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SONORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 South Green Street
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"Maintaining a Safe Community since 1851"

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: TURU VANDERWIEL, CHIEF OF POLICE 
DATE: MARCH 2nd, 2020
RE: 2019 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 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Each year the Police Department recognizes exceptional performance in the following categories: Officer of the Year, Reserve Officer of the Year, Civilian Employee of the Year, the Marshall McMaster Community Service Volunteer of the Year, and the Ronald Billings II Police Explorer of the Year. These recognitions are peer-nominated and leadership endorsed.

The following individuals were selected as the Sonora Police Department's employees of the year for 2019.

Erik Weber, Officer of the Year – Erik works more than his share of extra shifts and is a pleasure to work with. He sets an excellent example for our community and works well with the public. He is a great mentor to newer officers and trainees. He is one of the most reliable employees in the department, and he maintains a positive attitude. Erik is always there to help out at the firing range, on patrol, or on calls for service. One of his peers summed it up by stating, "He is just a good quality dude." His supervisors note that he is developing well as a Field Training Officer and junior leader and that he is even-keeled and consistently reliable.

Danny Duffy, Reserve Officer of the Year – Danny has been with us since the latter part of 2018 and has quickly caught the attention of his peer group. They collectively note that he is fun to work with and eager to learn. He dedicates quite a bit of time to help out on patrol and is always smiling. He is known for his excellent team attitude and that he is always present for special events and details. He is one of a kind. His work ethic is inspiring to SPD staff members, and he supports his fellow patrol officers. His leadership recognizes that with his extensive military and law enforcement backgrounds, he provides a higher than average level of safety and security as a backup officer. It is also noted that Danny commutes well over an hour to serve our community.

Cynthia Nordvik, Civilian Employee of the Year – Cyndi is a Part-Time Police Dispatcher and has an added collateral duty as the Department IT Specialist. A common sentiment about Cyndi is that she goes above and beyond her regular assigned IT duties. She is always willing to help whenever asked and makes herself available to cover dispatch shifts at a moment's notice (she

travels from Calaveras County). Cyndi always has her hands full with IT work; one peer noted that she “rocks” at it, and another saying she can, “do it all.” Cyndi has worked many late hours fixing IT issues, at times remoting in from home in the middle of the night, or even connecting from another state while on vacation. The department’s leadership commented that Cyndi goes the extra mile and works hard to ensure our backup systems are functioning correctly during power shutoffs or other service interruptions. As an example, recalling the many trips she made up to our repeater tower with a can of fuel and a flashlight to keep our radio systems running.

Aaron Moran, Marshall McMaster Community Service Volunteer (CSV) of the Year – Aaron has been with the CSV unit since 2017 and has volunteered over 500 hours this past year. He is known around the department as one of the most active volunteers we have. He is willing to do any task assigned without complaining and does a great job providing support on calls where a sworn officer’s presence is not necessarily required. He has a positive attitude and takes an active interest in the community. He helps out and mentors at Explorer details, and he always makes an effort to represent the department during community functions. The Police Departments’ leadership commented that Aaron stands out by regularly being available for all details, “especially the ones where extra help is needed the most....he is there when we need him.”

Katheryn Campbell, Ronald Billings II Explorer of the Year – Kathryn took this category by a landslide. She has been with the Explorer Post since March of 2018 and volunteered over 300 hours this past year. She is regarded as the most involved Police Explorer we have. She attends nearly every single detail, arriving early and staying until everything is complete. Kathryn is the one Explorer who can be counted on time and again to respond to last-minute call-outs. She has taken an active role in recruiting new Explorers and tries to find ways to make the Explorer Post better. Police Department staff also commented that she is the most dedicated and active Explorer. She is always eager to learn and takes the program seriously, and she is not afraid to jump in and help. The departments’ leadership appreciates her positive attitude and hard work and acknowledges the commitment she has to the department and the volunteer program.