



CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

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

February 2, 2016

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

Re: Police Officers of the Fourth Quarter – 2015

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

I am proud to announce all members of our Street Crimes Unit: Lt. Brian Costa, Sgt. Eric Beckham and Pfc. Ryan Corbett recipients for “Officers of the Fourth Quarter.”

The Mishawaka Street Crime Unit’s main goal is to investigate, interrupt and arrest the city’s largest and most frequent criminals. The unit is comprised of 3 officers with very different backgrounds.

In October, Brian Costa was promoted to Lieutenant and given the task of running the Mishawaka Street Crimes Unit. The 27-year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department brings a vast background of narcotics investigations, SWAT Tactics, and law enforcement leadership to the unit.

Sgt. Eric Beckham, a 13-year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department has spent the majority of his career assigned to the Metro Special Operations Section, or the “drug unit.” There, he investigated, interviewed, arrested and testified against the region’s largest narcotics dealers and users.

Patrolman First Class Ryan Corbett, a 9-year-veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department has spent the last 5 years assigned to the Mishawaka Street Crimes Unit. Officer Corbett is also assigned to the St. Joseph County Metro SWAT Team and most recently to the US Marshalls Fugitive Task Force.

On **September 3, 2015** a call to the Mishawaka Inn located at 2754 Lincoln Way East, resulted in the apprehension of six (6) subjects who were manufacturing Methamphetamines. The exhaustive investigation was recognized by Deputy Prosecutor Amy Cressy. She not only praised the investigation, but was thankful and impressed that officers Costa and Corbett continued with the investigation through the guilty verdict. Recovered in the case was: heroin, methamphetamines, and products to manufacture methamphetamines. Charges filed were: Possession of Methamphetamines, Manufacturing Methamphetamines, and Possession of Heroin.

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

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

On **October 22, 2015**, the St. Joseph County Metro SWAT Team executed a search warrant at 230 E. Borley. Both Officers Costa and Corbett were present as SWAT successfully executed the warrant. The warrant was issued after an exhaustive narcotics investigation conducted by Sgt. Beckham. The warrant resulted in the arrest of 3 individuals. Charges filed against the suspects were: Dealing a Narcotic Drug, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Possession of a Narcotic Drug.

On **October 23, 2015**, units were called back to the Mishawaka Inn to investigate another possible methamphetamine operation. Officers Beckham & Costa led the investigation which resulted in the arrest of 3 subjects and the confiscation of Drug Precursors and products to manufacture Meth.

On **October 29, 2015**, Sgt. Beckham concluded a long investigation of heroin dealing at the Hickory Village Apartment Complex. The investigation which included several undercover heroin purchases resulted in a search warrant. Once again, the metro SWAT Team was called to serve the search warrant. The single arrest resulted in the following charges: dealing heroin, possession of heroin, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance.

On **November 2, 2015**, Lt. Costa began a narcotics investigation at the Village Green Trailer Park. The investigation, which included a search through the suspect's garbage, resulted in a search warrant service on Fall Creek Drive. The four arrests made from inside the trailer resulted in the following charges: Possession of Methamphetamines, Dealing Methamphetamines, & Manufacturing Meth.

On **November 11, 2015**, after officers received information that a burglary had been committed at 3919 Lincoln Way East, it was discovered that someone had been using the unoccupied building to manufacture methamphetamines. The Street Crimes Unit began a long surveillance of the building which eventually resulted in the arrest of one subject. After an exhaustive investigation, the following charges were filed against the subject: Burglary, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, & Possession of Methamphetamines.

On **November 16, 2015**, after receiving a tip about a gun and narcotics at a Hickory Village Apartment Building, Sgt. Beckham arranged for a search warrant on the apartment. The search warrant turned up marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a handgun. Charges filed in the case were: possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance.

On **December 9, 2015**, while following up on a tip from a jail inmate, Officers Costa & Corbett found themselves on the west side of South Bend. There, they arrested one subject for an outstanding warrant and in the process, uncovered another meth lab. While investigating the property, the suspect returned home. A vehicle pursuit incurred which included Officers from both South Bend and Mishawaka. When the pursuit ended and the suspect arrested, charges filed were: Dealing in Methamphetamine, Manufacturing Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Resisting Law Enforcement.

This is just an example of how hard-working and dedicated these officers are in searching, locating and investigating patterned and frequent criminal activity and ultimately apprehending criminals.

On behalf of the Department and my Administration, I am proud and honored to present these three gentlemen "Officers of the Fourth Quarter" for 2015.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd