

2019 "Police Officer of the Year"
Detective

Our 2019 "Police Officer of the Year" honoree showed great initiative and took charge to deflate a situation that would have been detrimental to this community and the people involved.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Detective [REDACTED], [REDACTED], would please join me up here?

[REDACTED] is an investigator in our Intelligence Unit.

We first recognized him in September and today we are *once again* honoring him for his work in stopping a potential shooting at a Mosque.

In October of 2017, patrol officers learned about a person planning a mass shooting at the Jacksonville Islamic Center of Northeast Florida Mosque and its attached school where more than two hundred and twenty (220) children are enrolled.

From the beginning, [REDACTED] was involved in strategy discussions about the case and he recognized the challenges of verifying the credibility of the threat. That is when he suggested a plan for him to go undercover and befriend the suspect to verify his intentions.

Now I won't divulge the details of [REDACTED]'s work, BUT I will tell you he successfully gained the suspect's trust, learned the plan and collected evidence to help build the case.

Ultimately, the suspect asked [REDACTED] to help broker a deal for him to illegally purchase a suppressor for his rifle. [REDACTED] worked with his colleagues to setup a staged transaction which led to the suspect's arrest.

Law enforcement located and seized multiple firearms and a couple thousand rounds of ammunition from the suspect's house.

The case went before a jury in Federal Court where [REDACTED] provided testimony during the trial and was on the stand for more than ten hours.

After [REDACTED]'s testimony, the jury took less than one hour to deliberate and find the suspect guilty.

Following the conclusion of the case, the Islamic Center released a statement saying, "We are most grateful to God Almighty for exposing this perpetrator and to our law enforcement authorities for the diligence and professionalism in eliminating this threat without anyone getting hurt."

It is evident that [REDACTED]'s actions helped derail this individual's intentions. I think the supervisor who oversees our Intelligence Unit stated it best by saying that, "actors win major awards for playing roles that are given scripts ahead of time and in controlled environments where their safety is not in question and they get retakes." [REDACTED] didn't have that. He took on this role, knowing the risks so he could protect other human lives.

[REDACTED], I've said it before and I truly mean it, this is great work! THANK YOU for your dedication and hard work that led to the apprehension of this suspect and for saving many lives in the process.

I am truly honored to present you with the 2019 "Police Officer of the Year" award. *Keep up the great work!*

Congratulations!

