

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Supervisor of the Month

JOHNNY OLDHAM

In January 2009, the JSO received a federal grant to work with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to study some of JSO's crime-fighting strategies using Intelligence Led Policing and Problem Solving Policing Tactics. At the time of his nomination, Sgt. Johnny Oldham supervised a group of patrol officers who were implementing problem-solving policing techniques being studied by the Crime Analysis Unit.

To address the root causes of crime in his assigned "hot spots" located in Zones 4, 5 and 6, he focused on the "New Town Success Zone" which included all of the homes, apartment complexes and businesses bordered by Beaver Street, Myrtle Ave., Kings Road and Fairfax Street. His team worked with local business owners, such as the Acorn Food Store and the Chevron Gas Station, to identify environmental causes of crime in the area: low hanging trees and brush, poor lighting, and routes that criminals could access easily to flee police after committing crimes.

Oldham worked with partner agencies and organizations, such as the JEA, to repair the lighting and trim back the low-hanging trees to improve visibility and make it harder for criminals to hide. He also formed alliances with several apartment complexes in the area, including Webster Apartments and Prince Street Apartments, to identify the root causes of crime in those areas (JSO had identified gangs, guns, narcotics and prostitution activities). Abandoned houses were also being used for selling drugs and for prostitution. Ultimately, the abandoned houses were leveled by the City Code Enforcement folks and the DART team.

On April 11, 2009, Oldham orchestrated the Eugene Butler Neighborhood Clean-up with the assistance of staff from Butler Middle School, other police officers, volunteers from Celebration Church and members of the West Union Neighborhood Watch group. The group walked the neighborhood reaching out to citizens, picked up trash and restored damaged houses. Lt. T.C. Davis says of Oldham, "He gave ownership back to the community so the residents were proud to live in their homes."

He worked with the City Parks and Recreation Department to reopen Mitchell Center Park so that youth in the area had an alternative after school activity, instead of joining a gang or participating in other illegal activities. This park was chosen because it had basketball courts and other amenities already in place. Oldham and his officers organized after school programs and developed two teams to play on the City's intramural basketball team. He sought out the teenagers being influenced by local gangs and convinced them to join age-appropriate basketball teams. The Mitchell Center serves approximately 50 kids daily and there are 32 kids who are currently playing on the organized sports teams. By the end of the 90-day period, his team had implemented 117 responses to address problems within the community.

Although the final results of the study are not due back until later this year, the year end results for the New Town Success Zone in 2009 show violent crime was down 41%; violent non-domestic incidents were down 45.3%; property crime was down 15%; and there was a 22.7 % decrease in priority incidents both violent and property related.

Sheriff Rutherford says, "U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown and U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson visited the New Town Success Zone with Mayor John Peyton and me. I have to say, we all noticed the difference that Sgt. Oldham and his team have made in the lives of the kids and all of the people who live in this neighborhood. Sgt. Oldham, your leadership and dedication have greatly benefited the JSO and the community of Jacksonville."



Police Officer of the Month

DAVID L. CREWS

Detective David Crews, previously assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit, is currently a member of the Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team, or InVEST, in the Family Violence Unit. In November 2008, the SCU received notification of three sexual battery cases linked by DNA to an unknown offender between the years 2000 and 2008. Lead Detective Crews began working with the Crime Analysis Unit to find other possible cases. Advancements in DNA testing and the ability to collect samples from all convicted felons now enable JSO to link suspects to unsolved crimes that may have occurred years ago.

Crews learned the unknown suspect was targeting mentally ill and homeless women in the Arlington area, robbing, raping, and sometimes physically battering the victims. (Some perpetrators purposely target the infirmed, or those who engage in criminal or high risk activity because they are sometimes less likely to report being victimized.) He identified 12 (and later two more) sexual battery cases that fit the suspect's MO and began re-interviewing victims when possible.

Working with patrol, he coordinated the collection of DNA cheek swabs from potential suspects for submission to the FDLE lab. On May 7, 2009, the JSO Public Information Office released a composite sketch of the serial rapist to the media to generate leads, resulting in almost 100 tips that were tracked and followed.

Crews worked long hours canvassing the Arlington area at night, speaking to citizens, attempting to identify the suspected rapist. By May 12 he identified a man he felt very strongly could be the suspect and learned that FDLE had processed the man's DNA for a recent burglary conviction. Responding to Crews' "gut instinct" about the suspect, FDLE quickly processed his request for a comparison. The DNA positively linked the suspect to all five sexual battery cases.

Still incarcerated for burglary and scheduled to be released in a week, the suspect was brought to Crews for questioning. He first denied knowing any of the victims by name or from pictures, but when confronted with evidence, he changed his stories and offered different explanations. Because of hard work and commitment by Crews and his team to solve these cases, the suspect has been charged with 16 counts of sexual battery, 3 counts of strong armed robbery, 2 counts of kidnapping, 2 counts of armed robbery, 2 counts of burglary with assault, and 1 count of home invasion robbery. He has also been linked to three more crimes, bringing the total to 8 confirmed sexual battery cases linked by DNA.



Corrections Officer of the Month

CLAYTON C. MAYERLEN

Clayton Mayerlen has worked with the JSO Department of Corrections since November 2008 and is assigned to the Montgomery Correctional Center (MCC) as relief squad Watch 3 Transportation Officer. Relatively new to the department, he has already made a positive impact.

Last November, Mayerlen took a trustee to the MCC car wash facilities to have his transportation van washed. While the trustee was washing the van, Mayerlen conducted a search of the utility shed near the car wash area, while maintaining visual contact with the inmate. He found a cell phone hooked up to a power cord that ran into the shed, along with other contraband including a box cutter, pornography and a lighter.

He returned the inmate to the MCC and went back to continue his search. Investigating the history of phone calls and text messages on the phone, he identified the user, which led to appropriate disciplinary action for the inmate, who was acting alone.

Cell phones are very dangerous to have in a corrections environment because they can be used to set up contraband drops for items such as drugs and weapons, or for arranging escapes. Mayerlen's diligence led him to make an important discovery that stopped a security breach at MCC.



Civilian Employee of the Month

JASON L. DUGGINS

Police Emergency Communications Officer (PECO) Jason Duggins, who has been with the JSO since January 2007, learned both the call-taking and dispatch portions of the job in only 8 months instead of the average 10 months. He quickly received a commendation for his role in saving the life of a suicidal person. When the caller

failed to give a clear location, Jason called back and contacted a female who provided the exact location. When officers arrived, they disarmed the man who was threatening to harm himself with a knife and transported him to a medical facility. If Jason had dispatched the call with the original inaccurate information, the outcome could have been tragic.

Recently Jason completed Detective Dispatch Training, voluntarily serves on the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team (for which he received extensive training) responds with the JSO Negotiator Team to callouts and attends monthly Negotiator training sessions. Last October he changed his vacation schedule so he could work the Florida/Georgia game and make sure all events throughout the city were covered by qualified communications personnel.



Corrections Supervisor of the Month

WYNETTE M. JOHNSON

Sgt. Wynette Johnson is the Field Training Officer Sergeant for Watch 3, Pre-Trial Detention Center. Virtually ALL of new corrections employees work for Wynette in the PTDF, so she carries a large work load with many responsibilities. She handles the position with excellent efficiency and trains with great skill. Any police/corrections officer

will tell you that their FTO probably had the single greatest impact on shaping them into the officer they are. This FTO has positively influenced many of our officers and launched their careers on a solid trajectory!

In 2009 she managed 30 recruits and prepared them for on-the-job-training in the Field Training program, while conducting her watch training responsibilities and monthly emergency drills. Lt. Gaston Carlton wrote in her nomination, "Sgt. Johnson is the person to go to when there is a training issue. She always has a great attitude and will greet you with a smile."



Volunteer of the Month

VALERIE O. NORTON

Valerie Norton is the team leader for the Seniors vs. Crimes program at the Regency Substation. This program, in existence since last May, is a partnership with the Attorney General to protect senior citizens against scams and fraud. The volunteers' mission is to assist in preventing crime against the elderly, educating seniors about consumer frauds, assisting senior victims through mediation

services or through referral to other agencies, and encouraging law-abiding seniors to get involved with law enforcement.

Working hard to organize and try new approaches to promote the program, Valerie has built a great team of 10 volunteers. In April this year the team made five Senior Citizens Crime Prevention presentations at local groups such as "Senior Perspectives" and at the Senior Citizen Community Center in Arlington. Over the last few weeks their office has received five calls for assistance from people who told the volunteers they learned about the group from one of these presentations. Valerie recognizes the importance of getting her message to the citizens as a critical factor in building this program.

A second Seniors vs. Crimes office is located at our Zone 6 substation on Dunn Avenue. If any senior citizen who lives on the north side of town needs assistance, these volunteers are ready to help them. By year's end in 2009, 15 senior volunteers from both offices assisted with 39 cases of fraud to senior citizens. Of those 39 cases, they were able to provide resolution in 29 of them. In total, the volunteers donated 1382 hours of their time to assist other senior citizens.