

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT TOP COP HONORED**

SUFFOLK, VA (November 8, 2017) Suffolk Police Detective Rachelann Cain was honored as the Suffolk Police Department's Top Cop at the recent Hampton Roads Crime Line's Dinner & Top Cop Awards held in Suffolk, Virginia on November 4, 2017.

As her Awards Nomination letter noted, Detective Cain was the primary case agent with the support of a Special Agent with the FBI in the investigation of a Suffolk man, Lionel Nelson Williams, who was attempting to provide material support to ISIL. The FBI was informed in March of 2016 that Williams had been posting ISIL-related videos and content about supporting the group on his Facebook page. Williams allegedly posted that "It's time for me to take a stand."

Detective Cain interviewed numerous witnesses to help identify Williams, conducted surveillance when surveillance teams were not available and coordinated with the businesses Williams used to send money. Detective Cain worked more than 300 hours of overtime throughout the investigation.

Detective Cain was headed out of town for Christmas in December 2016 and received a call from her supporting case agent requesting her to return to help due to the

escalation of Williams' behavior. Detective Cain was about 2 hours from her destination when she turned around and returned to Virginia. Detective Cain was on use or lose time with the City of Suffolk. Once arriving home, she immediately went to work. Within days of this, Williams was arrested for Material Support of Terrorism.

In an exchange between October and November 2016, an undercover agent told Williams on an encrypted messaging app that they were in a territory controlled by ISIL and were trying to purchase 10,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition and 50 magazines. Williams allegedly asked how much the ammo cost in that territory and said he would try to help. Mr. Williams sent money and ammunition to a person he believed to be helping ISIL. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that Williams had purchased an AK-47 assault rifle the day after the terror attack in San Bernardino, California, in December 2015. Two firearms, including an AK-47 and a semi-automatic handgun, were recovered in a post arrest search of Williams' residence.

After the arrest of Williams, Detective Cain began combing through hundreds of files and evidence. This information lead to the discovery Williams was planning an attack on United States soil.

With these efforts, Williams took a plea on August 16, 2017 and is awaiting sentencing. He has agreed to a 20-year sentence. If it were not for the investigative efforts of Detective Cain, Williams may have been successful in aiding ISIL and his efforts could have resulted in countless deaths.

As part of the awards ceremony, Wayne Powers, a current member of the Suffolk Crime Line Board, was honored with the Top Individual award. Powers is the owner of Suffolk BBQ and is a dedicated individual to the Suffolk community donating his time and food to various organizations and fundraising events.

The Suffolk Crime Line Board sponsors an annual recognition luncheon where the Officers of the Quarter and Year are recognized as well as the local Crime Stopper programs in the middle and high schools. Lunch is provided to the attendees at this event and Powers has graciously provided food for attendees.

Powers also donates food to Tidewater Motorcycles in Suffolk on numerous occasions for their weekly hot dog social. He donates gift certificates from his business in support of the silent auction for the annual Top Cop event.

Powers is a member of various other civic organizations in the City of Suffolk which sponsor events in the City. The Suffolk Crime Line Board noted that, "Powers is a person that you can go to and know that he is always there to help in any way he can."

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 during the November 4<sup>th</sup> event.

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