



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT FOURTH QUARTER AWARDS CEREMONY

March 14, 2024

3 p.m.

Mannahouse Church

14311 SE Mill Plain Blvd

VALOR. PROFESSIONALISM. DUTY.

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vision

To reflect the rich diversity of Vancouver and make it the safest city for everyone to live, work and play.

Mission Statement

We partner with the community to preserve life, protect property and enhance livability through equitable law enforcement and effective use of resources.

We Value

Ethics. Doing the right thing; maintaining self- discipline, credibility and moral behavior.

Respect. Treating all people with compassion, respect and fairness; honoring diversity of thought, experiences and opinions.

Honesty. Upholding the principles of honesty and transparency.

Communication. Communicating with openness, active listening, fostering an environment of inclusion, trust and empowerment.

Collaboration. Actively seeking collaboration with each other and the community to achieve mutually desired outcomes.

VPD EXECUTIVE TEAM

- ◆ **Chief** Jeff Mori
- ◆ **Deputy Chief** Troy Price
- ◆ **Assistant Chief** Kristine Buist
- ◆ **Assistant Chief** Erica Nilsen
- ◆ **Commander** Amy Foster
- ◆ **Commander** Nannette Kistler
- ◆ **Commander** Darren McShea
- ◆ **Commander** Michael Whitney
- ◆ **Assistant City Attorney** Taylor Hallvik
- ◆ **Human Resources Business Partner** Rob Prociak
- ◆ **Administrative Assistant** Heather Abbott
- ◆ **Records Manager** Olga Dacy
- ◆ **Finance and Logistics Supervisor** Daphine Harris
- ◆ **Public Affairs Manager** Kim Kapp
- ◆ **Administrative Assistant** Teri Kenning

MEET OUR NEW POLICE OFFICERS



Officer Blake Billingsley

Joined VPD: April 10, 2023

Graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Academy: November 1, 2023

Informal swearing in: November 8, 2023



Officer Andrea Bondarev

Joined VPD: March 27, 2023

Graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Academy: December 20, 2023

Informal swearing in: December 21, 2023

AWARDS AND MEDALS

Lifesaving



Medal of Distinction



Meritorious Service



Team Commendation



Department Citation



Medal of Valor



Career Service



LIFESAVING AWARD

The Lifesaving Award is given to an officer or citizen who is directly responsible for the saving of a human life. Documentation and supporting evidence, which may include statements of witnesses, physicians, or supervisors, must be included to substantiate the award. This award is also appropriate in those circumstances where the action of an officer prolonged human life to the extent of the victim being released to the care of medical authorities, even though the victim may have died at a later time.



Officer Joshua Sand
Lifesaving Award



Officer Timothy Tretta
Lifesaving Award

On October 20, 2023, Vancouver Police responded to a reported vehicle vs pedestrian collision. Officers Tretta and Sand arrived first on the scene. Officers observed a male who had been knocked out of his shoes, laying in the middle of the road. He had a significant amount of blood coming from his mouth and was in an agonal breathing state. Officer Tretta was able to locate the male's pulse and continued to monitor it. Officer Tretta rolled him to his side, to prevent asphyxiation. While monitoring him, he stopped breathing and his pulse was no longer detected. Officer Tretta began to administer CPR by applying chest compressions while Officer Sand stabilized the male's head maintaining an open airway. The male began to gasp for breath again and his pulse could be detected. Medical aid arrived and took over his care. Medical personnel from the Vancouver Fire Department reported the actions of Officer Tretta and Sand were critical in preserving the patient's life at the scene.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The Meritorious Service Award is given to an officer for very competent and professional performance. This award recognizes an officer that performed competently in a stressful situation, in a stress position over an extended period of time, or that performed duties beyond normal expectations in the investigation and case preparation of an unusual or special case.



Corporal Jamie Haske
Meritorious Service Award



Officer Sean Suarez
Meritorious Service Award

On December 10, 2023, VPD units responded to a welfare check at an apartment. The call notes stated a female said she had been accidentally cut and dispatch could hear a female screaming stating there was blood everywhere and the mention of a baby. Corporal Haske and Officer Suarez were the first to arrive. As they entered the hallway outside the unit, they heard screaming coming from the apartment and blood smeared on the hallway carpet and on the outside door of apartment. Officer Suarez knocked on the apartment door and a male exited the apartment carrying a small infant in his hands. The male had obvious slash wounds on his body and was bloody, the infant was had blood-stained pajamas on. Officer Suarez had the male sit down to determine the extent of his wounds. A female exited the apartment and was screaming and attempting to assault the male. Corporal Haske was holding the baby in one hand and using the other to get control of the female who was slapping and punching the male. Officer Suarez got control of the female who continued to kick and scream in an attempt to continue to assault the male. Paramedics arrived to assess injuries of all the parties. While medics were attending to the female, the male crawled over to her, pushed an officer who was rendering aid to her and aggressively challenged the officers who had to subdue him before he could injure others around him. Throughout this chaotic incident Corporal Haske and Officer Suarez remained calm and were able to get the necessary medical care to these individuals and prevented further injury to those on scene.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



Officer Casey Heinzman
Meritorious Service Award

On October 22, 2023, the Washington State Patrol requested assistance with traffic control related to a traffic collision on the I-5 bridge. A WSP trooper was already on scene. Officer Heinzman arrived and advised that a vehicle had collided with the rear of the unoccupied WSP patrol vehicle at high-speed, causing serious injuries to the occupants of the speeding vehicle. Multiple officers responded to assist with shutting down all traffic southbound to the bridge. Officer Heinzman took control of the scene after the WSP vehicle was struck and immediately began to single-handedly extricate five seriously injured occupants from their vehicle. Using his flashlight to break windows he was able to reach them all, get them out and move them to safety while waiting for emergency medical response.

Officer Heinzman was calm, professional, and efficient in his response to a tense and life-threatening situation. The scene was chaotic and included damaged vehicles that were blocking lanes of traffic, injured persons laid out in the roadway, uninvolved persons yelling at officers and bridge traffic passing by the scene at a high rate of speed. Officers on scene advised they were nearly hit several times by passing vehicles due to the location, the narrow lanes, lack of emergency shoulder, and the damaged vehicles and patrol vehicles blocking lanes. After his initial rescue efforts, Officer Heinzman continued to maintain control of the traffic collision scene and coordinate all the efforts needed to include working with personnel from other law enforcement agencies, emergency medical responders and towing companies.

MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

A Medal of Distinction is awarded for outstanding performance beyond the ordinary course of duty during hazardous situations. The officer must demonstrate alertness, perseverance, or timely judgment in the performance of a difficult task that results in the protection of life, the recovery of stolen property, the prevention or solving of a major crime, or the apprehension of an armed or dangerous person. The action of the officer must be truly exemplary, as opposed to competent and professional.



Officer Brad Aiello
Medal of Distinction



Officer Zachory Martin
Medal of Distinction

On December 11, 2023, Officer Brad Aiello and Officer Zachory Martin responded to a residence to conduct a welfare check. The call notes advised an occupant in the unit was “getting beat up by her boyfriend.” Officer Aiello and Martin approached the apartment and were unable to hear anything. Officer Aiello went to the back of the apartment while Officer Martin remained at the front. Officer Aiello looked through a window and saw a male on top of a female, strangling her. Officer Aiello advised over the radio that a female was being strangled and that they would be making exigent entry. Officer Martin broke down the front door and both officers entered the apartment and broke down an interior door. Upon entry, they took the suspect into custody and attended to the female who was unconscious on the bedroom floor. During the investigation it was revealed that the suspect had strangled the victim to the point of loss of consciousness several times that evening. The suspect was charged with first degree Attempted Homicide I. If not for Officer Aiello and Officer Martin’s heroic actions, the victim in this case would very likely have been killed.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD & MEDAL OF DISTINCTION



Sgt. Christopher Douville
Meritorious Service Award



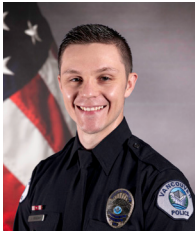
Sgt. Danielle Wass
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Nathaniel Affonso
Medal of Distinction



Ofc. Chad Butler
Medal of Distinction



Ofc. Joshua DeFebbo
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Cody Esau
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Steven Forgette
Medal of Distinction



Ofc. Laura Frost
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Ken Hess
Medal of Distinction



Ofc. Christopher Holmquist
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Zachory Martin
Medal of Distinction



Ofc. Dustin Nicholson
Meritorious Service Award



Ofc. Brandon Riedel
Meritorious Service Award

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD & MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

On December 30, 2023, Officers responded to residence where a neighbor could hear a physical altercation between a male and a female. Arriving officers could hear a male and female inside the residence but when officers knocked on the door, it got quiet, and no one answered the door. Officer Nathaniel Affonso quickly made phone contact with the neighbor who described hearing what he believed to be a female screaming, someone getting pushed down the stairs, pounding and banging, and a male screaming. While Officer Affonso was gathering information, the other responding officers began to create quick reaction teams on the front and rear door of the residence and developed a plan to enter the residence if exigency was established. Additionally, Officer Riedel and Officer Holmquist gathered information of the residence layout and relayed the information to the quick reaction teams. The male resident was identified and had active restraining orders. One of the witnesses had received text messages from the female inside stating she needed help, and her jaw was possibly broken.

With this information, both quick reaction teams breached the front and back door of the residence and conducted a quick clear of the first floor and made their way to the second floor where they located the male suspect in a room with the victim. The suspect was taken into custody, and the victim was quickly rescued from the room, escorted outside, and provided medical assistance. The officers displayed competent and professional performance gathering information quickly and demonstrated alertness, and timely judgement to enter the residence due to the exigency presented. The team performed a stressful task to save the life of a victim who was in danger of serious injury or death.

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