



Scottsdale Police Department's Moments of Truth



Archived Issue
>>> January to March 2009 <<<

Here's a letter the department received to commend the professionalism of Officer Wendy Field.

"I wanted to let you know that once again we (my wife and I) witnessed a very professional police officer in action from your department. Unfortunately my wife rolled through a stop sign on Paradise behind The Great Indoors area. She wasn't thinking, boss was just on her case, was in a hurry, blah-blah-blah, but the lady who stopped her was **super** professional throughout the process of the stop and ticket. I didn't catch her name (I'm sure it's on the ticket) but I wanted you to know she did her job very well and was nothing but professional and polite. Needless to say, my wife wasn't all that thrilled with me for pointing out your officers qualities minutes after she got the citation."

Great job Wendy!



In late December 2008, officers on the midnight shift were involved in a search of a District 4 residential area for an escaping suspect. Several officers participated in the ensuing K-9 search that resulted in the suspect's arrest. During that effort, one of the officers' personal cell phone was lost. The phone naturally contained much information that would have been difficult to replace and too sensitive to have lost. Because it was too dark to effectively look for the phone at the time, the officer sent an e-mail to day shift personnel notifying them of the sizeable area in which the phone was lost.

Officer Rob Ryan, District 4 day shift, went to the area and performed a detailed foot search of several properties through which the officers had traveled during their original search. Officer Ryan's efforts paid off. The phone was located in the back yard of an unoccupied home and returned to its grateful owner.

"This effort by Officer Ryan, despite a low chance of success, spared the officer the expense and inconvenience of replacing his phone, and the worry that some of his personal and contact information could fall into the wrong hands. Officer Ryan's showing of concern for a fellow employee demonstrates great sensitivity and professionalism, and is truly commendable."



Thank you to our PCIS Specialists, Teisha Portee and Stacey Willis for the great deal of work and compassion they bring that have impacted many lives.

This story evolves around an assault victim and homicide survivor. To make things more difficult, the victims's father was killed. Teisha worked with the victims's initial trauma, coordinated with Detectives, and placed her in a hotel for two nights since she was unable to return to the residence and reported that she had no friends or surviving family. Teisha also provided the victim with a change of clothes.

Stacey responded the following day and assisted the victim with obtaining some of her personal items from the residence. Stacey even walked the three dogs that had remained at the residence and advocated with the hotel so the victim could keep them with her in her room. Some of the continued services



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that were provided were referrals to *clean-up services* and counseling referrals for the trauma that the victim has experienced. Stacey and Teisha remain as a source of support for the victim as she navigates the criminal justice system and her recovery.



On February 29, 2009, Officer David Dowlen and Officer Jared Van Weelde responded to a criminal damage call at a local store. The victim stated that she had a verbal altercation with a male subject and then parked her car. When she was returning to her car she noticed the same male subject near her vehicle. As she got to her vehicle, she saw that her tire had been slashed and noticed the male subject walking toward the movie theater. She followed the subject to the movie theater and called the police. Officers Dowlen and Van Weelde located the subject who confessed to slashing the tire. The victim declined to prosecute after she worked out a monetary agreement with the male subject. Instead of clearing from the call, the officers followed the victim back to her car and changed the tire for her.

The victim expressed her gratitude especially for the tough financial situation her family is in. Had they had not done this, she would have had to pay for a tow truck. She is very grateful for the officers going above and beyond their regular duties. In addition, she mentioned that she has not had very many interactions with the police and was amazed that they took the time to change the tire for her.

Thanks David and Jared for stepping up to the plate!



Kudos to Officers Brent Patterson and Matthew Rundell. The department received a letter from Scottsdale residents to commend and express gratitude to these officers.

“Early in February at approximately 3:19 a.m., my wife and I received a telephone call informing us that my father had unexpectedly passed away in his sleep. Shaken and confused, we both hurried to their home not sure what to expect We associate the police with upholding the law and keeping the public safe from harm. For us, in those early hours of the morning, we were able to experience the compassion and human side to what being an officer of the law entails. Both officers displayed professionalism along with the compassion and respect while staying with us for hours until the coroner arrived. During that time, both men put a richly human face to the Scottsdale Police Department. The ease in which Officer Rundell and Officer Patterson created rapport with our family made those difficult hours bearable. I am sure there are many fine men and women serving in the Scottsdale Police Department. If they all possess and exhibit the same qualities as demonstrated by these two young officers, then, as Chief of this Department, you may be proud and assured you are serving this City and its people well.”

A job well done, Brett and Matthew!





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Police officers role is to serve and protect the public. There are many times however, when they do not realize the impact they have on those they assist.

"It was a cold February night at midnight when a citizen found herself stranded with a flat tire on a very dark street. Scared of being alone and not knowing what to do, she was relieved to see a police officer.

"You should be congratulated on having such a fine officer on Scottsdale's police force. Officer Cappucci gives new meaning to Scottsdale's finest. I want you to know what a wonderful, kind officer he is. He was polite and patient and changed my tire without hesitation. He doesn't know it, but I have cancer and could never have done any of that myself. That is why I say that he really saved my life. "

Thank you Anthony for representing us well!



Compliments and recognition come from within the organization too. This was sent to Crime Scene Specialist Kristen Oleksik's supervisor from Officer Carson Dach.

"On 02/07/2009, CSS Kristen Oleksik responded to a burglary from vehicle. The window on the driver side had been smashed out along with other damage to the vehicle. There were muddy footprints all over the car from the offender walking on top of it. CSS Oleksik went above and beyond what would be expected from a CSS and did an unbelievably thorough job and not only impressed me but also the victim. If the offender is ever discovered or apprehended, it is entirely due to the great work CSS Oleksik did. It was great work and greatly appreciated."

From Crime Scene Specialist Oleksik's supervisor, Lisa Dilbeck

"Excellent job Kristen. Officer Dach went out of his way to let me know about this in person. Not only did you impress the officer, but you represented this section and the whole PD in a very professional and personal manner. Great job on consistently setting the CSS standard bar at a high level."

