

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

SUFFOLK, VA (March 22, 2018) The Suffolk Police Department held its Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet on Monday, March 19, 2018 at the Planter's Club. The event served to honor and recognize sworn and non-sworn members of the Department as well as citizens who have contributed to the success of the Department and the service provided to the Suffolk community.

Special recognitions were presented for the Dispatcher of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, and Civilian Employee of the Year.

CO Jodi Holliman – Dispatcher of the Year

Communications Operator Jodi Holliman is an asset to our Emergency Communications Center and our Department as a whole. She has consistently proven herself to be a dedicated employee since being hired in 2008. Along with the required certifications for her position, she has earned additional certifications and has attended numerous training sessions to enhance her knowledge and skills. Holliman is a member of the Crisis Intervention Team and a certified Communications Training

Officer. She has also received training with our Reverse 911 system, COM-L, VDOT Traffic Incident Management, and Mental Health First Aid, to name a few.

She has acted as a duty supervisor on numerous occasions. In February 2017, Holliman was given a special assignment where she was tasked to focus her time on the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement to aid our center in becoming CALEA accredited. Holliman made a significant step in her career when she was promoted to Communications Operator III in August 2017. She has always been an excellent ambassador of our agency. She puts a lot of hard work into what she continuously does, again, proving herself to be an asset for the center, the Department and the City.

Sergeant Andre Sparks – Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Andre Sparks is assigned to the Special Operations Unit. During his assignment, he directly managed the School Resource Officers (SRO) and Marine Patrol Unit for the entire year. Up until the Spring of 2017, Sgt. Sparks managed the Motorcycle Unit and the Parking Enforcement Unit. While managing 7 SRO's, he implemented specific goals and objectives for the SROs to uphold in support of the Police Department and Suffolk Public Schools. He challenged each SRO to implement at least one school safety program within all middle and high schools. Additionally, each SRO was challenged to identify at least 2 to 3 at-risk students to mentor throughout the school year for them to follow a positive course in life.

Sgt. Sparks challenged each SRO to interface the Crime Stoppers Program advocated in each middle and high school. He further supported the Crime Stoppers program by coordinating, sponsoring and participating in various basketball games to build relations with the students and police officers. Sgt. Sparks also ensured that each SRO conducted a school safety orientation with the school staff and teachers via workshops.

Sgt. Sparks was also a key mentor for the 2017 Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy. He has always displayed a strong connection with the students in the previous and most recent academies.

Officer Clifton Sessoms – Police Officer of the Year

Officer Clifton Sessoms' work ethic has been nothing short of outstanding for the year. Officer Sessoms is currently assigned to the Driver Under the Influence (DUI) Task Force Unit. Officer Sessoms completed and re-certified as one of only 3 Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in the entire Hampton Roads area. Officer Sessoms was honored by the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) Organization as the Officer with the most DUI arrests from the City of Suffolk during 2016. During the year 2017, Officer Sessoms conducted 196 Standard Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) resulting in 70 DUI arrests, 61 Open Container of Alcohol violations, 33 Refusal to Submit Breath/Alcohol Tests violations and 4 Underage Drinking violations. Officer Sessoms assisted street patrol officers with 14 DUI arrests and provided 25 Drug Recognition Evaluations to assist other officers in Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) arrests.

Officer Sessoms' proactive enforcement resulted in summonses for 696 speeding violations, 76 reckless driving violations, 35 seatbelt violations, 72 fail to obey highway sign violations, 33 vehicle inspections violations, 39 drive without license violations, 74 driving while revoked/suspended license violations (31 DUI related), 3 no vehicle insurance violations, 1 child safety seat violation, 31 vehicle registration violations, 23 equipment violations and 60 miscellaneous violations. His efforts also resulted in 15 felony arrests, 38 misdemeanor drug arrests, 27 weapon, and 20 warrant arrests.

Administrative Analyst Joel Howard – Civilian Employee of the Year

Joel Howard is assigned as the Administrative Analyst for the Suffolk Police Department. Not only does Howard focus on his primary duties pertaining to the Administrative Analyst position, but he coordinates all of the grants that the Department receives, works on special projects and new initiatives such as the DUI taskforce, the Department's Vision Plan, and even helps coordinate the yearly Police vs. Fire Football game.

The resources brought to the Police Department as a result of Howard's work in grants are second to none. He has used his innovative thinking to apply and receive the 21st Century Policing Grant for 2017 and 2018. He modified this grant to fit the guidelines of 21st Century Policing by obtaining the grant for recruiting a diverse police department to represent the population for which the Suffolk Police Department polices. The grant allowed Suffolk Police to recruit at Historically Black Colleges (HBCU) and female colleges/universities. In 2017, the Recruitment Team attended 24 recruiting events as far away as Washington D.C. and Fort Bragg with the assistance of the funds from this grant.

Administrative Analyst Howard is an asset to the Suffolk Police Department and he is truly committed to making the Suffolk Police Department the best police department due to his high level of attention to detail, dedication, and his professionalism while performing his duties.

Life Saving Award:

Officer James Brooks

Officer Anthony Patton

Officer Sean Powell

Officer Zachary Hyman

Officer Lauren Stabinski

Police Officer of the Quarter:

Officer Anthony Patton
Investigator Gary Parker
Officer Josie Hall
Officer Clifton Sessoms

Citizen Award:

Mrs. Cathy Richards
Mr. Gilbert Fitzwater III
Mr. Michael O'Neal
Mr. Joseph Walker

Department Commendations:

PRT Cynthia Meyer
CO Robert Shelton
CO Khadejah Rawlings-Middleton
Aux. Officer Keith Richards
Aux. Sergeant Donald Thompson
Officer Benjamin Delugo
Officer Brian Hearn
Officer Daniel Ferster
Officer Jennifer Parker (2)
Officer Jose Rivera (2)
Officer Josie Hall (2)
Officer Lori Ellis
Officer Matthew Moraczewski
Officer Michael Holman
Officer Rebecca Penno
Officer Trevor Tello (4)
Officer Tyson Wild
K-9 Chamba

Officer William Bradshaw
Officer Yamilai Diaz Ibarra
Investigator Kevin Dodson
Investigator Ryan Linville
Investigator Wallace Weatherly
Sergeant Chad Hooker
Sergeant Cheryl Balzer
Sergeant Gary Myrick (2)
Sergeant Robert Fahrman
Lieutenant Kevin Harrison

Community Service Awards:

Officer Jay Burton
Officer Josie Hall
Officer Ryan Moore
Officer Shane Sukowaski
Officer David Wells
Officer William Bradshaw
Investigator Ryan Linville
Investigator David White
Sergeant Antonio Diggs

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