



CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

David A. Wood, Mayor
Kenneth L. Witkowski, Chief

March 25, 2014

David A. Wood
Board of Public Works and Safety
City Hall - 600 East Third Street
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

On behalf on my Administration and the Mishawaka Police Department we are proud and honored to award Sgt. Louis Beehler "Officer of the Year" for 2013.

Sgt. Beehler has been a detective in our Investigative Division on the Day Shift for the past nine years. Prior to that he was assigned to the Services Division in the Communications/Computer IT section of the Department.

Sgt. Beehler received Officer of the Second Quarter in 2013. He is being recognized not only for his tireless investigation of three suspects involved in numerous scams and thefts throughout St. Joseph County but also for the work he performs on daily basis. He can always be counted on to gather enough evidence and complete a very precise report. His investigations are very thorough, leaving no stone unturned.

In 2013 an example of his detective skills was the work he put in to investigating the crimes of the Franklin brothers. With Sgt. Beehler's assistance the Franklin brothers and another suspect were charged for multiple crimes ranging from home improvement scams targeting the elderly, countless thefts of construction equipment and trailers, check fraud and insurance fraud and running an elaborate scheme involving stolen vehicles.

This group has been committing these types of crimes for a very long time in our Community. They have cost companies and citizens hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some victims have lost their lifesavings because of this group.

Emergency..... 911
Front Desk 574-258-1678
Investigative Division 574-258-1684
Records Division..... 574-258-1681

Chief 574-258-1683
Uniform Division 574-258-1688
Traffic Division 574-259-2966
Fax..... 574-258-1690

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Sgt. Beehler, along with detectives from South Bend and St. Joseph County Police Departments, has been investigating this group's criminal enterprise for a few years. They have spent countless hours going over case reports and following up on leads.

The Franklin's scamming and swindling finally came to an end with their ultimate apprehension and indictment thanks to Sgt. Beehler's efforts and determination.

In the Fall of 2013, Sgt. Beehler was challenged with a health issue and since then has faced it with courage and determination. He has made great strides in his recovery and continues to improve as time goes on. The bravery he displays in dealing with this challenge on a day to day basis is to be admired. We wish only the best with his continued battle. With his determination we are confident he will continue to improve.

With that being said I want to congratulate Sgt. Beehler for receiving the Officer of the Year award for 2013.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd