



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

DECEMBER 3, 2019







FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 3, 2019



Honoring and supporting the work of law enforcement officers and deputies 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 this third annual award to honor the outstanding work of rank-and-file officers, deputies, and troopers who exemplify the principles of policing, and to highlight their exceptional work that takes place each and every day.

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing recognizes 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. It recognizes the work that far too often goes unacknowledged, but through this award we will shine a light on the exceptionalism of policing and the vital public service that our nation's officers, deputies, and troopers provide.

In the more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, individual rank-and-file officers, deputies and troopers serve important and invaluable roles in their communities by practicing proven and effective proactive policing strategies.





On behalf of the entire Department of Justice and the American people we are privileged to serve, thank you for your exceptional work that embodies the principles of innovative policing and the spirit of this 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, appearing to read "WP 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)
- Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)





- 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
- United States Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Justice





PROGRAM

Welcome

*Phil Keith, Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*

Presentation of Colors

Montgomery County (MD) Police Department Color Guard

National Anthem

*Dorothy Williams, Accessibility Specialist
Civil Rights Division*

Introduction of Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General

*Phil Keith, Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*

Remarks and Introduction of Attorney General

*The Honorable Claire McCusker Murray,
Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General*

Attorney General Address

The Honorable William P. Barr, Attorney General

Conferring of Medals

The Honorable William P. Barr, Attorney General

Closing

*Phil Keith, Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*







CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Detective William Maldonado

Suffolk County Police Department (New York)
Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) Detective William Maldonado is being recognized posthumously for his effort in leading the criminal investigation into the violent transnational street gang MS-13.

In January 2016, the Suffolk County Police Department recognized an uptick in MS-13–related crime. In an effort to use federal partners’ resources, the department assigned its FBI Task Force Officer, Detective Maldonado, to assist in the investigation of a November 2015 disappearance of a Hispanic male youth under suspicious circumstances believed to involve MS-13 members. During the next six months, there would be three more cases of missing teenagers. The information Detective Maldonado gathered during his investigations from both human sources and intelligence gathering clearly indicated that the missing teens were likely murder victims of MS-13.

On September 13, 2016, the investigation took a major turn when MS-13 gang members murdered two more teenagers. Days later, police searching a field at the direction of Detective Maldonado would discover the first of four remains of the previously missing persons. Through April 2017, the MS-13–related death toll in Suffolk County would rise to 17, causing public unrest and drawing national attention. The final incident was the murder of an additional four teenagers by MS-13 members in April 2017.





Had Detective Maldonado and his team not recognized that the missing persons were potential homicide victims the murder spree would no doubt have continued for months or longer with potentially even more victims. Several dozen people were arrested and charged federally for most of the 17 murders.

The scope and difficulty of this investigation was unprecedented. Detective Maldonado was tasked with managing intelligence from numerous sources and engaging local police precincts to develop intelligence on targeted gang members of interest.

The result of this investigation was the complete elimination of the Suffolk County MS-13 Sailor Clique, which was responsible for most of the murders, as well as the disrupting of several other MS-13 cliques throughout Suffolk County. The investigation left the department with a road map to follow in the suppression of MS-13 moving forward, the success of which can be measured by the near total absence of MS-13-related murders between the quadruple murders in April 2017 and June 2019. In addition, a sense of safety and order has been restored in the communities of Suffolk County.

It should be noted that Detective Maldonado conducted this investigation while battling cancer, not missing work because of his illness. Detective Maldonado succumbed to his illness in 2018, but not before all the murder victims' remains were recovered and arrests made. Detective Maldonado's dedication to duty and his selfless sacrifice of the last days of his life to bring this case to a successful conclusion will pay dividends for generations to come in the form of untold lives saved from being victims of the brutal MS-13 gang members he helped bring to justice.





Detectives George Duarte and Jeffrey Richards

Providence Police Department (Rhode Island)

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



Detectives George Duarte and Jeffrey Richards are being recognized for their extraordinary investigative work in solving several sexual assault cases, the arrest of a predator, and bringing justice to an untold number of victims. On February 14, 2017, Detectives

Duarte and Richards were assigned a case of a possible abduction and sexual assault involving a 14-year-old female high school student. The suspect lured the student into his vehicle by claiming he was an Uber driver. The suspect forced the victim to use drugs before bringing her to an abandoned shopping plaza. He sexually assaulted the girl and videotaped the assault on his cellphone.

The detectives had a limited description of the suspect and the vehicle. These detectives painstakingly began to trace the path the suspect took while in contact with the victim. Providence Police Department detectives received tremendous support from local businesses, allowing them to research surveillance footage of the time the victim was abducted in the hopes of seeing the suspect on film.

Several glimpses of the vehicle were found, and as the detectives followed the trail through video, they were able to observe the suspect's vehicle in a gas station; a license plate was revealed, giving them a break in the case. The vehicle was registered to a woman, which led investigators to her boyfriend, who was later identified as the suspect. On March 1, 2017, the suspect was charged with kidnapping of a minor and second-degree sexual assault. Following media coverage of the case, Detectives Duarte





and Richards were contacted by a female resident of the city of Providence who recognized the suspect in this case as the person who two years earlier had attempted to drug her and subsequently sexually assault her at the same location as the high school student's assault. A search warrant and digital forensic audit on the phone revealed several videos of the suspect sexually assaulting multiple women. After viewing numerous hours of videos, detectives were able to identify two additional young women who were assaulted by the suspect as seen on his cellphone video.

Six other sexual assaults filmed by the suspect on his phone had female victims whom the detectives were never able to identify.

During the interview, the suspect confessed to the assault of the 14-year-old student as well as another female victim of whom detectives were not aware. The suspect was charged by detectives at both the state and federal level with the sexual assault and kidnapping of the four victims they were able to identify. Federal charges of child pornography are pending. Both state and federal courts are calculating the sentence.

Detectives Duarte and Richards stopped this vicious predator of women and children. They were able to remove this felon from the community, bring him to justice, and find victims of unreported crimes against children.





Detectives Sandra Marquez and Kenneth Sealy

Aventura Police Department (Florida)

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



Detectives Sandra Marquez and Kenneth Sealy are being recognized for their work in solving several high-dollar fraudulent schemes. During an intense investigation regarding a large credit card fraud ring operating in south Florida, a search warrant was executed on the subject's

residence, which led to the discovery of additional subjects and multiple business victims. The detectives identified approximately \$194,000 in fraudulent transactions and seized \$218,000 in U.S. currency from the warrant.

The detectives also investigated a credit card fraud involving gift cards from Walmart and Target retail stores. The investigation rapidly developed into a major investigation involving money laundering and widespread credit card fraud committed in multiple states. A residential search warrant was executed on the main subject's residence after investigators recovered more than \$50,000 in laundered gift cards.

The detectives were able to identify a primary subject who was responsible for a majority of the fraudulent hotel room rentals in south Florida. Several email warrants and subpoenas were obtained, as well as on electronic forensic warrants of subjects already arrested who occupied these rooms. The investigation was very complicated because most of the rooms were booked online with a company located outside the United States that does not respond to typical U.S. subpoenas.

The detectives also followed up on several major organized retail theft investigations and were able to identify several subjects operating through the internet to make fraudulent purchases from several major retail





chains. The detectives requested several search warrants for social media and email accounts. They are currently working with the retail stores to identify several more subjects committing organized retail crimes, and arrests are pending.

The detectives are also investigating an ongoing phone scam that is being used to trick Nordstrom employees around the nation into loading gift cards by making them think the caller is from Nordstrom Corporate Offices and “testing the system.” The detectives conducted a proactive operation targeting the fraud in attempt to curb this activity. Their proactive attempts produced a dramatic reduction in this type of fraud. The detectives continue to monitor these types of crimes on a long-term basis to identify additional subjects. The detectives also received two additional cases involving money laundering, including one case with an estimated loss of \$180,000 and the other with a \$3.9 million loss in the course of three years.

Detectives Marquez and Sealy continue to identify fraudulent transactions and are working with several federal agencies in these long-term investigations.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Officers Evan Jurgensen, Nicholas Kelly, Rachel Mynier, and John Yenchak

*Prince William County Police Department (Virginia)
Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*



Officers Evan Jurgensen, Nicholas Kelly, Rachel Mynier, and John Yenchak are being recognized for their actions in the

response and arrest of an active shooter incident, which saved the lives of community members and of incoming officers who were responding to the scene. On November 4, 2018, Prince William County Police Department dispatch received a Shooting in Progress with Injuries call. The details were vague about a man holding a gun and bleeding, walking around the yard of a residence. Within a few minutes, Officers Yenchak, Mynier, and Jurgensen arrived on scene; they heard gunshots and retreated to their cruisers for cover. Simultaneously, Officer Kelly turned down the street as the fourth unit on-scene and immediately took gunfire from the shooter. Officer Mynier noticed movement on the rooftop of a residence and was able to transmit a warning to incoming units. Officer Mynier's actions saved the lives of incoming units. Officer Yenchak transmitted over the radio that the shooter was on the roof with a rifle.

After other incoming officers set up at the house, Officers Jurgensen, Yenchak, Mynier, and Kelly lost sight of the shooter because he had slid down the back side of the roof and onto a deck. Officer Yenchak was shot with one of the rounds striking him in the vest. The shooter ignored





officers' commands and began shooting at the officers on the scene. The suspect was struck several times and fell, thus ending the threat. Although Officers Jurgensen and Mynier feared a possible second shooter, they knew the suspect needed medical attention. They exposed themselves to harm once again by leaving their cover to extract the shooter for medical treatment.

While the shooter was receiving medical treatment, the officers pulled an occupant from the residence to safety. Despite what happened to each officer, they continued to do their job and began looking for potential victims in neighboring homes. The radio traffic by the officers on scene to update incoming units of the danger was so clear, calm, and concise that it undoubtedly saved lives. The heroism of each officer to run into a gunfight to help their fellow officers is nothing short of courageous.





Deputy Richard Hassna

Alameda County Sheriff's Office (California)

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



Deputy Richard Hassna is being recognized for his innovative use of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) for public safety operations around the United States. He has personally assisted hundreds of public safety agencies around the nation with establishing their own sUAS programs to provide close-air support to public safety agencies in dangerous situations. He participated in the development of a general order, operations manual, and maintenance program, some of which are being used by agencies throughout the nation. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) sUAS team has conducted more than 550 missions since the program's inception. The missions include high-risk tactical operations, search warrants, crime scene preservation and documentation, fire response, hazmat response, search and rescue missions, and disaster response. Deputy Hassna has personally led the sUAS team during many high profile critical incidents. He has personally developed tactics and training for the execution of high-risk search warrants with the use of sUAS technology.

In 2018, the ACSO assisted in the deadly Camp Fire in Butte County, which left 85 people dead and became the most deadly wildland fire in California history. Through Deputy Hassna's leadership, more than 16 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) teams (mostly trained by the ACSO) conducted 517 flights in two days and took more than 70,000 images, which were later stitched into a map that allowed residents to see the damage to their property without being exposed to danger. This response was likely the largest response of small UAVs to a disaster scene in U.S. history. Also





in 2018, Deputy Hassna responded to the Mendocino County coastline to search for the remains of the Hart family. The case was later ruled a murder-suicide in which two adults and six children perished when their vehicle was intentionally driven off a cliff. Deputy Hassna helped coordinate a search with the UAVs as well as a 3D model of the scene.

Deputy Hassna has personally flown and overseen hundreds of high-risk tactical operations. These operations have assisted in the apprehension of numerous armed and dangerous fleeing felons. Deputy Hassna has also worked to develop the first ever sUAS training course for law enforcement in his region.

Deputy Hassna is being recognized for his expertise and work in developing the sUAS program for his department, which is helping to redefine air support as we know it and high-risk tactical operations.





Deputy Ross Jessop

Missoula County Sheriff's Office (Montana)

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



Deputy Ross Jessop is being recognized for his actions, perseverance, and dedication to duty in saving the life of a kidnapped baby. On July 7, 2018, the Missoula County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) emergency dispatch center received a call about a man with a gun at Lolo Hot Springs. The man had been previously evicted from the property for trespassing, but he was back, threatening people and creating a disturbance. By the time deputies arrived, the man had fled in a passenger vehicle with his girlfriend's five-month-old son. A search of the wooded and rural area was unsuccessful in locating the suspect, so deputies cleared from the scene.

Approximately one hour later, the man returned to Lolo Hot Springs, but had neither the vehicle nor the baby. Deputies arrived again and began to question the suspect. It was fairly obvious that the suspect was high on methamphetamine and bath salts and either would not or could not provide any information to help locate the baby. At one point, he said he had killed and buried the baby but then made irrational and unintelligible statements that led investigators to search in all directions.

Approximately nine hours later, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Deputy Jessop found the vehicle in the middle of steep mountains where there were no roads. A small group of law enforcement personnel were in the area and began a foot search with Deputy Jessop. The debris from the vehicle was below the car, as was Lolo Creek and Highway 12. It only seemed logical that the search should take place in that area. Deputy





Jessop decided to climb uphill and did so for more than 15 minutes. When he stopped to listen to radio traffic and catch his breath, he heard what he believed to be a faint whimper. He began to look in the nearby area and started moving sticks and debris. Just under his feet and the shrubs was a baby boy lying face down wearing nothing but a light onesie. To his surprise, and despite the approximately 44-degree temperature, when Deputy Jessop picked the baby up, he found that he was alive and—with the exception of some scrapes and scratches—uninjured. Deputy Jessop's instincts, perseverance, and dedication led him to find the baby buried in the ground in more than a million acres of forest. There is no question his actions saved the child's life.





Officers Aaron Bates and Alexander Stotik

*Cohasset Police Department (Massachusetts)
Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



Officers Aaron Bates and Alexander Stotik are being recognized for their courageous actions that saved the life of a woman who was being brutally attacked. The officers were dispatched to a home for a well-being check. A neighbor at the address reported loud banging and noise coming from the adjoining condominium and that it sounded like a fight was in progress. The officers arrived and knocked on the door. No one answered the door and all seemed quiet at the residence. The officers continued to investigate and located an open door at the rear of the condominium. They entered the home and announced their presence but were unable to find anyone on the first level and heard no sounds.

The officers then went up to the second level and located several closed doors. The officers again announced their presence and heard a muffled scream from behind a door at the end of a darkened hallway. The officers quickly moved toward the door and found it locked. The door was kicked in and when the door fell open, the officers came face to face with what they have described as an “attempted murder in progress.”





Officers Bates and Stotik, with their firearms pointed at the man, ordered him to let the hostage go. The hostage was conscious but suffering from several devastating wounds. Officer Bates holstered his gun, drew his electronic control weapon (ECW), and ordered the man to unhand the hostage. The suspect, who stood more than 6 feet tall and weighed more than 240 pounds, became enraged and growled at the officers while moving to inflict additional harm to the victim. At that point, Officer Bates saw an opening to deploy his ECW darts into the suspect, which briefly distracted the man, allowing the victim to crawl away from the assailant and down a flight of stairs to the first floor.

While trying to take the suspect into custody and control the chaos, the officers continued to order the suspect to stay on the ground and to stop resisting. The man refused to obey commands and continued to be a threat. Officer Stotik was forced to deploy darts from his own ECW when the suspect, through his resisting, was able to dislodge the darts that Officer Bates had deployed. After several minutes, the officers were able to subdue the suspect, place him under arrest, and get medical attention for the victim.

Officers Bates and Stotik exhibited extraordinary valor, bravery, courage, and professionalism in the face of extreme danger that would have certainly resulted in the murder of the victim if not for their intervention. Their conduct under the most trying circumstances is in keeping with the highest traditions and honor of policing.





INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Officer Phalon McFate

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



Officer Phalon McFate is being recognized for the community policing approaches she has used to address violent crime hot spots in downtown Las Vegas neighborhoods. Project Day-break, which she initiated in 2017, focused on one city block of Sunrise Avenue from 21st Street to Eastern Avenue. Officer McFate has directly impacted violent crime; there has been a 50 percent decrease in violent crime in this neighborhood since the start of the project.

Officer McFate spearheaded this dramatic decrease in violent crime by embracing the broken windows theory and applying community policing principles. Officer McFate functioned as the quarterback of Project Day-break; she worked with her fellow officers to address quality-of-life issues and apply persistent enforcement pressure. She coordinated with the Gang Bureau about graffiti and gang activity and corralled the multitude of public entities that were involved. McFate identified the owners of the 40 multifamily buildings that occupy this area. She partnered with more than 30 public and private entities to engage the residents, held the property owners accountable, and improved the quality of life in the area. Some of the key community partners included the City of Las Vegas (Code Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, Attorney's Office, Business Licensing, Community Services, Operations and Maintenance, and City Marshalls), NV Energy, Republic Services, Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Health District,





and the University of Nevada–Las Vegas (UNLV) Office of Community Engagement and Department of Criminal Justice. Downtown Area Command’s faith-based partners proved pivotal in Officer McFate’s getting police buy-in from the residents of the area.

Over the course of one year, Officer McFate conducted more than 220 community contacts in the Project Daybreak area. This included calls for service and self-initiated activity. In addition, she organized and oversaw monthly nonenforcement Community Oriented Policing events that helped the LVMPD engage the residents in a positive way. Many of these events were held in conjunction with faith-based partners. They included community beautification events, barbecues, and back-to-school events.

When Officer McFate started Project Daybreak, the vast majority of the 40 properties were managed by absentee landlords who knowingly allowed gang and drug activity to take place in and around their properties. Today, the 28 owners are being held accountable both by the LVMPD and the various city entities that have authority over them.

In the course of one year, Officer McFate and the LVMPD went from getting apartment doors slammed in their faces because the residents did not trust the police to residents seeking out LVMPD officers and detectives after violent crimes occurred to provide credible investigative information on suspects and details of the crimes.

By using positive police interaction, Officer McFate was able to build trust and transparency in a neighborhood where these previously did not exist. This project was a group effort, but its ultimate success was a direct result of Officer McFate’s relentless follow-up and her passionate commitment to reducing violent crime and improving the quality of life for hundreds of residents in the Project Daybreak neighborhood.





Officer Jesse Guardiola

Tulsa Police Department (Oklahoma)

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



Officer Jesse Guardiola is being recognized for his community policing efforts to build bridges between local law enforcement and the Hispanic community of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Officer Guardiola's years of service for the department and his personal background have given him a keen insight into the needs of the Hispanic community and an extraordinary passion to improve the status quo.

As a result, Officer Guardiola developed a comprehensive Hispanic Outreach Program. This six-component program helps promote safety when an officer is confronted with a language barrier through Law Enforcement Survival Spanish Language Training while also combating the large underreporting of crime in the Hispanic community. Another component of Guardiola's Hispanic Outreach Program is educating local law enforcement and the community at large on the immigrant Hispanic culture.

This program has received national recognition. The Vera Institute of Justice, funded by a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant, selected Tulsa out of 350 police departments nationwide to present in New York City on promising police-immigrant relations practices. In 2012, the Tulsa Police Department was selected from a nationwide search to participate and present on Officer Guardiola's Hispanic Outreach Program. Officer Guardiola was invited to New York City to share his ideas in a national report that will be studied and promoted as a national model. The Tulsa Police Department is especially proud of this national recognition because the department's outreach program had at that time only been in existence for two years.





Officer Guardiola's heart for the immigrant community and first-generation youth led to the development of not only the Hispanic Outreach Program but also of an additional program that focuses on the mentorship of at-risk Hispanic youth. He works closely with both the private and public school systems and area churches to educate both young people and their parents on how to not just survive but also thrive in their community. Officer Guardiola was also nominated to be a part of a Tulsa delegation to attend "Initiatives for Change – Just Governance for Human Security," an international forum and training held in Caux, Switzerland, July 3–9, 2018.

This forum is run by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Officer Guardiola was selected by local community leaders for his research and efforts in diversity and inclusion for the Tulsa Police Department and for building bridges between police, immigrants, and first-generation Hispanic American children. He spoke on the successes and challenges of the work being done regarding inclusion of the Hispanic community and immigrants from all countries in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The forum fosters collaboration with other countries to use existing or new ideas to help with the global crisis of immigrant relationship building with their new countries and government.

Officer Guardiola is actively expanding the Hispanic Outreach program developed in the Tulsa Police Department to help other law enforcement, emergency services, social services, and local school systems better deal with the changing landscape of diversity and mitigating Hispanic gang growth and expanding exposure in a positive sense for future recruitment efforts.





Detective Anthony Roberson

Providence Police Department (Rhode Island)

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



Detective Anthony Roberson is being recognized for his use of community policing initiatives to build partnerships between law enforcement and local businesses to support underserved families in Providence, Rhode Island. Detective Roberson has been with the Providence Police Department for 17 years. He now not only serves the community he grew up in while rising through the ranks but also continues to volunteer his time at the end of his shift in order to further serve the community at large. In his free time, when he is not finishing additional schooling, teaching driver's education, or volunteering at the Sojourner House—an organization that combats domestic violence—he gives back to his community. Detective Roberson developed the “Shop with a Cop” program in 2013, where he receives donations from businesses big and small to donate dinners and items that are raffled off to raise money to buy \$150 gift cards. To date, around 300 kids from around the city have participated in this program, strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the community they serve and protect.

Detective Roberson also developed the Handshake Initiative, which is conducted twice a year. Since 2011, the Handshake Initiative brings successful adults from all walks of life, dressed in work uniform, to welcome the students to school in the morning with encouragement, handshakes, and





high-fives. The role models that greet the students started around 40 but now number near 200. It makes an impression on the students because it shows that they can pursue any career they choose. There is also the Bicycle Safety Initiative Detective Roberson developed in partnership with Walmart, along with some grant money and volunteer police officers, providing 30 or so kids a year with a bicycle and a helmet.

Detective Roberson grew up in Hartford Park Public Housing in Providence and seeks to serve in a way that benefits families across the city from all backgrounds. He has been innovative in his approach to community policing by including the local schools, small and large businesses, the youth and their families, and law enforcement. It is because of his innovative community policing approaches through the various programs he has developed, giving back to his community and increasing the positive interaction between law enforcement and the community he serves, that we recognize the efforts of Providence Police Detective Anthony Roberson.





Officer Jonathan Plunkett

Irving Police Department (Texas)

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



Officer Jonathan Plunkett is being recognized for his efforts to build communities of mutual respect and trust between law enforcement and the African-American community in Irving, Texas. Officer Plunkett is currently assigned to the Irving Police Department's (IPD) Gang Unit. His duties require him to monitor gang activity, interview anticipated or potential gang members, work with families to prevent or rescue their child from gang life, investigate gang crime, and serve as a fugitive apprehension officer when the need arises. He has demonstrated a level of excellence in fulfilling these duties that is second to none. This excellence is evidenced by his twice being selected by his peers as officer of the year. No other employee in the Irving Police Department has received this honor.

Beyond Officer Plunkett's abilities as a gang officer, he has a true passion for reaching out to the African-American community to ensure a strong relationship exists with the Irving Police Department. In August 2016, after the murder of five police officers in Dallas, Officer Plunkett began working on an outreach initiative to bridge the gap between the African-American community and law enforcement. The idea was to connect with the African-American community in places they would feel comfortable and more willing to share their concerns, ask questions, and be open to dialogue. Officer Plunkett knew barbershops were just such a setting. He saw this as a way to connect with the community that might otherwise not be reached in traditional police outreach efforts. What started with one shop in September 2016 has grown to more than 16 shops, including several women's salons, and has come to be known





as ShopTalk. With participation from outside entities such as the Irving Municipal Courts, Operation Blue Shield, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, officers regularly spend time in participating barbershops talking to the barbers and customers. There is no agenda or any script that must be followed. The officers, the barbers, and their customers engage in real conversations about sports, politics, the weather, or local issues impacting the community. This creates an open line of communication and works to develop relationships of trust.

In addition, the chief hosts quarterly luncheons for the shop owners to discuss issues, answer questions, and share ideas on community outreach strategies and projects to involve the owners in community programs. The newest recruits are always invited to this luncheon so they have an opportunity to meet the shop owners and learn about the program not just from the police side but to hear from the shop owners the kind of impact ShopTalk is having. This encourages the future leaders of the department, both formal and informal, to continue to support and grow the effort as they see firsthand the benefits of the relationships that are built on mutual trust.

The life of the program, however, is Officer Plunkett, who has worked tirelessly to build and strengthen it. He continually makes stops in barbershops to promote the initiative, he encourages and cajoles his peers to become involved in the program, and he regularly meets with the chief to provide progress updates and alert him to any issues that may arise. Officer Plunkett is being recognized for his successful community policing initiative, its impact on the community and its ability to build relationships of mutual trust between the public and law enforcement.





Detective Kathleen Lucero

Isleta Tribal Police Department (New Mexico)

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



Detective Kathleen Lucero is being recognized for several community policing initiatives, which provide resources to impoverished youth and build connections between law enforcement and the families of Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico. Detective Lucero has been the only constant in leading the troubled and impoverished youth programs for the Pueblo of Isleta since their inception in 2013. One such program is a winter Christmas event called Reaching For A Star. Detective Lucero solicits donations from businesses, recruits volunteers from all departments in the government, and coordinates the gift and food distribution for a one-night Christmas event providing gifts and food to more than 150 children and their families.

Detective Lucero also spearheads a summer youth camp once called Camp Triumph, which drew from area law enforcement resources to recruit, outfit, feed, and teach skills to 60 youths from the area for a one-week camp formerly associated with D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training). Since law enforcement agencies and funding changes due to budgetary constraints have limited area agency participation, Detective Lucero has changed the name of the camp to Camp Courage and continues to use her skills and contacts to provide a summer camp for the kids of this community. She has also maintained her role as the go-to investigator for all crimes against children. Her knowledge of the families of the community proves crucial to timely and effective investigations. The trust she has gained from these disadvantaged





community members allows critical crime-solving information to resolve complex intrafamilial crimes impacting young and vulnerable persons. Her on- and off-duty dedication to her community cannot be overstated and is why Detective Lucero is being recognized for this year's Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing.





Officer Troy Quick

Conyers Police Department (Georgia)

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



Officer Troy Quick is being recognized for his dedication and service toward building trust between youth and law enforcement in Conyers, Georgia. Officer Quick became an officer with the Conyers Police Department in 2015, and in 2017 he became a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Rockdale County High School.

The athletes flocked to Officer Quick, and the “gang bangers” wanted to push him and test his limits. Gang members would flash signs and do gang handshakes to see what they could get away with. Officer Quick soon identified students who were in the most trouble at school or appeared to be the biggest bullies. Officer Quick was able to help some of the students get out of gangs, while others could not be reached. He lamented that you can’t reach all of them but for the ones that you do, it is very rewarding.

Officer Quick began attending school sporting events, assisting students with their practice sessions. This led to attending sports functions outside of the mandated ones as an SRO. He started showing up at games and performances and taking an interest in students’ lives. With the power of social media and the perceived anonymity, Officer Quick began to see dividends from his investment. Students started to AirDrop information or videos to him of fights and the names of suspects in crimes that occurred on campus.

Taking an interest in the kids’ lives, Officer Quick would often do acts of kindness for the students. One such example is during his first year, he donated two couches and an older TV to the family of one of his students.





Officer Quick knows that many of the neighborhoods these kids live in don't have basketball hoops—or basketballs, for that matter. One weekend he purchased footballs, basketballs, water guns, and balloons; delivered them to two neighborhoods that connect by trail; and had a big day with all of the kids from both areas. Officer Quick later said he wanted his students to have things that they don't normally have and meet with some of the younger kids who will be going through the high school in the next few years.

Officer Quick coordinates mentoring sessions with some of the youth from his school. He has connected them with successful individuals in the community to share their experiences, which resonated with some of the students and gave them hope. Of the six students who participated in Officer Quick's first mentoring sessions, two went on to join a gang and are deeply entrenched in the lifestyle. Two others are still in high school, made it back to their school's wrestling team, and are doing fine. Two have graduated and are collegiate wrestlers.

Officer Quick works closely with the gang unit. He often is the one that receives the gang intel or the whereabouts of a suspect because of his relationships with so many students. Officer Quick receives cards, phone calls, and personal notes from parents thanking him for what he does in his daily job as a Conyers Police Officer. Officer Quick's service transcends his duties as a Conyers Police Officer and speaks more to his dedication of making a lasting impact on the youth of the community he serves, and is why he is being recognized for this year's Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing.











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