

SOUTH MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



DATE: April 28, 2015
TO: Police & Fire Commission
FROM: Chief Ann Wellens
SUBJECT: Police Awards
Common Council Meeting
May 5, 2015

The week of May 10 – 16, 2015 has been designated as National Peace Officers Week. In conjunction with National Peace Officers Week the Police Department will be holding our annual Department Awards to recognize selected staff and citizens from the community.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2015 six Officers, one Public Safety Officer, and two Auxiliary Officers from the Department, three citizens and one business will be presented Police Department Awards at the Common Council meeting. Mayor Brooks has kindly allowed time at the beginning of the meeting for the Department presentation. The following Department members, citizens and business will be receiving the following awards:

LIFE SAVING COMMENDATION: awarded to any officer whose action directly contributed to the saving or significant prolonging of human life.

Investigator Hill – nominated by Officer Rivamonte

On December 20, 2014 at approximately 9:44pm the South Milwaukee Police Department took a report of a suicidal subject who had slashed his wrists and left his mother's residence on bicycle. Officers were given the general area of Grant Park to search for the subject who was in a mental health crisis. After searching for a significant amount of time Investigator Hill located the subject's bicycle hidden in some bushes; after searching the area he located the subject. The subject was unconscious and bleeding from cuts to both wrists. Investigator Hill provided immediate medical assistance to the subject. Officers carried the subject to Lake Drive so the South Milwaukee Fire Department could treat his injuries. If Investigator Hill had not continued to search for the subject he would have died in Grant Park that evening (it was cold 15 degrees and the subject was not properly clothed).

Officer Dews, Officer Fournier, PSO Maxim and Auxiliary Officer Ceparski – nominated by Officer McLean

On February 16, 2015 at approximately 3:27am the South Milwaukee Police Department received a 911 transfer call from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office. PSO Maxim was unable to speak with the 911 caller as the phone call ended prior to transferring. PSO Maxim was unable to make contact with the 911 caller as calls went to voicemail. PSO Maxim advised officers the 911 caller had reported he had fallen in the woods in Grant Park near the lagoon. PSO Maxim looked up the 911 coordinates to assist in locating the caller. Officers searched the area described by the 911 caller and found him lying on the snow covered ground. The subject was unable to stand and officers carried him to the roadway where the South Milwaukee Fire Department took over and transported the man to St. Luke's South Shore for medical treatment. Had the officers not located the man he possibly would have died due to the cold weather conditions.

MERIT AWARD: awarded for excellent arrest by any officer directly involved in the capture and arrest of a felon who was endangering the lives and/or property of the community.

Lt. Hallett – nominated by Captain Jaske

On September 11, 2014 at approximately 1:57am Lt. Hallett had cleared from a call involving a subject who was stealing from vehicles in the northwest area of town. It had been reported that two subjects were involved in the thefts, one subject was in custody and one subject remained at large. Lt. Hallett observed a vehicle stopped in traffic, as he approached the vehicle it began traveling away from him. Lt. Hallett stopped the vehicle. Subsequent investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated and had just stolen the vehicle from a residence in town. Lt. Hallett's commitment to his duties and to the citizens of South Milwaukee should be commended. The subject was charged by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office with OWI -2nd Offense, and Operating Owners Vehicle Without Consent.

Officer Rivamonte – nominated by Officer Dews

On November 30, 2014 at approximately 4:06am the South Milwaukee Police Department received a report of an armed robbery at Griddler's Café. The suspect fled on foot from the restaurant. A description of the suspect was provided to all officers. Officer Rivamonte responded to the area. Officer Rivamonte observed a vehicle leaving the area with a subject matching the description of the suspect. Officer Rivamonte stopped the vehicle and after contact with the driver took her into custody for the armed robbery. Upon interviewing the suspect Officer Rivamonte obtained a confession. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office charged the suspect with robbery. PO Rivamonte's actions reflect favorably for the South Milwaukee Police Department and the safety of the citizens of South Milwaukee.

SUPERVISOR'S RECOGNITION AWARD: a supervisor may give this award, without Awards Committee approval, for outstanding work.

Officer Fleming – Lt. Milow presenting the award

Lt. Milow recommended Officer Fleming for a Supervisor's Recognition Award for his investigation of a serial retail theft suspect.

CITIZEN'S RECOGNITION AWARD:

Mr. Dominick Wendorf

Officer Rohde nominated Mr. Wendorf for a Citizen's Recognition Award for his actions on May 18, 2014.

On May 18, 2014 Mr. Wendorf witnesses four older teenagers beating a baby deer with sticks and "teasing" the deer. Mr. Wendorf was able to get the teenagers away from the deer and then noticed the deer was in distress. He carried the deer to a neighbor's house in an effort to get help for the deer. The deer appeared to be lethargic and was taken to the Wisconsin Humane Society – Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Mr. Wendorf's compassion and concern for the welfare of the baby deer is commendable.

Ms. Constance Anderson

Officer Fleming nominated Ms. Anderson for a Citizen's Recognition Award for her actions on June 27, 2014.

On June 27, 2014 while Mr. Anderson was working at Walgreens an elderly woman came into the store requesting to purchase 4 - \$500.00 Green Dot cards. Ms. Anderson was aware of the Green Dot scam and immediately notified the Police Department because she felt the elderly woman could be a victim of fraud. The Police Department did determine the elderly woman would have been a victim of fraud had Ms. Anderson not intervened and prevented her from purchasing the Green Dot cards. Ms. Anderson's compassion and concern for this woman is commendable. The Police Department is proud to have businesses that care about their customers and will go the extra effort for their protection.

Mrs. Phylis Stoesser

Lt. Milow nominated Mrs. Stoesser for a Citizen's Recognition Award for her actions on July 2, 2014.

On July 2, 2014 the South Milwaukee Police Department took a report of a missing elderly woman with early stage dementia/Alzheimer's from the 1500 block of Manitowoc Avenue. Mrs. Stoesser observed an elderly woman near her residence (1000 Block of N. Chicago) who appear confused and lost. Mrs. Stoesser engaged the woman in conversation and then began to follow her as she continued to walk on N. Chicago. Mrs. Stoesser notified the police department who

upon arriving at the scene determine the elderly woman to be the one missing from the 1500 block of Manitowoc Avenue. Mrs. Stoesser's compassion and concern for the woman is commendable.

Mr. Mike Wolf – Manager South Milwaukee Wal-Mart

The South Milwaukee Wal-Mart is receiving a Citizen's Recognition Award for their continued support of our community. Wal-Mart is a true community partner. Wal-Mart, under the management of Mr. Wolf, and the Police Department have a great relationship. Wal-Mart has provided the Police Department with support for Community Night Out and Shop with a Cop program.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE RECOGNITION:

Mr. Kurt Olson became a South Milwaukee Police Department Auxiliary Officer in February 1984. Throughout the years Mr. Olson has been involved in many of the police department programs and civic events in the community. He is considered a family member of the South Milwaukee Police Department. We recognize him tonight for his 30 years of dedicated voluntary service to the South Milwaukee Police Department and the citizens of South Milwaukee.