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"Maintaining a Safe Community since 1851"

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: TURU VANDERWIEL, CHIEF OF POLICE 

DATE: 18 MARCH 2019

RE: 2018 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR RECOGNITIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required on this item. The Sonora Police Department would like to recognize our employees of the year for 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Each year the Police Department's leadership meets to select department members for recognition in the following categories: Officer of the Year, Reserve Officer of the Year, Civilian Employee of the Year, Community Service Volunteer of the Year, and the Ronald Billings II Police Explorer of the Year. There is a peer nomination step in this selection process which adds a higher level of distinction to these recognitions.

DISCUSSION:

The following individuals were selected as the Sonora Police Department's employees of the year for 2018.

Scott Mallon, Officer of the Year - Scott has worked for Sonora Police Department for just over two and a half years now and has been chosen as one of our Department's Field Training Officers because of the exceptional talent he possesses for police work. He puts a great deal of energy into ensuring our new officers are ready to safely work on their own and frequently shares his knowledge with other officers in the department. His case investigations are thorough and he often employees unique investigative techniques that typically produce exceptional results. His colleagues say he is fun to work with, and that they respect his vast knowledge of the job. Most importantly, Scott's moral compass is properly calibrated. He clearly believes in the law enforcement profession and takes his position as a Police Officer very seriously. He cares about crime victims and works hard producing investigations that will help them find resolution through the criminal justice system. Scott will also be receiving recognition for his efforts from the American Legion Post 58 tomorrow night.

Dennis Townsend, Reserve Officer of the Year – Dennis was hired by the Sonora Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1999. Due to sustained staffing shortages, he has been working as a contracted part-time officer for the past two years. Dennis is a true investigator and will follow-up on his cases leaving no loose ends or stones unturned. Dennis is highly respected by his peers and leadership alike. His experience and career maturity makes him a valuable role model for less experienced staff, and his vast knowledge in fire investigation has proven to be a valuable asset to the City of Sonora. Dennis puts in many additional hours in support of his fellow officers and mentors all level of staff in their professional and personal lives. Like many others, I have personally looked to Dennis for his insight and knowledge.

Naomi Kneip, Civilian Employee of the Year – Naomi started with us in 2009. Having spent time as both a Patrol Officer and as a Dispatcher, she has unique perspective and a broader understanding of police work. She shows a strong desire to come to work every day which is reflected in the quality of her work and by her supportive interactions with her co-workers and the public. Naomi distinguishes herself by applying exceptional attention to detail and self-initiative. Going above and beyond the duties regularly expected of a Dispatcher-Records Specialist, Naomi is constantly looking at ways for us to improve our professional image, reduce staff hours, and streamline processes. Naomi doesn't wait to be given a project; instead, she finds something that needs to be done, submits recommendations, and requests permission to implement.

Ashley Kennedy, Community Service Volunteer (CSV) of the Year – Ashley joined us about a year and a half ago and has logged around 200 hours of volunteer time in 2018. She was recently chosen as a CSV Sergeant and shares the responsibility of the oversight and leadership of the Police Explorer program. She put herself through the POST Level III Arrest and Control course this past year to enhance her skills while volunteering for supplemental patrol functions. Ashley is a pleasure to work with and is always willing to help with whatever needs to be done.

Kurt Bryant, Ronald Billings II Explorer of the Year -- Kurt joined the Explorer POST program in October of 2017. Kurt has been chosen as a squad leader for the Explorer Post. He has put in many hours into the program and is always willing to help with whatever detail we have. As one of the post's senior members, Kurt is someone that younger Explorers look to for guidance. He will be aging out of the Explorer Post soon and wants to continue volunteering with us as a Community Service Volunteer.