

# WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JEFFREY SPAULDING  
CHIEF OF POLICE



## MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

March 8, 2017

### **Westminster Police Department Recognizes Outstanding Employees and Citizens**

The Westminster Police Department (WPD) hosted their annual **Departmental Awards Ceremony** on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Carroll Arts Center. During the ceremony, which was attended by Mayor Joe Dominick and Common Council members Tony Chiavacci and Mona Becker, a number of Police Department employees and local citizens were recognized for their contributions to the Department and the City during 2017.

Chief Jeff Spaulding praised and thanked all of the award recipients for their exemplary efforts during 2017. He also noted that there were many more employees and volunteers serving the Department who worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that Westminster was a safe and pleasant place to live and work. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the gallery of the Arts Center.

*A brief listing of the award recipients and their contributions appear below.*

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## 2017 Westminster Police Department Award Recipients



### Police Officer of the Year:

PFC Martin Runk was recognized as the Westminster Police Department's "Police Officer of the Year" for 2017. PFC Runk joined the Department in 2015 following a successful career with the Baltimore Police Department. Since coming to WPD he has been assigned to Patrol duties. During his tenure with WPD, PFC Runk has demonstrated that he is a motivated and proactive law enforcement professional. His accomplishments in 2017 included handling a high number of calls for service and self-initiated investigations – each handled from initial call/observation through arrest. He effected a total of 47 arrests for both misdemeanor and felonious offenses. He also initiated more than 700 traffic stops, these resulting in 32 traffic arrests (including 4 DUI arrests), 341 state citations and nearly 900 written warnings. In addition to his Patrol duties, PFC Runk also served the Department as a certified firearms, radar and general police instructor. He is also a member of both the Carroll County Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) and the Carroll County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). When not working, PFC Runk volunteers his time as a Post Advisor for the Carroll County Law Enforcement Explorer Post and assists with the various outreach activities of the Department.



### Life Saving Award:

On December 9, 2017 Sgt. Richard Lambert responded to the report of a suicidal subject. Upon arrival on the scene he made emergency entry into the residence and located an unconscious female who was attempting suicide by hanging. Sgt. Lambert immediately went to the aid of the victim, removing the ligature and placing her on the floor where he would initiate life-saving measures. Due to the timely and effective emergency medical care provided by Sergeant Lambert, the victim's condition stabilized and she was transported to the hospital for treatment of her injuries.



**Life Saving Award:**

On April 1, 2017 Sgt. Adam Laser, Cpl. Jesse Clagett and PFC Eric Almenas were dispatched to a shopping center in Westminster for the report of a subject laying on the sidewalk. Sgt. Laser was the first to arrive, finding an unconscious male laying on the sidewalk who was not breathing. Sgt. Laser requested an ambulance and initiated CPR. Suspecting a possible opiate overdose, Cpl. Clagett administered two doses of Naloxone, a drug that blocks opiate receptors in the nervous system. Pfc. Almenas assisted in clearing the victim's airway before placing him in a recovery position. The victim ultimately regained spontaneous pulse and respirations. As a direct result of the life-saving efforts of these three officers, the victim was able to survive this potentially fatal situation.



**Unit Citation:**

The members of Patrol Squad 4 are Lt. Thomas Kowalczyk, Sgt. Stephen Arnold, PFC Christopher Obst, PFC Timothy Rife and Officer Joseph Tebo, III. During 2017 this group, working as a team under the leadership of Lt. Kowalczyk, handled 2,320 calls for service and made more than 270 arrests. They also initiated nearly 2,100 traffic enforcement actions during the year and conducted 258 hours of foot patrol. Squad 4 was presented with a Unit Citation by Mayor Dominick for their proactive and effective actions during 2017.



**Unit Citation:**

The members of the Communication Division are Supervisor Lisa Cooper, Telecommunications Specialists Cheryl Pickett, Lorilei Tyler, Nancy Pyne, Rachel Smith, Samantha Wilson, Dylan Bedwell, Mark Franklin, Frank Valenti and PEO Michaelle Leone. The members are frequently the hidden heroes of the Police Department. They serve as the first point of contact for citizens in need and a lifeline for police officers in the field. During 2017, Communication Division personnel were required to work an extensive amount of overtime due to staffing shortages within the Division – to include working shifts outside their normal shift assignment. Despite the staffing shortage, they efficiently and professionally handled more than 12,000 police calls for service, this an increase of nearly 1,000 calls from 2016. The members of the Communication Division were presented with a unit citation by Mayor Dominick for their dedication and exemplary service in 2017.

**Other award presentations included:**

**The “Catherine’s Cause” Award for Excellence in DUI Enforcement:**

Presented to Cpl. Jesse Clagett by Phil and Cindy Mullikin of Catherine’s Cause.

**Community Partnership Award:**

Presented to Jesse and Shirley Painter of Westminster for their ongoing assistance with the Westminster Police Department’s Annual “Shop With A Cop” holiday event.

**Chief’s Commendations:**

Presented to Sgt. Tim Dellospedale, Cpl. William Long, Det. Patti Parks, Det. Dave Jednorski (all of WPD) and Ms. Tonya Day of the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office for exceptional service to the Department and the community throughout 2017.