

# **Battle Creek Police Department**

## **Awards and Recognitions**



**May 2023**

**Bravery Citation:** Sergeant Chris Klein

**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Damon Young, Officer Carl VanDyke, Corporal Andrew Winer, Corporal Justin Broughton, Corporal James Bailey, Officer Ryan O'Connell

On Dec. 22, 2021, officers overheard radio traffic in reference to an outside agency vehicle pursuit entering the City of Battle Creek. BCPD officers assisted by blocking intersections, and were prepared to deploy stop sticks if needed. Dispatched advised the suspect had fired a gun outside the window and was pointing it at officers. A short time later, dispatch advised the vehicle had crashed and the subject was running on foot. Officers responded to the area of Willow and Horton streets, and observed a man with a gun in his hand in the backyard of a residence. Officers advised the man to drop the gun. The subject ignored their commands, ran onto the rear porch, and attempted to force entry into the house, with two people inside. Sgt. Klein continued to give commands to drop the weapon. The subject stopped beating on the door and squared off toward Sgt. Klein, raising a gun towards him. At this time, Sgt. Klein fired his rifle and the subject fell to the ground, dropping his weapon. Officers then began administering first aid until LifeCare Ambulance arrived. Officers performed a difficult task in a dangerous situation that went above and beyond what is normally expected of them. They bring great credit upon themselves and the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Officer Garrett Day

**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Corporal Brice Kerschen, Corporal Michael Harrison

On Oct. 4, 2022, members of the Gang Suppression Unit were provided information from the Detective Bureau that a subject in the Battle Creek area had an outstanding murder warrant. Cpl. Ziegler and Officer Day used their training in social media investigative techniques and were able to locate a vehicle the suspect was driving and an approximate location. Cpl. Ziegler, Officer Day, Cpl. Harrison, Cpl. Kerschen and Sgt. Hoard responded to the area to check for the suspect and the suspect vehicle. Cpl. Harrison and Cpl. Kerschen spotted a vehicle matching the description given. Cpl. Ziegler and Officer Day were able to catch up to the vehicle and stop it. The suspect had exited the vehicle and was attempting to flee into a residence. At that time he was taken into custody. Cpl. Ziegler and Officer Day continued to investigate the vehicle, as they had probable cause to search it, and they located a stolen handgun, which had been placed in a hidden compartment. The vehicle was tested and found to have the suspect's DNA on it. Charges were sought for open murder, felon in possession, felony firearm, felon in possession of ammunition, and carrying a concealed weapon. The investigation skills and techniques used by the Gang Suppression Unit led to the capture of a violent offender. They bring great credit to themselves and the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Corporal Brice Kerschen

**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Ryan Strunk, Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Corporal Michael Harrison

On Feb. 10, 2022, the Battle Creek Police Department was contacted by a police agency in Indiana requesting assistance in apprehending a suspect who was wanted for homicide. This information was passed along to the Gang Suppression Unit. The police department in Indiana had been running a phone ping on the suspect, and was able to provide a possible location. Members of the GSU responded to the area in question to set up surveillance. Sgt. Strunk responded to the area to do surveillance on a residence to identify the suspect. While en route to the residence, Sgt. Strunk spotted the suspect driving in the area. Sgt. Hoard and Cpl. Ziegler responded to the area and attempted to stop the vehicle. The suspect fled in the vehicle and eventually crashed. The suspect then jumped out of the vehicle and began running through the Post Addition area. Cpl. Ziegler and Cpl. Kerschen gave foot pursuit over several blocks, and eventually caught up to the suspect and took him into custody. From the time the call took place where information was provided to GSU, to the time the subject was taken into custody was only a few hours. The actions of these officers demonstrate the highest standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Unit Citations:** Corporal James Bailey, Sergeant Christof Klein, Sergeant Stuart Bell

On April 8, 2022, officers were dispatched to the Kendall Street area for a shots fired call. Contact was made with the victim near the Kia car dealership. The victim said he had been driving near Kendall and Grove streets when a white man came out off the porch and shot at him. Once in the area, and with the assistance of the victim, officers were able to identify the suspect residence. A perimeter was established and at that time, a family member arrived on the scene and provided officers with information as to who was in the residence. Phone contact was made and all occupants were advised to exit the home, which

they did. Police identified a suspect and conducted interviews. At that time, they learned that the suspect was a minor. The male suspect admitted to taking his guardian's gun and firing it. After firing the gun, he picked up the brass and returned the gun to his guardian's room, and locked it in the safe. The weapon was located and confiscated and the male suspect was arrested. Teamwork, tactics, and communication resulted in a confession and arrest of a juvenile offender.

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**Professional Excellence Citation:** Corporal Emily Leach

**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Sergeant Ryan Strunk, Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Corporal Michael Harrison, Corporal Brice Kerschen, Officer Garrett Day, Detective Cody Longon

**Letters of Commendation:** Detective Trooper Ryan Coon, Trooper Daryl Myers, Trooper Ryan Davis, Trooper Jacob Escott, Sergeant Nate McGuire, Trooper Max Prince, Detective/Lieutenant Charles Rozum, Detective Trooper John Alverson, Detective Gianna Caporuscio, Detective Bridget Lines, Detective Michelle Miculec, Special Agent Dan Gwyn, Special Agent Greg Pond

On April 28, 2022, after months of arduous investigation, Corporal Leach eventually garnered information about a suspect making trips to Detroit to pick up narcotics. Members of the Battle Creek Police Department's Special Investigations Unit, Gang Suppression Unit, and two members of the Detective Bureau were notified and assisted in conducting surveillance on the suspect. Officers followed the suspect to a residence in Detroit. With the assistance of the Michigan State Police helicopter, Sgt. McGuire and Trooper Max Prince observed a subject exit the passenger seat and go inside the residence. After about 20 minutes, the passenger and another person left the residence and placed a box in the trunk of the suspect's vehicle. The vehicle left and the surveillance team continued to follow it. Once the vehicle entered Jackson County, Sgt. Strunk coordinated with the MSP's Hometown Security Team to stop the vehicle. A short time later, Sgt. Strunk was notified by the MSP's HST that narcotics were located in the vehicle. In addition to the narcotics, officers also found over \$10,000 on the suspect. A search warrant was executed for the suspect's residence, where officers seized several grams of various narcotics, packaging materials, scales, magazines for a firearm, ammunition, and U.S. currency. Ultimately, 8 kilos of meth, 200 grams of fentanyl, and over \$10,000 was seized and the case was turned over to the U.S. Attorney's Office, where the suspect was indicted on federal drug charges. The teamwork of all involved was paramount in getting dangerous drugs off of our streets. Their dedication to duty shows them to be an asset to the Battle Creek Police Department and their respective agencies.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Andrew Frantz, Officer Tylon Dilling, Officer Randy O'Connell

On May 8, 2022, officers were dispatched to the area of Fountain Street and Capital Avenue for a report of gunshots heard in the area. Officers canvassed the area for several minutes before Officer Frantz saw a pedestrian walking down the sidewalk. Officer Frantz pulled up next to the pedestrian and asked him if he heard the gunshots. The pedestrian said he did and that he saw a man run into the shrubbery toward Grove Street. The pedestrian was also able to give a description of the subject. After gathering this information, Officer Frantz circled the block toward Grove Street. He saw a man matching the description exit the shrubbery. As Officer Frantz approached the man, who immediately became angry, he observed the subject holding a backpack across his midsection, and he had the right side of his body turned away from Officer Frantz. Due to Officer Frantz's training, he was able to recognize that this behavior typically means the subject was attempting to conceal something. Officer Frantz approached the man with caution and told him to drop the backpack. The subject began to backpedal, and aggressively threw his backpack at Officer Frantz, then ran away. Officer Frantz yelled at the man to stop and pursued him on foot. While pursuing him, Officer Frantz saw the man gripping something in his right coat pocket, which he believed to be a handgun. As the chase continued through a car dealership parking lot, Officer Frantz used the vehicles to shield himself from the man until backup arrived. Officers converged on the subject in the GMC dealership lot, and Officer Dilling and Officer O'Connell tackled him to the ground. Officers were able to free the man's right hand and place him in handcuffs. Officer Dilling retrieved a semi-automatic handgun from the man's coat pocket. The man was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, resisting and obstructing, possession of a firearm, and commission of a felony, and was taken to the Calhoun County Jail. Officer Frantz's attention to detail and observation skills led to getting a dangerous person off the streets. The efforts of all of these officers are appreciated and applauded, and bring great credit upon themselves and the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citation:** Detective Tyler Sutherland

**Unit Citations:** Officer Hunter Barnett, Officer Tyris Brazier, Officer Taylor Dellinger, Officer Jonathon Kilbourn, Officer Angela Matthews, Officer Benjamin Shippell, Corporal Justin Broughton, Corporal Kevin Farnham, Corporal Andrew Horn, Corporal Craig Wolf, Detective Joshua Chapman, Detective Benjamin Clark, Detective Trevor Galbraith, Detective Brandin

Huggett, Detective Cody Longon, Detective Scott Marshall, Detective Jamie VanDyke, Sergeant Chad Fickle, Sergeant Gregory Gammons, Sergeant Robert Henley, Sergeant Christopher Rabbitt, Lab Supervisor Todd Rathjen, Lab Specialist Andrew Olsen

On May 19, 2022, patrol officers responded to a dispatch call of multiple people dropping a safe off the roof of a residence. Upon their arrival, patrol detained nine suspects, who were taken to the police department for questioning. A tenth person was arrested nearby after a short pursuit. As the investigation unfolded, police found that the suspects were likely linked to dozens of marijuana dispensary burglaries all over the State of Michigan. A large number of marijuana products were recovered from the incident location, along with evidence linking them to the breaking and entering incident. The suspects were charged and jailed for safecracking, however, it was apparent officers had only scratched the surface of their criminal activity, which spanned throughout the state. Det. Sutherland took over the investigation and began building a comprehensive case to support criminal enterprise charges against the suspects. After months of extensive investigation, coordination, and documentation, Det. Sutherland submitted the case to the Michigan Attorney General's Office to charge 11 suspects with criminal enterprise for their connection to a total of 29 dispensary breaking and enterings. This investigation is a great example of the importance of teamwork, communication, and dedication to police work.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Adam Pembrook, Corporal Andrew Winer, Corporal James Bailey, Officer Carl VanDyke, Officer Ryan O'Connell, Officer Hunter Barnett

**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Stuart Bell, Sergeant Robert Henley, Lieutenant Douglas Bagwell

On June 3, 2022, officers were dispatched to Silver Star Apartments for a suicidal subject. The apartment manager was doing her routine rounds when she entered the apartment of the man and noticed him sitting in his recliner with a gun pointed at his head. She said he told her that he was going to kill himself. She immediately left the apartment and called 911. Upon arrival, officers secured the hallways and attempted to make contact with the man. After approximately one hour of unsuccessful attempts to make contact and using all available resources, including Veterans Affairs Police, a VA social worker, and mutual acquaintances, officers determined that they would have to open the door. Upon opening the door to the apartment, officers saw the man sitting in the recliner with the handgun under his chin. After about 30 minutes of talking with the resident, officers were able to talk him into putting the gun down, and he was taken to the VA hospital without incident. These actions taken by officers prevented the man from injuring himself or from injuring those who were there to help him. This kind of quick reaction is a benefit to the Battle Creek Police Department, as well as to the community.

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**Professional Excellence Citation:** Officer Randy O'Connell

On July 31, 2022, Officer O'Connell overheard radio traffic about a caller from a BP gas station stating that a man who had previously broken into the gas station was just in the store, and that he had been in several times since the break-in. The man left the store when he saw the manager pull up. The caller was able to give dispatch a description of the man, as well as the vehicle he was driving. Officer O'Connell began checking the area for the van and observed it in the parking lot of a small apartment building, parked next to a dumpster. Officer O'Connell pulled his patrol vehicle up behind the parked van and made contact with the driver. After getting permission from the man to pat him down and search his vehicle, Officer O'Connell discovered the van was cluttered with various items, and large trash bags that appeared to be filled with clothes. Officer O'Connell also discovered a baseball bat that appeared to be in good condition, and what appeared to be a pair of customized Oakley sunglasses. He also saw several items scattered outside the vehicle and in the dumpster. Inside the dumpster, Officer O'Connell noticed a large amount of baseball equipment, including bags, cleats, gloves, and other items. Many of the items were green. Officer O'Connell recalled reading an email and a news story about a report of stolen baseball equipment from the Rockford Rivets baseball team. As he continued to look around the area, he located numerous pieces of baseball equipment. After getting permission to look in the subject's apartment, he discovered two boxes of Rawlings baseball bats in the closet. The subject was arrested for possession of stolen property, and the baseball equipment was collected and returned to the Rockford Rivets. Officer O'Connell's attention to detail and observation skills led to the recovery of thousands of dollars' worth of baseball equipment. His efforts are applauded and bring great credit upon himself and the Battle Creek Police Department.

**Professional Excellence Citations:** Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Corporal Brice Kerschen, Corporal Michael Harrison

On Aug. 19, 2022, members of the Gang Suppression Unit heard information of a suspect who had fled from a sentencing hearing, fought with two Calhoun County deputies causing injuries, and had also cut off his GPS tether. Sgt. Hoard and Cpl. Ziegler were in the area of Ridge and Goguac streets when they located a vehicle they believed the suspect to be inside. The driver attempted to flee, but the officers stopped it. As the vehicle stopped, the suspect exited the rear of the vehicle and fled on foot. Sgt. Hoard, Cpl. Harrison and Cpl. Kerschen established a tight moving perimeter on the suspect while Cpl. Ziegler chased him on foot. Eventually, the suspect was pinned down in a backyard of a residence where he attempted to hide. Cpl. Ziegler found him hiding inside a garbage can and took him into custody. The Gang Suppression Unit continuously performs in an uncompromising manner, demonstrating the highest professional standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Tylon Dilling, Corporal Mikael Ziegler

**Unit Citations:** Officer Andrew Frantz, Officer Madison Logsdon

On Aug. 22, 2022, while on routine patrol, Officer Dilling noticed a vehicle driving in a suspicious manner after seeing him. He attempted to follow the vehicle, which continued to drive in an erratic manner. Officer Dilling believed the occupants of the vehicle were attempting to dispose of either drugs or weapons as they were trying to evade him. Officer Dilling ran the plate and discovered it did not come back to a registered vehicle. As Officer Dilling approached the vehicle, he observed two occupants inside, and called for backup. Cpl. Ziegler arrived, and both subjects were detained. The vehicle was searched and a small amount of marijuana was located. Due to the suspicious driving, Officer Dilling believed they may have tossed something from the vehicle. Officer Dilling asked Officer Frantz and Officer Logsdon to check the route to see if there was any evidence thrown from the vehicle. They located a stolen handgun on the side of the road that had recently been left there. Upon examination of the weapon, it was discovered that the serial number had been filed off. The driver was interviewed by Officer Dilling and Cpl. Ziegler, and he admitted the gun was his. The driver was charged with carrying a concealed weapon in an auto and altering the identification of a firearm, as well as being cited for possession of marijuana, driving while unlicensed, and driving an unregistered vehicle. The driver of the vehicle also had an assault warrant out of Battle Creek, and a contempt of court warrant. The observational skills and actions of these officers demonstrate the highest standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Officer Ryan O'Connell, Corporal Thomas Wirebaugh, Corporal Michael Harrison, Corporal Brice Kerschen

**Unit Citation:** Corporal Emily Leach

On Sept. 13, 2022, members of the Battle Creek Police Department Gang Suppression Unit, working in conjunction with the Special Investigation Unit and Hotel and Highway Interdiction Team, were running surveillance on a residence, attempting to locate a felon who was wanted for attempted murder and kidnapping that had taken place just days prior. Members of the SIU observed a vehicle leaving the residence, and believed that the suspect may be in that vehicle. Members of the GSU stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver, who appeared to be talking to someone in the back of the van. While speaking with the driver, Cpl. Ziegler spotted someone hiding in the back of the vehicle under clothing and blankets. Not knowing if the suspect was armed, Cpl. Ziegler and Cpl. Kerschen kept the suspect at gunpoint while Cpl. Harrison, Cpl. Wirebaugh, and Officer O'Connell used force to enter the van and take him into custody. The driver was found to have felony warrants and was subsequently arrested. These officers acted as a team and performed essential tasks that resulted in the apprehension of two dangerous criminals.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Detective Brandin Huggett, Detective Cody Longon

**Unit Citations:** Officer Jordan Barrows, Officer Tylon Dilling, Officer Jessica Elsaidi, Officer Andrew Frantz, Officer Stephen Herbstreith, Officer Jonathon Kilbourn, Officer Madison Logsdon, Officer Joshua Millikin, Officer Randy O'Connell, Officer Ryan O'Connell, Officer Cecil Rose, Officer Brandon Settles, Corporal Alexander Barton, Corporal Brice Kerschen, Corporal Emily Leach, Corporal Andrew Winer, Corporal Thomas Wirebaugh, Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Detective Joshua Chapman, Detective Stephanie Estree, Detective Trevor Galbraith, Detective Scott Marshall, Detective Aaron Smith, Detective Tyler Sutherland, Detective Jamie VanDyke, Lab Specialist Andrew Olsen, Lab Supervisor Todd Rathjen, Sergeant William Gensch, Sergeant Robert Henley, Sergeant Trevor Hoard, Sergeant Christopher Rabbitt, Sergeant Shane Schwarz, Sergeant Ryan Strunk

On Sept. 20, 2022 at about 2:19 a.m., patrol officers were dispatched to a residence on Cliff Street about a drive-by shooting. Upon their arrival, a single victim was located and found to be a 2-year-old boy who was asleep in his bed. Patrol immediately took control of the scene by attempting to give medical aid to the victim, checking the area for surveillance footage, and speaking with neighbors, while the Crime Lab and Detective Bureau were activated. In the early hours of the investigation, there were very few leads to pursue, due to the general nature of a drive-by shooting and the randomness of the act. The victim and his family did not appear to be the intended targets. Det. Huggett was assigned as the lead detective for the investigation, and he responded to the scene to coordinate with patrol. The Crime Lab collected and analyzed casings from the scene, which were found to be linked to another shooting under investigation, in which two known subjects exchanged gunfire. It was also found that the vehicle used had been reported stolen a few days prior to the shooting. Det. Huggett and the Detective Bureau pursued these leads and were able to identify a person of interest, who was arrested within 36 hours of the murder. Through the interrogation of the suspect by Det. Huggett and Det. Longon, a confession was obtained, as well as two additional suspects who participated in the shooting. One was arrested in Battle Creek the next day, and the last suspect was tracked to the Detroit area and arrested the next day. The efforts and dedication displayed by all officers and investigators on such a difficult and emotional case are to be commended.

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**Unit Citations:** Corporal Kevin Farnham, Officer Caitlin LaValley, Officer Benjamin Shippell, Officer Jed Reames, Corporal Jeffrey Johnson

On Dec. 7, 2022, officers were actively looking for a suspect who was wanted for attempted murder. The suspect was elusive and had been on the run since the end of September. Information was received that the suspect was possibly at a house on South Birdsall Drive. Officers went to that residence, but before they could check for the suspect, people started running from the residence in all directions. Officers gave chase and located the suspect in some woods, where he was taken into custody. Although the officers were not specifically looking for the other subjects who ran from the house, they discovered those subjects also had felony warrants, and they were promptly arrested. These officers acted as a team and performed essential tasks that resulted in the apprehension of dangerous criminals.

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**Professional Excellence Citation:** Corporal Justin Broughton

On Oct. 30, 2022, officers responded to a young man in a vehicle, armed with a gun and intent on ending his life. Cpl. Broughton responded and was able to establish a rapport with the man during a highly emotional time. The man was visibly shaking, and expressed fear and an overall lack of knowledge about firearm safety. Several times, he pointed the gun at himself and made statements about ending his life. Speaking with this individual for well over 45 minutes, Cpl. Broughton was able to connect with the young man and convinced him to put the gun down and exit the vehicle. The young man was transported to Bronson Battle Creek for evaluation. While conversing with him, he expressed that had it not been for Cpl. Broughton being there and speaking with him, he would have taken his own life.

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**Unit Citations:** Corporal James Bailey, Corporal Justin Broughton, Corporal Andrew Winer, Officer Jessica Elsaidi, Officer Carl VanDyke, Officer Adam Pembrook, Officer Hunter Barnett, Detective Aaron Smith, Detective Trevor Galbraith

On Nov. 4, 2022, officers responded to arrest a suspect who had severely beaten his elderly father. The father was able to sneak out of the apartment and take a bus to the police station to report the assault. LifeCare Ambulance was called and the elderly man was taken to the hospital for his injuries. Officers responded to the residence and discovered that the suspect had poured bottles of bleach throughout the entire apartment, and was hiding somewhere in the apartment. A K-9 was deployed and the suspect was located hiding in a closet. After being bitten by the K-9, the suspect was taken into custody and first aid was immediately administered. The suspect continued to be non-compliant and had to be physically removed from the apartment due to the high concentration of bleach and the effect it was having on the officers. Teamwork, tactics, and good communication resulted in the arrest and conviction of a violent offender. Officers performed a difficult task in a dangerous situation that went above and beyond what is normally expected of them. Excellent communication and overall teamwork by these officers show them to be a great asset to the Battle Creek Police Department and the community they serve.

**Bravery Citations:** Corporal Mikael Ziegler, Officer Jed Reames, Officer Tyris Brazier

**Professional Excellence Citations:** Sergeant Gregory Gammons, Corporal Kevin Farnham, Officer Darryn Gorman

On Dec. 25, 2022, officers were dispatched to a suicidal subject call on Birdsall Drive. The caller said the subject was back at the residence, threatening to kill himself, and had a knife. Corporal Ziegler, Officer Reames, and Officer Brazier were the first to arrive. Upon arrival, officers heard yelling and saw the subject, as well as three other people, outside the residence. When the subject was approached by the officers, he reached into his waistband and pulled out a handgun. Officers fired their handguns, striking the subject twice. Officers immediately began administering first aid to the subject and LifeCare Ambulance was called, however, it took about 25 minutes for them to arrive. Due to the cold temperatures and the subject's condition, it was decided that Sgt. Gammons would take the subject to the hospital in his patrol vehicle. With the assistance of Officer Gorman and Cpl. Farnham, the wound was packed to control the bleeding, and the subject was taken to Bronson Battle Creek for medical treatment, which likely saved his life. Officers performed a difficult task in a dangerous situation that went above and beyond what is normally expected of them. Their teamwork, leadership, and quick actions are a testament to the values of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Stuart Bell, Sergeant Christof Klein, Corporal Thomas Burke, Corporal Craig Long, Corporal James Bailey, Corporal Andrew Winer, Officer Hunter Barnett, Officer Jasmine McLemore, Officer Mitchell Mears, Officer Carl VanDyke, Officer Nicholas Cooper, Officer Joshua Street, Officer Jessica Elsaidi, Officer Adam Pembrook, Officer Fatima Jamison, Officer Jennifer Vetter-Fair, Officer Travis Hartman

On Dec. 29, 2022, officers were called to City Hall. City Hall employees said an unknown man was in the building all night, and he ransacked several offices, and several items had been stolen. It was later found that a city vehicle was also stolen. In reviewing the surveillance cameras, officers were able to determine the suspect's identity. Two days later, officers were dispatched to The Milton downtown for a possible breaking and entering, and it was believed the suspect had also pulled the fire alarm. It was discovered that the main office was broken into. Two laptops were missing, possible tenant checks that would have been dropped off overnight, as well as keys to vacant apartments. The suspect was still in the building, as he was seen taking the elevator to an unknown floor. During the initial search of the building, officers were unable to locate the suspect, but did find the stolen vehicle from City Hall. In searching the vehicle, officers located numerous packages from the tenants of the apartment building, three bundles of mail from City Hall, and a bus ticket in the suspect's name. While waiting for the tow truck, officers spotted the suspect peeking out from the fire escape on one of the upper levels of the building. The building was checked again, and the suspect was located and taken into custody for breaking and entering, stealing a car, and receiving and concealing stolen property. These officers bring great credit upon themselves, as well as the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Unit Citations:** Officer Benjamin Downey, Officer Pamela Fickle, Officer Alexis Nickles

On Jan. 1, 2023, Officer Nickles and Officer Downey were on a foot patrol in the area of 70 W. Michigan Ave., when an alarm came out for the location. Prior to entering the parking structure, officers noticed two bikes leaning on the south side of the building. One of the bikes had a large duffle bag on the handlebars. The officers entered a common area of the parking structure and noticed two white men walking down the stairwell. The officers acknowledged the subjects from several floors down to ask what they were doing, and both of them turned around and walked back up the stairwell. The officers were able to see the clothing description of one of the subjects before they fled. This information was put out over the radio, and Officer Fickle later located the subjects walking in the area. While Officer Nickles and Officer Downey were searching the building, they noticed that one of the suites had an unlocked door. As officers searched the suite, it was discovered that all the drawers to the desk were open. Officers found that other areas in the building had also been opened and rummaged through. When the subjects were questioned by Officer Fickle they advised that they had been riding their bikes. When asked where their bikes were, they explained that they had left them at the fieldhouse. Officers then went to the fieldhouse to check for another possible breaking and entering. While walking around the fieldhouse it was discovered that entry had been made and property had been stolen. The stolen items were recovered from the duffle bag found with the bikes in the parking structure and returned to the owners. Acting as a team, they performed in an uncompromising manner, which resulted in the apprehension of two criminals and stolen property being recovered.

**Professional Excellence Citation:** Corporal Thomas Burke

On Jan. 24, 2023, a call came into dispatch advising a larceny had just occurred. The caller advised that the property taken was his and he advised dispatch he was following the suspect, and provided a direction of travel, along with a vehicle description. Cpl. Burke spotted the vehicle and activated his overhead lights to attempt to catch up to it. After following the vehicle through several turns in the downtown area, Cpl. Burke noticed the vehicle stopped in the middle of the street and the driver had jumped out and started running through a parking lot and an open field. Cpl. Burke left his vehicle and yelled for the suspect to stop, but he continued running, and Cpl. Burke gave chase. Cpl. Burke caught the suspect and gave commands for him to place his hands behind his back, to which the suspect complied. The driver was arrested for larceny, possession of burglary tools, resisting and obstructing, and possession of meth. All stolen property was returned to the rightful owners. The actions of Cpl. Burke demonstrate the highest standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Ryan O'Connell, Corporal Thomas Wirebaugh, Officer Skylar Brower

**Unit Citation:** Lab Specialist Andrew Olsen

On Feb. 1, 2023, Cpl. Wirebaugh conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving the Best Western Hotel. Four people were in the vehicle. After obtaining their names, it was found that the front-seat passenger had warrants, and a large amount of meth. The backseat passenger lied about his name, but was later identified and found to have two felony warrants for counterfeiting out of Ottawa County and Kent County. Both subjects were arrested and taken to the county jail. Officer O'Connell and Officer Brower took the woman to jail, and while there, more meth was located on her person. They interviewed the woman, which led to statements that money was currently being printed at a hotel in Battle Creek. Cpl. Wirebaugh secured the hotel room.

Members of the Battle Creek Special Investigations Unit completed a search warrant for the room. Inside the room was more counterfeit money, a printer, a toolbox containing ink, markers, glue, erasers, and other equipment used to assist in producing counterfeit money. In addition, more meth was located in the room. Lab Specialist Olsen processed the scene and collected evidence. Over the next week, it was discovered that the man in this incident is being investigated in over 15 jurisdictions, ranging from Elkhart, Indiana to Traverse City, Michigan. The Secret Service was contacted, and is looking to charge the man with multiple federal charges. The actions of these officers demonstrate the highest standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Unit Citations:** Officer Benjamin Shippell, Officer Alexis Nickles, Officer Tyris Brazier, Officer Darryn Gorman, Sergeant Gregory Gammons

On Feb. 4, 2023, officers responded to a call of shots fired on Rye Street. Upon arrival, Officer Shippell and Officer Nickles interviewed the resident of the home, and he advised that his windows had been shot out. The resident was able to provide vehicle descriptions of two vehicles and their direction of travel. Responding to the area, Sgt. Gammons advised there were two vehicles in the area that matched the description of the suspect vehicles. Officer Gorman and Officer Brazier assisted Sgt. Gammons with getting one of the vehicles stopped. While searching the vehicle, Officer Brazier noticed a shell casing. While searching the vehicle, officers also located a handgun underneath the center console of the vehicle. At this time, the vehicle occupants were taken into custody. These officers acted as a team and performed essential tasks that resulted in the apprehension of two criminals with extensive criminal histories.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Detective Brandin Huggett, Detective Michael Harrison

On Feb. 8, 2023, Detective Huggett and Detective Harrison were notified by road patrol about a potential “murder for hire” case. After receiving the victim’s contact information, detectives made contact for an interview. The suspect in this case had sent a Facebook message stating that if someone killed the victim and sent a picture of her body, they would pay \$80,000. The victim said this all stemmed from a broken relationship and the fact that she was dating someone else. As detectives left the victim’s residence, they saw the suspect riding a bicycle in the area. The suspect stopped about 400 feet from the victim’s residence. As the detectives watched the suspect, they saw him pull out a white “Jason” style Halloween mask and put it on his face, and he then began rummaging through a backpack. Detective Harrison approached the suspect and placed him in double-locked handcuffs. Detective Huggett advised the suspect that he had a current warrant for domestic violence and he was under arrest. In checking the backpack, detectives located a large butcher knife. The suspect also had a pocket knife on his person. The

actions of Detectives Huggett and Harrison stopped a serious crime from occurring, which could have had dire consequences. The actions of these officers demonstrate the highest standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Unit Citations:** Sergeant Jeffrey Case, Detective Stephanie Estree, Detective Brandin Huggett, Officer Ryan O'Connell, Officer Skylar Brower, Officer Cory Phillips

On Feb. 13, 2023, Officer Brower and Officer O'Connell attempted to stop a vehicle that fled from them. They stopped the chase, but Officer O'Connell recognized the subject as a convicted felon. Officer Brower and Officer O'Connell went to the subject's last known address and located the vehicle in front of the house. A phone belonging to the subject was located in the vehicle. The subject in question had felony warrants for possession with intent to deliver and weapon offenses. On Feb. 15, 2023, Detective Huggett provided information to the Highway and Hotel Interdiction Team that this same subject was in possession of a stolen AR-15 rifle. As officers watched the subject's house, they saw him exit the back of the house. He quickly ran back into the residence when officers approached, and a perimeter was set up. Detective Estree completed a search warrant for the cell phone and residence. Officers searched the house and found ammunition. Sgt. Case found an empty AR-15 magazine. Upon further searching, the stolen AR-15 rifle was found by Officer Phillips. The subject was charged with six felonies from these incidents, along with the failure to appear warrants from the original offenses. These officers acted as a team and performed essential tasks that resulted in the apprehension of a dangerous criminal.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Adam Pembrook, Officer Jenna Brower

**Lifesaving Citations:** Officer Trevor Scott, Officer Kyle Lefler

**Unit Citations:** Officer Cory Phillips, Officer Ryan O'Connell, Detective Stephanie Estree

On Feb. 13, 2023, Officer Phillips was dispatched to a shooting on West Michigan Avenue. Upon arrival, he witnessed the victim lying on the ground, covered in blood. The victim had been shot just above the knee. Arriving on scene, Officer Scott and Officer Lefler applied a tourniquet. In speaking with hospital personnel, prior to the victim being taken into surgery, they advised the bullet had broken the victim's leg and nicked an artery. The tourniquet applied by Officers Scott and Lefler likely saved his life. Officer Phillips gathered suspect information from the victim but was only given a name from social media. Officer O'Connell was able to identify the suspect through the social media profile, photos, and other resources. Search warrants were drafted by Detective Estree and Officer O'Connell for the victim's phone and social media profiles for the suspect. On Feb. 23, 2023, there was a report of a robbery at a Shell gas station. The same suspect from the shooting was identified as the suspect in the robbery. On Feb. 24, 2023, while at the Intermodal Transportation Center an unrelated incident, Officer Brower and Officer Pembrook recognized the suspect from information disseminated in lineup. The subject was attempting to take a bus to Ohio. At that time, he was detained. The subject was positively identified as the suspect in several armed robberies in the area. He was placed under arrest and upon searching him a large amount of crystal meth was located. The dedication to duty and working as an overall team exemplifies the professional standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Officer Adam Pembrook, Officer Jenna Brower

On Feb. 25, 2023, officers were dispatched to the area of Goguac and Ridge streets for a report of shots fired in the area. While checking the area, officers observed a man walking in the road, where a sidewalk is provided. Due to the nature of the call, the man was detained. The subject was asked to remove his hands from his pockets several times before finally complying, but he also seemed agitated. Officer Pembrook advised the man that once he was checked and patted down, he could be on his way. Officer Brower began to pat the subject down, but he had a backpack around his waist area. Officer Brower asked Officer Pembrook to lift up the backpack and at that time, Officer Pembrook noticed that the backpack was extremely heavy. He asked the subject what was in the backpack and the male advised a handgun. The backpack was searched and a handgun was located, along with a 50-100 round drum magazine attached. The subject was then placed under arrest for carrying a concealed weapon. These officers used their observation skills and training to identify a suspicious acting suspect and as a result, removed an unlicensed firearm off the streets of Battle Creek.

**Lifesaving Citations:** Officer Caleb Skaggs, Officer Joshua Millikin, Officer Taylor Dellinger

On March 26, 2023, officers responded to a single-vehicle accident and discovered the male driver was unresponsive. Officer Skaggs was the first officer on the scene. He quickly determined that the unconscious man was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Officer Skaggs quickly made the decision to remove the driver from the vehicle and began CPR. This was conducted continuously for the next six minutes with the assistance of Officer Dellinger and Officer Millikin, until the Bedford Fire Department arrived. Upon arrival of LifeCare Ambulance, additional lifesaving steps were taken and a pulse was regained. His last known condition was listed as critical, but alive. The chances of making a recovery from suffering a cardiac arrest due to a traumatic event are less than 1%. Due to the quick assessment, decisions, and actions made by these officers, the driver likely was saved. Performing in an uncompromising manner, their actions are an example of professionalism under pressure.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Emily Leach, Officer Skylar Brower

On March 26, 2023, while doubled as a training unit, Officer Brower and Corporal Leach observed a vehicle with an equipment violation and initiated a traffic stop. Once the driver saw the overhead lights, he began reaching around into the back of the vehicle to the point he sideswiped another vehicle prior to coming to a complete stop. As the officers approached the vehicle, Cpl. Leach heard a loud thump coming from the vehicle. Having dealt with the driver on previous occasions, officers were aware that the driver is known to be in possession of weapons. At this time, the driver and passenger were asked to step out of the vehicle and a search of the vehicle was conducted. A handgun was located under the seat, which the driver appeared to have been reaching when stopped. The driver was arrested for receiving and concealing stolen property, as well as carrying a concealed weapon. Their dedication to duty and working as a team exemplify the professional standards of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Andrew Horn, Officer Jenna Brower

On March 31, 2023, officers were dispatched to the shelter on East Michigan Avenue. Upon arrival to the area, Cpl. Horn and his trainee, Officer Brower, made contact with a woman who advised she had been sexually assaulted. The woman was visibly upset and crying as they tried to interview her. She said she was trying to be a good friend and offered the suspect a ride when she saw him walking. The woman said the suspect was an ex-boyfriend and the assault started the evening prior and continued into the next morning. Officer Brower gathered a suspect description and spoke with witnesses who knew the suspect to try to ascertain where he may have gone. On April 1. 2023, Officer Brower and Officer Horn made contact with the suspect at a friend's house. They arrested the suspect for criminal sexual assault. As a new trainee, Officer Brower took the lead in this investigation and handled it at a professional level. She expressed time and patience with an emotional victim. These officers exhibited compassion and respect, allowing the woman to maintain her dignity throughout a horrible situation. This is an incredible example of the above-and-beyond mentality held by the members of the Battle Creek Police Department.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Lab Supervisor Todd Rathjen, Lab Specialist Andrew Olsen, Corporal Alexander Barton, Officer Jonathon Kilbourn

From mid-October until Nov. 5, 2022, lab personnel worked an extraordinary number of major crime scenes, including three homicides, two fatal pedestrian crashes, and two separate double fatality crashes. Lab personnel displayed the highest level of commitment, competency, and effort during this period. Their dedication to duty shows them to be a great asset to the Battle Creek Police Department and the community.

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**Unit Citations:** Officer Pamela Fickle, Officer Joshua Millikin, Officer Caleb Skaggs

On April 10, 2023, officers were dispatched to the area of Springview Drive for an investigate-person call. Upon arrival, the officers located a subject who had been knocking on a neighbor's window. The officers ascertained the subject was having a medical crisis, and contacted LifeCare Ambulance for transport. Due to a delay in LifeCare being able to respond, the officers decided to take the individual to the hospital in their patrol vehicle. After the incident, hospital personnel called the station to commend the officers for their actions, and advised that had they not transported him to the hospital when they did, that the

subject would not have survived. Being fairly new to the job, these officers relied on their instincts and observations to make the call to transport. The actions of these officers demonstrate the highest standard of the Battle Creek Police Department, and decision-making that we instill in all new officers.

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**Professional Excellence Citations:** Corporal Bradley Gentry, Corporal Nathaniel Hopkins, Sergeant Nicholas Woolman

**Unit Citations:** Detective Cody Longon, Detective Stephanie Estree, Detective Scott Marshall, Corporal Ryan Thayer

**Certificate of Commendation:** Administrative Assistant Megan Root

Over the last three years, law enforcement recruitment across the country has been dire and Battle Creek was no exception. A revived initiative was needed, and several of our members took the lead. Training Sgt. Woolman, Training Administrative Assistant Megan Root, recruiters Cpl. Bradley Gentry and Cpl. Nathaniel Hopkins developed a recruiting plan and, by using newer technology, they were able to bring 17 new police officers to the BCPD, the largest number of new recruits hired at one time in our 123-year history. Working as a team, they recruited and, along with Detective Longon, Detective Estree, Detective Marshall, and Cpl. Thayer, conducted background investigations on all of those officers. This initiative bolstered the Kellogg Community College Police Academy, giving them the ability to hold a first-ever regional police academy. Sgt. Woolman and Ms. Root also coordinated an extensive training plan and schedule for those officers. This team has kept its foot on the gas as recruitment continues. Their dedication is a true testament to their professionalism, and exemplifies our values and mission at the Battle Creek Police Department.