In March of 2014 while working a citizen's complaint they were able to arrest two suspects during a routine traffic stop for possession of heroin with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine, and possession of marijuana. Both subjects refused to cooperate with the detectives and eventually pleaded guilty to their charges. Detectives Beha and Milewczik

analyzed the evidence, and this information led them to believe that one of the suspects was part of a much larger criminal organization.

Through much effort, Detectives Beha and Milewczik were able to identify the members of an organization that they believed was distributing large amounts of heroin throughout Hampton Roads. Detectives Beha and Milewczik were able to successfully cultivate multiple confidential informants in the organization. Over the next 13 months, 41 controlled purchases of narcotics were conducted against the organization using undercover detectives. Detectives Beha and Milewczik also conducted 24-hour surveillance on several of the targets' residences. They then used all of this information to track the street-level dealers back to the higher-level distributors.

As the case grew, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) became interested in several of the targets because of an ongoing federal investigation involving a notorious street gang. Because of the organization's affiliation with several high-level gang members, the case became an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation. The task force involved the FBI, the Chesapeake Police Department (CPD), the Virginia State Police (VSP), the Naval Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), and the Portsmouth (Virginia) Police Department (PPD). The task force devoted an exceptional amount of time and cooperation to create a successful outcome thanks to the groundwork laid by Detective Joseph Milewczik and Detective Adam Beha. They provided the probable cause that led to seven high-level members of the organization being federally indicted.

On July 14, 2015, special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams from the FBI, the CPD, the VSP, the NCIS, and the PPD executed the search warrants and took multiple suspects into custody. Hundreds of grams of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana along with four firearms were seized. Debriefs with informants and inmates referred to more than 75 kilograms of heroin being distributed by the organization. State warrants for distribution of heroin and conspiracy to distribute heroin were also secured for 11 lower-level members of the organization. Since the arrests were made, all of the federal targets including the leader of the organization have pleaded guilty in federal court.



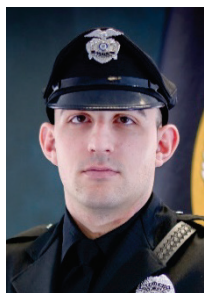




### **Detective Andrew Beuschel, Jr.—2018**

*Evesham Township Police Department (New Jersey)*

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



On December 26, 2017, Detective Beuschel responded to a report of a possible drug overdose by a 15-year-old girl. In the room with her, the officers found a clear plastic bag and a black CD case containing two lines of a white, powdery substance slightly tinted brown, which from the officers' experience and training led them to suspect it was heroin. In fact it was heroin, and it also tested positive for methyl fentanyl and quinine or noscapine. The girl was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia two days later; the medical examiner confirmed the presence of free morphine, which is indicative of a heroin overdose.

Detective Beuschel interviewed one of the victim's friends, who reported that the victim had purchased \$100 worth of heroin a week earlier. The friend described packaging similar to that found at the scene of the overdose. The friend also provided the cell phone number of the suspected seller, along with his Facebook user name, and confirmed that the victim was not a habitual heroin user; she had only started using within the last few months.

Pursuant to warrants, Detective Beuschel gained access and viewed Facebook messages and text-message conversations in which the victim and the suspect discussed and arranged the sale and delivery of narcotics.

Detective Beuschel identified cell phone location information confirming that the suspect was within 0.1 miles of where the victim was residing at the time of the transaction. The meeting took about a month to facilitate, further illustrating how the victim was not a habitual user and did not have easy access to other dealers. A more thorough review of the victim's phone confirmed that she did not have conversations nor attempt to meet up with any other individuals regarding drug transactions. Furthermore, she was home schooled and did not drive. The victim's cell phone only pinged on two cell phone towers near her residence before and after meeting with the suspect. In short, that suspect must have been the supplier of the victim's fatal dose of heroin.

A warranted search of the suspect's bedroom revealed plastic packaging identical to that found at the scene of the overdose along with other various narcotics and paraphernalia. In the suspect's car, officers located a ledger that detailed several other narcotics sales. Recent conversations and searches on the suspect's cell phone confirmed that he had become concerned with the victim's overdose; he had a conversation with another individual about "catching a body"—that is, killing a person—but not wanting to stop selling narcotics, and he conducted Internet searches of law enforcement investigating drug overdose deaths. Furthermore, the suspect conducted other searches before the victim's death: "how to get people addicted to heroin," "how to bag up dope," and "how to cut heroin with fentanyl." Ultimately, Detective Beuschel was able to secure warrants for the arrest of the suspect on charges of possession of heroin, distribution of heroin, and strict liability for the drug-induced death of the 15-year-old victim.





### Senior Police Officer Kimberly Miller—2016

*Houston Police Department (Texas)*

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



Early on April 22, 2015, a woman was walking to her apartment when a man asked where she was going, grabbed her, knocked her down, and sexually assaulted her. The victim shouted for help and tried to escape, but he continued to beat and sexually assault her; suddenly he got up and ran, taking her purse. The case was assigned to Senior Police Officer Kimberly Miller, Robbery Division–West Squad, who dissected the incident with skills gained in 30 years of investigative work. Officer Miller soon found another case in the same complex and realized that the two cases might be related. She contacted the first victim and asked if they could revisit the scene together to find evidence, witnesses, or security cameras that recorded the incident or the suspect’s approach or flight. The woman refused to return to the area, so Officer Miller suggested they work over the phone so the complainant could describe the attack from the safety of her home.

On May 15, 2015, a suspect struck with a similar modus operandi at three different places in cases divided between the Robbery and Special Victims Divisions (SVD). Officer Miller coordinated with the SVD, reviewed cases linked to her suspect, found complainants, and checked in regularly with the Houston Forensic Crime Center (HFCC) on DNA evidence. She asked the managers of each apartment complex to post crime bulletins describing the events. Officer Miller was also able to convince reluctant complainants and witnesses to meet with a Houston Police Department forensic artist to develop sketches of the suspect. The sketches were released at a press conference asking anyone with information to come forward. Subsequently, two residents said they had witnessed one of the assaults. Officer Miller tenaciously contacted complainants, walked with them through the crime scenes, and knocked on hundreds of doors.

On June 11, 2015, the HFCC told Officer Miller of a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hit. DNA led to a suspect who had been arrested in February 2015 on a domestic violence charge. Officer Miller’s information linked him to a car stopped near the site of the original assault. Officer Miller coordinated with the West Side division’s Divisional Tactical Unit (DTU), who began surveillance within hours. The DTU officers stopped the suspect for a traffic violation, and he was found to have two pistols and charged as a felon in possession of a firearm as well as with two counts of aggravated sexual assault and one of aggravated robbery. He was placed in the Harris County Jail without bond thanks to Officer Miller’s efforts.





This case is just one of the many examples of Officer Kimberly Miller's dedication, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond her normal duties to bring cases to successful conclusions. Officer Miller is tireless in her pursuit of predators who stalk and victimize women. She is able to quickly shift her demeanor between consoling a sexual assault survivor to questioning less than forthcoming suspects and witnesses. She is a true leader to her peers and supervisors, and the Houston community is far safer because of her leadership and efforts.





### **Trooper Joel D. Follmer—2018**

*Pennsylvania State Police*

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



State Trooper Joel D. Follmer's determined efforts and innovative policing techniques on an 18-month series of kidnapping and rape investigations throughout Pennsylvania led to the arrest of a serial rapist with assaults dating back as far as 1994. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

On July 20, 2016, a man entered a Northumberland County residence occupied by a woman shortly after her husband had left for work at the state correctional institution (SCI) in Coal Township. The man assaulted the woman, bound her hands with zip ties, and blindfolded and gagged her, eventually choking her to unconsciousness.

He transported her to a different location, where he raped her. The man then returned the woman to a cornfield near her residence. She was transported to a hospital, where DNA found in the rape kit was a match to DNA from an attempted abduction in 2012. On April 23, 2017, Pennsylvania State Police received a report of another nearby rape with similar details; a rape kit again identified DNA that matched the previous cases.

At this point, it was apparent to Trooper Follmer that he was pursuing a serial rapist. Based on stalking and restraint techniques and attempts to destroy evidence, Trooper Follmer suspected the assailant might have law enforcement or military training. He also believed the assailant had searched the victim or her address electronically. He and other state troopers served Google with a warrant requesting information on any searches of the victim's name and address prior to the rape. He also conducted a mass media blitz, following up with canvasses of the area near each victim. He executed search warrants on Facebook and cell tower examinations and created a pamphlet to hand out at each residence with public details of the investigation and a hotline number to call in with any tips.

On November 29, 2017, Google responded to the warrant; Trooper Follmer determined that John E. Kurtz of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, had searched for the 2016 victim's address four hours prior to her kidnapping and rape. Just as Trooper Follmer had suspected, Kurtz was a prison guard at SCI Coal Township and would have known the work schedule of the husband of that victim. Less than three weeks later, DNA on cigarette butts recovered in round-the-clock surveillance of Kurtz confirmed it was his DNA in the rape kits. Trooper Follmer arrested Kurtz on December 18, 2017; Kurtz immediately confessed to several cases, and provided information on many others that he had attempted in the past and was planning in the future.





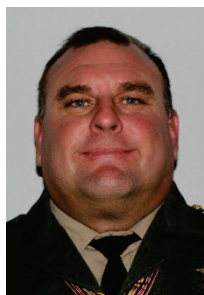
## FIELD OPERATIONS

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### **Detective Greg Felton—2016**

*Glenn County Sheriff's Office (California)*

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



Detective Greg Felton is actively involved in working with multiple agencies to strengthen collaboration and integrated services while handling complex criminal investigations. During the past year, Detective Felton has been a driving force and team leader in the creation of the Glenn County System-wide Mental Health Assessment and Response Team (SMART). SMART is a collaborative multiagency team that responds quickly and efficiently to critical incidents involving school or community threats including suicidal behavior, violence, and bullying.

Detective Felton's leadership, commitment, and integrity have been key to the success of SMART. His strong communication skills and creative problem solving have enhanced the coordination and collaboration of services across law enforcement, mental health, child welfare, probation, and the schools. He has had an important positive impact on his community and his agency.

Detective Felton is the first responder on SMART, working with mental health staff to immediately respond and resolve situations. He engages individuals and families to work together to prevent future crises or other adverse outcomes. His ability to remain calm helps him to quickly resolve crisis situations. He is able to develop trusting relationships with those involved and has been a strong, effective mentor for SMART. His strong leadership throughout this community helps meet the needs of youth and achieve positive outcomes. SMART is completing its first full year of operation, and Detective Felton currently has 29 juveniles and one adult on his active case load.

Detective Felton also serves as the agency representative on the Glenn County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council (CICC) and has recently been asked by the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools to serve as the countywide law enforcement representative on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). He also provides specialized instruction to all local schools on cyberbullying. Detective Felton has fostered partnerships between law enforcement, schools, mental health, and social services and has facilitated positive communication and collaboration to strengthen our community.

Simultaneously, Detective Felton maintains a significant criminal case load as illustrated by the following examples.





In May 2015, the burned body of a six-year-old was found in a remote area of Glenn County. Detective Felton was assigned as lead investigator, and the girl was identified and found to have been the victim of a murder in the Sacramento area. Detective Felton worked with Sacramento detectives, which led to the arrest of the boyfriend of the six-year-old's mother.

In July 2015, the body of a 16-year-old girl who had been shot was found in an equipment shop. Detective Felton was assigned as the lead investigator, and in February 2016, a 56-year-old man was arrested and is currently in custody for murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault of the young girl.

In his agency, Detective Felton is a prominent role model of excellence in community policing and how it can positively impact the community. His dedication, work ethic, and innovation are well known throughout the community. Citizen groups routinely ask him to help resolve issues during times of frustration or distress. Management from health services and school districts have actively tried to recruit him for employment, and the Glenn County District Attorney's Office routinely uses his expertise for cases from other jurisdictions.

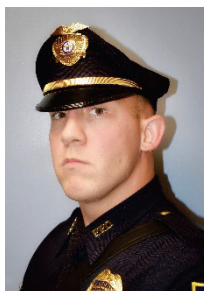
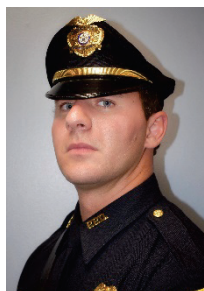
Detective Greg Felton's innovation, excellence in criminal investigations, and communication skills have enabled him to build new and lasting relationships that reduce crime and increase trust between law enforcement across Glenn County and beyond.





### **Sergeant Girard Tell III and Sergeant Ryan VanSyckle—2018**

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



Sergeants Ryan VanSyckle and Girard Tell III are members of the Pleasantville Police Department's Street Crimes Unit. Pleasantville is a bedroom community to Atlantic City and home of some of the worst foreclosure rates in the nation; it is also a center of regional gang violence and drug trafficking. These two officers—both recently promoted to sergeant—are assigned to a flexible shift and report to the Violent Crimes Unit supervisor. The unit was created in 2016, and Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell are currently the only full-time members.

Since the formation of the Street Crimes Unit, Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell have consistently led the department in arrests and drug seizures. They have built an impressive professional network of local, county, state, and federal partners, resulting in a regional investigation that eventually netted more than 100 felony indictments against the South Side Mob street gang.

When the South Side Mob gained wide attention after a daylight shootout on the Atlantic City Expressway in Hamilton Township, Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell—known for their persistence in seeking out and dismantling criminal street gangs—were assigned to assist with the investigation. While the New Jersey State Police were the lead agency in the investigation, the Pleasantville sergeants were assigned to assist with the case because of their extensive network of confidential informants and community sources. Locally, the steady downward trend of gun violence since the unit's formation (specifically a 55 percent decrease in confirmed shooting calls for service) is due in large part to the efforts of these sergeants—not only to their individual body of work but also to their unique ability to leverage local arrests to regional investigations with law enforcement partners.

Both Sergeants Tell and VanSyckle get to know the people who live in Pleasantville by spending much of their shifts in the community on a daily basis, often enduring significant risks to their own safety to safeguard the safety of the people of Pleasantville. Sergeants Tell and VanSyckle devote their time to Pleasantville Police investigations and also partner with neighboring departments and county, state, and federal agencies, thus creating an increasingly effective response to a multilayered problem.





### Corporal Richard White III—2018

*Ohio County Sheriff's Office (West Virginia)*  
*Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



On Saturday, June 24, 2017, Corporal Richard White III put himself directly in harm's way—twice—and was instrumental in preventing a tragedy. That afternoon, 911 dispatch notified law enforcement and fire department agencies that a woman had called the 911 center frantic about several young people who had been flipped out of their kayaks. They were being swept away by swift flood waters in Wheeling Creek. The sighting was reported in the creek area behind Greenwood Cemetery, and Corporal Richard White responded to the area near the creek.

When Corporal White exited his vehicle, he saw a 13-year-old girl being swept downstream by heavy currents. He called out to her, and she replied that she needed help. Corporal White did not hesitate to put himself at risk by entering the swift water; he was able to grab the girl's lifejacket and pull her to shore.

Moments later, he saw an adult woman who was also being swept downstream. Corporal White entered the water a second time and grabbed the far end of the oar the woman was floating on. Corporal White was then able to grab branches of a fallen tree in the water to pull her to the creek bank.

About a year earlier, a little boy had died after falling into the creek. None of the officers working then will ever forget that tragic incident. Corporal White's quick and selfless action on June 24 helped ensure that those circumstances were not repeated.







## Officer Bennie Evans—2016

*Alexandria Police Department (Virginia)*

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



The Alexandria Police Department has developed a crisis intervention team (CIT) through a partnership with the Department of Community and Human Services. CIT officers receive specialized training in the recognition of psychiatric disorders, suicide intervention, substance abuse issues, verbal de-escalation techniques, the role of the family in the care of a person with mental illness, and legal training in mental health and substance abuse issues. Officer Bennie Evans is a lead CIT instructor and is regarded as one of the best in the region. He has been specifically requested to teach in numerous jurisdictions throughout Virginia.

When he is working the street, Officer Evans uses his personal and professional experiences to speak to citizens who are in crisis. If he is not assigned to CIT-related calls, he will voluntarily respond to offer any assistance that he can provide. He has successfully de-escalated numerous calls for service including those involving violence and attempted suicides.

Officer Evans also serves as the department's homeless outreach liaison. As such, he is called upon to assist various city agencies with identifying and providing services to the homeless population. Officer Evans has established strong bonds with the City Community Service Board and homeless shelters to refer and follow up on the mental health treatment protocols and services that are necessary for the homeless community. He collects and stores clothing donations on his own and brings them with him to work to provide clean clothes and replace those in disrepair. If someone needs a unique size of clothing and he does not have it on hand, Officer Evans has been known to buy clothing using his own funds.

In January 2016, Officer Evans was asked to assist with the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Unsheltered Homeless Point in Time Count. Federal and city agencies and their volunteers responded to areas in the city that Officer Evans identified to provide an accurate count of the homeless population and to offer services to those in need. Being a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Officer Evans unselfishly assumes the task of serving as a liaison between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and homeless veterans he encounters to assist them with obtaining the benefits that they are entitled to.

Officer Evans works on his own time with various nonprofit organizations to solicit donations for events that benefit members of the community who have demonstrated a need. Officer Evans works closely with organizations such as Firefighters & Friends to the Rescue, who hold events year-round to provide coats, shoes, clothing, haircuts, and school supplies to the underprivileged youth of the city of Alexandria. In part because of his tireless efforts, they have amassed enough donations that they now hold additional events in neighboring counties.





Officer Evans is frequently asked to speak with at-risk youth who have been diverted from the juvenile justice system. He has shown the ability to establish excellent rapport with youth, and his participation in this program has had lasting effect on reducing crime and building trust among the children and families in the communities he serves.

Recently, Officer Evans became an integral part of a group of city employees who initiated a program to obtain donations of water for the residents of Flint, Michigan. As a result of Officer Evans's efforts, more than 47,000 bottles of water were collected and donated to the city of Flint. Officer Evans went so far as to personally transport the water to Michigan—again on his own time and without compensation.

Officer Bennie Evans is constantly engaged with and immersed in the community in which he lives and works. He has built trust and developed mutual cooperation with residents of the communities he serves by establishing long-lasting, respectful relationships with those he meets. These relationships have improved police-community relations and have made his community safer.





### Deputy Ned Nemeth—2018

*Washoe County Sheriff's Office (Nevada)*

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



Deputy Ned Nemeth is assigned to the Special Operations Division with the Northern Nevada interdiction task force. He is a full time K-9 handler, paired with K-9 Titus. As part of efforts to reduce drug trafficking and thereby reduce the impact of illicit drugs in Washoe County and other areas of the country, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office is a partner in the Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force. Deputy Nemeth and Titus work on this task force, primarily on highway interdiction along the I-80 corridor traveling through Washoe County—a known thoroughfare for both drug and currency transporting operations.

Deputy Nemeth's tenacity and work ethic has made an impact on both types of illegal operations. In 2017, he seized more than 200 pounds of illegal marijuana and almost 14 pounds of illegal marijuana extract, almost 360 grams of methamphetamine, more than 40 contraband prescription opioid pain pills, and almost a million dollars in drug money, and he recovered a poached animal and a stolen firearm. He made 12 misdemeanor and 19 felony arrests, wrote 45 primary reports related to highway interdiction stops, contributed to 38 supplemental reports for other agencies, obtained and executed four search warrants for outside agencies leading to the adoption of larger cases, and deployed Titus on 63 narcotics searches for cases being led by other officers.

Along with the time spent on his primary job of highway interdiction, Deputy Nemeth has done many K-9 demonstrations in the community. Some of these are conducted on his own time, and all are highly appreciated by schools and other requesting venues.

Deputy Nemeth is known for providing high quality information about his interstate contacts to other agencies across the country. His efforts as a part of the HIDTA task force in northern Nevada not only have positive effects on his own community but also make meaningful contributions to other jurisdictions working to disrupt and dismantle organized drug trafficking operations nationwide.





### **Detective Thomas Curley—2018**

*Wilmington Police Department (Delaware)*

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



Detective Thomas Curley works closely in conjunction with other detectives and officers in the Wilmington Police Department as well as with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and other law enforcement agencies in Delaware and other states to investigate and solve gang-related murders and other violent crimes.

During an eight-month investigation in 2010, Detective Curley determined that members of the Trapstars street gang were responsible for a homicide along with other violent criminal acts throughout the city. Most gang members took pleas and even agreed to testify against other gang members. Those who went to trial were found guilty on charges including murder, assaults, firearms offenses, and illegal gang participation. This was the first successful illegal gang prosecution in the state of Delaware; it was appealed up to the Delaware Supreme Court, where the convictions were upheld.

In 2012, members of the SureShots street gang were indicted in the shooting deaths of two people after an extensive and exhaustive investigation that revealed an escalation of violence beginning with drug-related crimes in 2003, continuing with firearms offenses, and including a connection to a 2008 homicide. Detective Curley's work contributed to securing a 24-count indictment, charging multiple SureShots gang members with a range of crimes over a 10-year period including murder, attempted murder, drug trafficking, drug dealing, assault, illegal gang participation, firearm offenses, and receiving stolen property.

In other cases, Detective Curley's efforts have led to the captures and guilty pleas or convictions of suspects in at least four different murders in the three years from 2015 to 2017. Detective Curley's particular ability to locate and build rapport with witnesses has resulted in justice for the victims of these violent crimes.





## **Officer JoAnn Walker—2016**

*San Francisco Police Department (California)*  
*Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*

When not on official duty, Officer JoAnn Walker is a Crisis Line Counselor and Presenter at Crisis Support Services of Alameda County. Crisis Support Services is a 24-hour crisis and suicide prevention line for Alameda County, receiving more than 75,000 calls a year from a diverse population suffering from various degrees of severe mental health challenges and life situations. The call volume can range from someone checking in routinely to cope with loneliness and mental illness to threats of suicide requiring immediate intervention. Officer Walker not only responds to callers sensitively and appropriately but also offers guidance, support, and training for other crisis line counselors.

To improve the relationship between law enforcement and the community, Officer Walker volunteered to take the 80-hour training to become a telephone crisis counselor. As a counselor she works with a team of community members in helping clients in crisis and provides training to the staff at Crisis Support Services regarding police response to people in crisis.

One evening, a woman was discharged from the hospital after a medical procedure in the middle of the night. She was in a difficult position without money or means to return home, which was 35 miles away. All shelters were closed at the time, and no relative was available to pick her up until the morning. The woman feared the security guard was going to force her to leave the only safe place that she knew—the hospital lobby. Officer Walker stayed on the phone long past the end of her shift and would not relinquish the call until the security supervisor allowed the woman to remain inside the hospital for the night. Officer Walker used her training in interpersonal communication and crisis support to de-escalate the situation. She compelled the security supervisor to think about the ramifications of his actions if the woman was forced onto the streets. A crisis was averted.

Officer Walker has shown her commitment to serving the community by ensuring she has the best skills to be a police officer working with cases involving mental health. In November 2012, Officer Walker graduated from the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations to update her training regarding the cycle of domestic violence, victimology, predator profile, strangulation, dynamics of power and control, current legislation, and case preparation for prosecution. The training has helped her quickly identify domestic violence victims to assist them in the development of safety plans while on the Crisis Support Services line.





Officer Walker successfully completed training in hostage negotiation to learn how to de-escalate people in crisis while on patrol and while working at Crisis Support Services. She paid for the training with her own funds. Later that year, she volunteered to train team members of Crisis Support Services regarding the policy of the San Francisco Police Department in responding to mental health consumers, mental health consumers in crisis, and their families. As a result, crisis line counselors developed a better understanding of how law enforcement responds to people in crisis, and this helped to increase the trust in law enforcement.

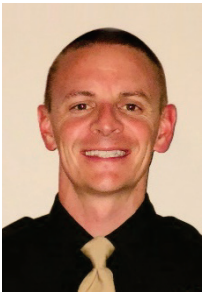
These are only a small number of examples of the contributions Officer JoAnn Walker has made to her community. She has dedicated her own time and resources to educate herself and her fellow police officers. Her service to the community goes beyond her role as a police officer. She is an educator, an advocate, and an esteemed member of the crisis line counseling team.



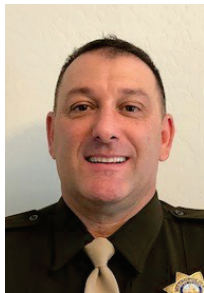
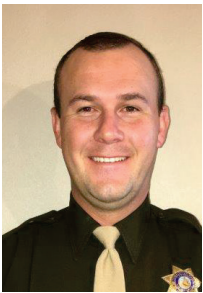


**Officers Jeremiah Beason, Patrick Burke, Monty Fetherston, and Steve Morris, Jr.—2018**

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



On October 1, 2017, a lone gunman fired into a crowd of 22,000 concertgoers attending a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, killing 58 people and injuring more than 850. Officers Jeremiah Beason and Monty Fetherston rushed from their assigned positions at traffic control to the Mandalay Bay hotel.



When they arrived, they observed smoke coming from a window in the north tower—so much smoke that they could not see muzzle flash. A tunnel led them into the casino. They called for a Mandalay Bay security officer, who quickly escorted them to the service elevator and up to the 32nd floor. As they arrived, Officers Beason and Fetherston smelled gunpowder. Several security officers were in the center core of the hotel, including one who appeared to have been shot in the calf. They said the shooter was at the end of the hall and had shot into the hallway. Officer Beason had his rifle and Officer Fetherston had a handgun covering the wing toward the suspect's suite approximately 110 yards away. They knew they needed more officers before advancing down the hallway.

Officers Patrick Burke and Steve Morris had been assigned to the front stage area at the music event when the shooting began. A woman near the front of the stage was shot in the chest; her husband looked to the officers for help. Officer Burke jumped over the fence he and Officer Morris were standing behind, grabbed the woman, and handed her over the fence to Officer Morris, who took her to a paramedic nearby. Officers Burke and Morris then made their way through thousands of fleeing people to Officer Morris's vehicle and drove to the Mandalay Bay. They, too, were escorted to the 32nd floor. Officers Burke and Morris joined Officers Beason and Fetherston, got a master room key from Mandalay Bay security officers, and developed a plan to advance down the hallway and clear the guest rooms. Officers Beason and Morris were in the lead with their rifles, with Officers Fetherston and Morris following with their handguns. Many of the rooms were occupied, and the Mandalay Bay security officers assisted in getting hotel guests off the 32nd floor and down to safety.





Officers observed multiple bullet holes and debris as they advanced to the suspect's suite. As Officers Beason, Burke, Fetherston, and Morris cleared the floor, another group of officers arrived in the stairwell and joined the two teams in clearing guest rooms. Officers held the floor approximately halfway down the hallway and waited for another contingent of officers, including a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team, to breach the suspect's suite.

Officers found the suspect on the ground with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head when they entered the suite. Officers Beason, Burke, Fetherston, and Morris continued clearing the floor and rechecking all the guest rooms back to the center core. They secured the 32nd floor for hours—until they were relieved from their post.







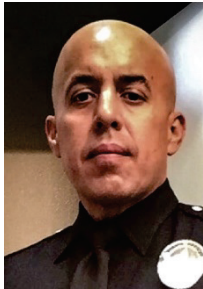
**Officers Jose Arriaga, Ruben Avalos, Carlos Escobar, Randy Jreisat, Arthur Meza, Ashley Mitchell, David Nick, Jr., Adrian Nuñez, Christina Salas, and Solly Samara—2018**

*Los Angeles Police Department (California)*  
*Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*

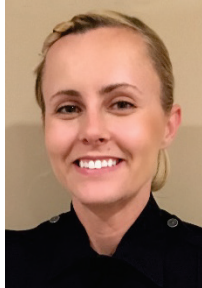


The Los Angeles Police Department’s Rampart Area Special Problems Unit (SPU), MacArthur Park Task Force (MPTF), was formed in September 2017. The unit consists of 10 officers and one sergeant to conduct uniform patrol in and around MacArthur Park and other surrounding areas.

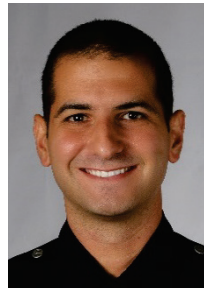
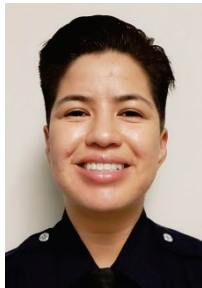
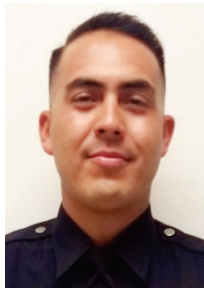
The mission was to restore order to the community around MacArthur Park using a full-spectrum approach by directing constant law enforcement and community involvement to the area in and around MacArthur Park. This is a coordinated effort using all available law enforcement and community-based resources to combat crime and quality-of-life issues in the area. At the inception of the MPTF, MacArthur Park and its surrounding areas were ravaged by homelessness, street robberies, gang activity, assaults with deadly weapons, narcotic sales, and sexual assaults. The MPTF established a multiphase approach to the problem.



They forged partnerships with the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles Park Rangers, Council District 1, Los Angeles City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutor, MacArthur Park Advisory Board, Youth Policy Institute, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



Officers started by conducting community outreach for homeless people and individuals addicted to drugs in MacArthur Park. While officers were conducting this outreach, they established clear rules in MacArthur Park. Officers worked with Parks and Recreation and





the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to get those rules and laws clearly posted for all to see. Officers then moved to an enforcement phase. The MPTF made 1,125 arrests in 32 weeks and issued 980 citations, offered services to hundreds of individuals, and is directly responsible for a 40 percent reduction in part 1 crimes and a 46 percent reduction in violent crimes in the focus area.

Rampart SPU MPTF has taken a personal ownership of the MacArthur Park area, and they pride themselves in the decrease in crime and the transformation that has occurred while working with their community partners.





# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530



e091820893  
October 2018

