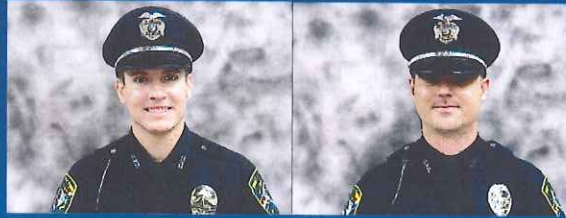


# QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2016



September 1, 2016

It is with great pleasure that I announce Officers Craig Russell and Ryan Witt have been selected as Employees of the Month for September, 2016.

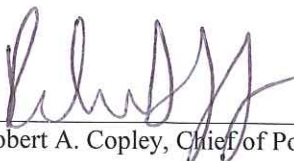
Officer Russell joined the Quincy Police Department on September 19, 2011. He attended basic training at the Illinois State Police Academy, graduating on December 15, 2011. After initially serving as a Patrol Officer, Officer Russell was selected as a K-9 Officer in August 2013; as such, he is assigned to the Street Crimes Unit. He is also a Crisis Intervention Team officer and a member of Project Lifesaver.

Officer Witt joined the Quincy Police Department on September 20, 2004. He is a 2004 graduate of the Illinois Police Corps program at Western Illinois University. Officer Witt was a Patrol Officer until January 2012, at which time he was assigned to Street Crimes Unit where he currently serves. He has been selected to become a Detective-Criminal Specialist and will be making that transition in the near future. In addition, Officer Witt is a member of the ILEAS Region 6 Mobile Field Force Team, a Field Training Officer, a Crisis Intervention Team officer, and an instructor in less lethal munitions and force-on-force training.

The officers were selected for this recognition based on their response to an encounter with an armed individual on July 30, 2016. At 2338 hours that date, while assisting ACSO in a theft investigation, Officer Russell approached a vehicle at the Eagles Nest hotel at 300 Gardner Expressway. Two subjects fled from the vehicle and Officer Russell followed one of them into the hotel. As Officer Russell entered the stairwell in the hotel he encountered the subject standing above him pointing a handgun at him. Reacting as trained, he took cover to draw his weapon, and the subject then continued to flee. Throughout the incident, Officer Russell relayed all pertinent information by radio for the other responding units. Officer Witt quickly responded and directed other units to immediately set up a perimeter. While doing so, he also contacted hotel employees to obtain information about the subject and about other guests in the hotel. The armed subject was arrested in the hotel and the handgun was recovered. The other fleeing subject was also subsequently arrested and the stolen vehicle they were in was recovered.

While all officers that night did a very good job, the actions of these two stand out above the others. Their reaction to a potentially violent encounter with sound judgment and tactics prevented injury to themselves, bystanders, and the suspect himself, while still making the apprehension. Their efforts should be applauded.

Please join me in congratulating Officers Russell and Witt as the Quincy Police Department's September 2016 Employees of the Month.



Robert A. Copley, Chief of Police