

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday February 20, 2015

EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AT MPD'S 15TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

For the fifteenth year in a row, the Metropolitan Police Department honored outstanding police officers, civilian employees, agency partners and community members who have helped to make DC neighborhoods safer over the past year. More than 40 individuals and organizations were recognized during the MPD's 14th Annual Awards Ceremony, held Thursday evening, February 19, at Gallaudet University's Elstad Auditorium, at 800 Florida Avenue, in Northeast DC. Some of MPD's honored employees include the following:

» Download the program book with details about all of the 15th Annual Awards Ceremony honorees online at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/heroes>

Bureau Employees of the Year. Members who work within one of the MPD's seven Bureaus are recognized for their standout qualities of leadership, work ethic and commitment to service. This year's recipients are: Sergeant George Bernard in the Corporate Support Bureau; Detective John Hendrick in the Internal Affairs Bureau; Acting Lieutenant Andrew Struhar in the Investigative Services Bureau; Officer Anthony Turner in the Homeland Security Bureau; Kendra Jennings in the Executive Office of the Chief of Police; Kaylin Castelli in the Strategic Services Bureau; and Kendra Whitaker in the Patrol Services Bureau.

District Officers of the Year. Seven police officers – one from each police district – were recognized for their outstanding service in 2014. First District **Officer Kevin Decker** has closed numerous robberies and violent crimes; he is well known on the streets by both the community members as well as offender and he is very apt at gaining information from individuals on his beat. Second District **Officer Hakeem Ayodeji** currently leads the Second District in arrests, and has generated 102 reports this year to date; he is a positive influence on those who work the midnight tour of duty, which can be an extremely difficult to produce arrests, reports and to make contacts. Third District **Officer Derek Tarr** works in the 3D Vice Unit where he has accrued over 100 Criminal Arrests, authored over 20 search warrants, led numerous investigations, managed confidential informants, worked undercover, and helped recover scores of illegal firearms. Fourth District **Officer Harrison** has made 49 adult arrests along with juvenile arrests during the short time he has been in 4D. Fifth District **Officers John Light and Kevin Smith** quickly subdued an armed man inside the 5D station; it was later discovered that the same man had committed an armed carjacking shortly before entering the building. Sixth District **Officer Shannon Strange's** quick thinking helped to save a young boy's life, by putting him in a scout car and transporting him to the hospital instead of wasting valuable time waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Seventh District **Officer Dwayne Mitchell**, a Crime Scene Search Technician, has demonstrated continued professionalism and tireless work in the face of some difficult challenges.

Joseph Pozell Reserve Officer of the Year (Volunteer). Officer Chris Daignault joined the MPD Reserve Corps in 2007 and has consistently demonstrated superior dedication to his duty, exemplified leadership by taking on many roles within the Reserve Corps, modeled community service by serving as a training officer for new members, and maintained an exemplary level of professionalism.

District Detectives of the Year. First District Detective Matthew Batko has performed his duties with professionalism, excellence and a keen attention to detail; he was instrumental in identifying two suspects in an October 2014 shooting in which three citizens were shot after leaving a concert at the Verizon Center. Second District Detective Metivier-Cowan successfully closed 50 of the 55 cases assigned to her in 2014, including a number of high profile cases, including the assault involving the entertainer Chris Brown

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Honoring the accomplishments of members of the Department and our community partners for their outstanding efforts over the past year

Elstad Auditorium at Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE | Washington, DC

Doors Open at 6:00 PM // Ceremony Begins at 7:00 PM

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

Muriel E. Bowser
Mayor

and an ADW Knife case involving a homeless victim who was attacked while asleep. Third District Detective Kimberly Pezzat has distinguished herself over the past year with her superb case development, work habits, dedication and professionalism; she closed over 40 cases, and has worked closely with prosecutors to ensure successful prosecutions. Fourth District Detective Wheeler is recognized for his tenacity and vigor which has resulted in closing over 50 cases this past year; he distinguishes himself not only in his professionalism, but the compassion, kindness and empathy he extends to the victims of violent crime. Fifth District Detective Jonathan Jordan worked some of the most violent crimes in his district, including a number of shootings and violent assaults, which prove even more challenging as a result of uncooperative victims, no witnesses, and few initial leads; through it all he consistently distinguishes himself as a keen investigator through his ability to close these challenging cases with arrests. Sixth District Detective Darin Booher will tirelessly work his cases by gathering information from all resources available, manage his on-scene investigations efficiently, locating and interviewing difficult-to-find witnesses, and ensuring that each case is thoroughly investigated no matter how big or small. Seventh District Detective Robbie Warren has delivered outstanding performance and dedication to the mission by closing more than 12 ADW/AWIK cases and over 10 robberies; his investigatory skills and determination have led to numerous arrests and convictions of some of DC's most dangerous criminals.

Sergeant of the Year. Sergeant Christopher Petz is known as the “go-to” person for gang activity. He was instrumental in the identification and prosecution of several criminals belonging to the “Jet Gang,” a group responsible for more than 30 commercial theft/robberies in DC as well as local jurisdictions. He also followed up on leads that eventually resulted in capturing the Saratoga Robbery Theft Crew.

Lieutenant of the Year. Lieutenant John Haines is assigned to the 5th District Detective's Office, where he brings experience, skill, and leadership to the oversight of criminal investigations. He was also tasked with coordinating the Citywide Commercial Robbery Task Force, and regularly provides training for the Criminal Investigations Division and new investigators.

Captain of the Year. While currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, Captain Kimberly Dickerson, a 15-year veteran, spent most of 2014 assigned to the Second District. As the Captain of PSAs 201 and 206, she continually demonstrated a professional enthusiasm in serving the citizens of these PSAs, working with community leaders and outside agencies to develop solutions to neighborhood concerns.

Inspector of the Year. Inspector Angel Medina serves as the Executive Officer Responsible for the management and oversight of over 2,900 employees in the Patrol Services Bureau. Patrol Services functions across the seven police districts as the backbone of the Department. Inspector Medina has worked tirelessly to ensure smooth and continuous operations oversight.

Commander of the Year. Commander Jacob Kishter has served as the Commanding Officer of the Third Police District for over five years. Under his leadership, the Third District achieved a remarkable 27% decrease in violent crime during 2014, including a 35% decrease in robberies, a 10% reduction in felony assaults, and an 11% reduction in homicides. Commander Kishter implemented innovative and aggressive crime suppression initiatives, including deployment of Nightlife teams to prevent and deter crime. He also maintains a strong community engagement program, and is always accessible to both the community and his officers.

Detective of the Year. Detective Ingrid Harkins is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division's Sex Offense Section. She demonstrates a dedication to duty on a daily basis in the investigation of Cold Case Sexual Assault, provides training to newly assigned investigators, and most recently served as an acting Detective Sergeant. Detective Harkins brings commitment and passion to her work, and serves as a tireless advocate for victims of crime.

Deborah R. Ennis Civilian Employee of the Year Award. Mr. Daniel Hall serves as the lead civilian analyst for the Department's Intelligence Branch. Mr. Hall was the leading force in the development and implementation of the CIB Gang Tracking system, designed to streamline the tracking of over 2,000 documented gang members. His expertise in implementing new technology, including automated reporting, has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of unit operations and improved both access to, and dissemination of, criminal intelligence throughout the Department.

These individuals are just a few of the police officers, civilian employees and residents who were honored. In 2007, Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier implemented a new approach to recognizing the Department's sworn and civilian members. Many members now receive their awards shortly after the commendable action. In 2014, 153 members received awards at one of her regularly-scheduled crime briefings.

Several outstanding Units were also recognized. The Narcotics and Special Investigations Division received the Crime Suppression Award. Additionally, the Best Performing District was awarded to the Seventh Police District and PSA 208 was recognized as PSA of the Year. The Chief of Police Special Award is presented to community members who have excelled in supporting crime prevention and community policing, and the Chief's Medal of Merit is given to members of other agencies who have assisted the MPD in significant operations.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

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