



CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

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

May 10, 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 1st Quarter – 2016

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

I am proud to announce Detective Matthew Porter, assigned to the Investigative Division, Special Victim’s Unit and Pfc. Jennifer Wilson, assigned to the Uniform Division, Midnight Shift as recipients of the Mishawaka Police Department’s “Officers of the First Quarter, 2016.”

Detective Porter was instrumental in the apprehension and conviction of a violent sexual predator in February, 2016. What started out as an interview with a reported victim in a child molestation case, ended with the discovery of a suspect involved in sexual assaults against several children.

Detective Porter worked with an anonymous source throughout the investigation. At a certain point in the investigation, without a disclosure of the identity of the anonymous source, the case would have been closed based on the lack of a disclosure from the victim and the fact that the suspect could not be identified. After interviewing additional parties, the anonymous source was identified.

Without Detective Porter’s initiative in conducting additional interviews and locating an anonymous source, this case would have been closed based on the lack of a disclosure from the victim.

Emergency911
Front Desk..... 574-258-1678
Investigative Division..... 574-258-1684
Records Division 574-258-1681

Chief.....574-258-1683
Uniform Chief574-258-1688
Traffic Division574-259-2966
Fax574-258-1690

February - March, 2016: Prostitution, Human Trafficking, Narcotics & Warrants

The effort put forth by **Pfc. Jennifer Wilson** and Probationary Officer Kendy Majors began in February, 2016 and extended into March, 2016. *It should be noted that during the following incidents, Officer Jennifer Wilson was acting as Officer Kendy Majors' Field Training Officer.*

On February 15, 2016, Officers Wilson and Majors were dispatched to Super 8 Hotel in reference to an adult female who had overdosed. During the course of the investigation, officers learned that prescription drugs and marijuana had been used, however, the overdose was not life threatening.

Officers then learned there were other participants who left the scene when police were called, one being, a James Jacobs who rented the room. After speaking with EMS Personnel, Officer J. Wilson learned that there had been previous incidents of similar nature at this location with this particular subject present. Shortly after, Mr. Jacobs was found walking away from the hotel and arrested for outstanding felony warrants.

It was later learned the true identity of the overdose victim during a traffic stop. She was a juvenile runaway that had been reported missing from St. Joseph County. During the course of the investigation, suspicions turned toward the juvenile being involved in prostitution and possible human trafficking. She was taken to the MPD and interviewed where it was confirmed the juvenile had been taken to several places including: Fort Wayne, Atlanta, and Chicago where she participated in prostitution.

Just nine days later, Officer Wilson and Majors observed Mr. Jacobs driving his vehicle near the Super 8 Motel. Mr. Jacobs was stopped and arrested for Never Having A Driver's License and Possession of Marijuana. Once at the jail, Mr. Jacobs posted bond, however, it was later learned that he used counterfeit US Currency to do so. As of April 1, 2016, James Jacobs remains on the loose with several active warrants for his arrest.

Through hard work, dedication, and team work, Officer Wilson was able to uncover a large scale prostitution & human trafficking operation. A juvenile victim was identified and returned home.

March 17, 2016: Shots Fired

On March 17, 2016, Officers Wilson & Majors were called to a “routine” fireworks complaint. When they responded to the area of Columbia & Fourth Street, Officer Wilson quickly realized the sounds they heard were NOT fireworks, but gunfire.

Officer Wilson was able to determine where the gunfire was coming from and with assistance from fellow officers, Officers Wilson and Majors surrounded the garage, encountered the suspects and ordered them to the ground. The suspects were then secured and taken into police custody. Officers then located a handgun, a rifle, ammunition, bullet holes in the suspect’s garage door and bullet holes in the neighboring fence, and several liquor containers. Both suspects were arrested and charged with Criminal Recklessness with a Firearm.

Several days later, Prosecutor Ken Cotter called the Uniform Division Chief’s Office to express his gratitude to the officers who responded to this call. Mr. Cotter said that officers not only responded to a dangerous situation and acted bravely, but they put together a solid case for prosecution.

These cases involve true resolve and determination by Officers Porter and Wilson to get the job accomplished. They take great pride in their jobs, conduct themselves in a very professional manner and are both respected by their peers.

On behalf of the Department and my Administration, I am proud and honored to present Officers Matthew Porter and Jennifer Wilson as “Officers of the First Quarter” for 2016.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd

Personnel File