

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT TOP COP HONORED

SUFFOLK, VA (November 16, 2015) Suffolk Police Officer Shane Sukowaski was honored as the Suffolk Police Department's Top Cop at the recent Hampton Roads Crime Line's Dinner & Top Cop Awards held in Norfolk on November 7, 2015.

Officer Sukowaski has distinguished himself as a top performer by his outstanding leadership, critical thinking, and exemplary job performance throughout 2014.

In June 2014 Officer Sukowaski's superior performance was demonstrated during a traffic stop in which a bag of narcotics was observed under the foot of the passenger. A subsequent search revealed 12 individually packaged crack cocaine rocks, 5 capsules of cocaine, and \$215 in cash. Officer Sukowaski's excellent investigative and interrogation skills were used as he obtained confessions from the two suspects.

Several days later, Officer Sukowaski dealt with a highly volatile "person with a gun". It had been reported that a man was chasing a woman and shooting at her. Officer Sukowaski observed the man in a vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The driver exited his vehicle and started toward the officers. Officer Sukowaski instantaneously

assessed the situation, saw a weapon was not visible and gave him commands to “get on the ground” as he moved quickly toward the suspect and took him into custody. This situation could easily have escalated into the use of deadly force was it not for Officer Sukowaski’s swift assessment, critical thinking and confidence during these tense moments.

He also displayed superior performance and commitment while being the Field Training Officer to two new police officers. He sought out the most difficult cases to investigate to quickly expand the knowledge and training of these new officers.

Officer Sukowaski not only excels at police work and training of new officers, when faced with life-saving situations he acts quickly. In July of 2014, Officer Sukowaski and a trainee were on routine patrol when they were dispatched to a home for a man suffering cardiac arrest. Together they performed CPR and used an AED to help resuscitate him. Both Officers were recognized at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce’s Valor Awards this year for their life-saving efforts.

Officer Sukowaski’s distinguished accomplishments demonstrate his commitment to duty, the Suffolk Police Department, and our community.

The Greater Hampton Roads Crime Line’s Top Cop Awards honor police officers and others who have demonstrated a commitment to a safer Hampton Roads community. Award recipients are leaders and role models for both their peers and their community. A total of 17 Top Cops were named from law enforcement agencies across the Hampton Roads area.

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