



CITY of FINDLAY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
FINDLAY, OH 45840

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Chief Mathias and Command Staff,

I would like to nominate Stephanie Whitted for the 2023 Civilian Employee of the Year Award. Stephanie has been employed with the Findlay Police Department since 2008 as the CALEA Accreditation Manager. This position is a vital function in ensuring that the department maintains this highly coveted national accreditation. In her role, Stephanie is not only tasked with making certain that the department's complex accreditation standards are met, but she also is required to serve as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police and Detective Secretary, when needed.

Stephanie takes great pride in her work, she works tirelessly to make certain that written directives are up to date, properly structured, and compliant with the strict CALEA standards. She is always up for any challenge and is willing to help others, even if it means pausing her own work and responsibilities.

During the summer/fall of 2023, Stephanie served as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police for several months, all while preparing for the CALEA onsite re-accreditation process. Stephanie served in this dual role admirably and without complaint or hesitation.

Over the last few years, I have had the privilege to work closer with Stephanie and personally witness her hard work, professionalism, and dedication to this department. Stephanie has proven herself to be an invaluable employee who is always willing to lend assistance to any employee who may need it.

For these reasons, I recommend that Stephanie be recognized as the 2023 Civilian Employee of the Year.

Respectfully,

Capt. Justin Hendren

Stephanie Whitted has been employed with the City of Findlay since July of 2008. She transferred to the Police Department as a Records Clerk in January of 2012 and then assigned as the CALEA Accreditation Manager in November of 2012. CALEA stands for Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and it considered the "Gold Standard" for public safety organizations and is recognized internationally. Compliance allows the department to maintain fidelity by employing standards established by the Commission. Through these standards, the department also can measure improvement, recognize the need for change, and employ that change.

Stephanie's position is a vital function in ensuring that the Police Department maintains this highly coveted national accreditation. In December, the department was evaluated by CALEA for our third re-accreditation. We received the final report and we look forward to our commission hearing next in Alabama. In 2009, the department attained recognition with CALEA under Chief of Police Gregory Horne. Then in 2012 full accreditation was awarded to the Police Department with all of her hard work. Re-accreditation was in 2015 and again in 2019. We are also recognized by Ohio Collaborative as a certified agency to ensure accountability and instill greater public confidence. Stephanie has also transitioned the Department to PowerDMS software, which maintains a level of accountability with policy reviews. This program also enables training and instructional material to be viewed by devices that can reach internet connection.

Stephanie is also tasked with filling various positions when others Clerks and Administrative Assistant are absent. Stephanie could be referred to as a "Swiss Army knife".

Stephanie is married to her husband Anthony and they share 4 children; Makenna, Makayla, Hailey, and Jaxon.

December 8, 2023

Chief Mathias and command staff,

I would like to nominate Det. Christopher Brickner for Officer of the year. I had the privilege of Det. Brickner working for me from July till his transfer to the detective's division. During that time Det. Brickner showed his dedication to his career as well as his professionalism on many occasions. A few examples are as follows;

Report 2023-11447 Det. Brickner located a vehicle suspected in assisting two escaped inmates from Wood County. He was able to recover evidence as well as obtain confessions from the occupants as to their involvement in the escape.

Report 2023-16285 Det. Brickner was able to locate and detain a robbery suspect for other officers who were investigating the robbery based off of their description of the suspect and him deciding to canvas the area

Report 2023-17184 Other officers were dispatched to a breaking and entering at Marvin Motors involving two stolen vehicles. Det. Brickner was not dispatched, but arrived in the area where he canvased and spoke with neighbor looking for witnesses and also arrived on scene to assist the owner of the business with reviewing his security camera because the owner did not know how to work them. Det. Brickner was able to work the security cameras and recover video evidence of the breaking and entering.

Report 2023-19102 Det. Brickner investigated a hit skip private property crash where there was a major language barrier with all involved parties and the majority of the witnesses were being untruthful. He was able to work past these obstacles, identify, and later cite the suspect driver. He also had to collaborate with a witness to get the suspect to come back to town as he had fled and was not planning on ever returning.

2023-20431 Det. Brickner took a report of stolen credit cards being used. He was later on patrol and located a vehicle that matched the description of the suspect vehicle. He was able to stop the vehicle and recover stolen property.

Along with his patrol duties, Det. Brickner spend countless hours working on the StrataSite program as well as submitting our training programs to the state for approval.

I never had to worry about Det. Brickner's ability to handle any call he was sent on. Det. Brickner is a well-rounded officer who always completes thorough investigations, follows leads to the end, and is able and willing to assist other officers with investigations.

Thank you for considering Det. Brickner for Officer of the year for 2023.

Sgt. Timothy Brown #238

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sgt. Tim Brown #238". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the last name "Brown" being the most prominent part.

Christopher Brickner was hired on September 8, 2014. He spent the first 9 years of his career as a Patrol Officer where he served as an FTO, active shooter instructor, and negotiator for the Crisis Management team. Chris has a reputation for being a person that wants to learn and know why something happened or how it works. This need for knowledge led to a curious nature and lots of questions. The natural curiosity possessed by Chris led him to be interested in cases that required an advanced level of investigation. As a patrol Officer, Chris tried to work many of his cases to completion instead of passing them off to Detectives. In November of 2023 Chris' work as an investigator paid off and he was selected to join the investigation division as a detective.

In 2020, Chris was awarded a life saving pin for his actions at an overdose. A review of Chris' personnel file revealed numerous accommodations and "atta boys" that all seemed to mention the same attributes, a very thorough investigator with a great attitude.

In 2022 Chris was a vital part of the negotiation team that assisted with a male that had broken into a business and was under the influence of narcotics. Chris negotiated with the male for several hours before he was eventually taken into custody.

Chris is supported in his career by his wife, Nicole and their 3 kids; McKenna, Hudson, and Syrus.

OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION