



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

November 4th, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Newark Police Officer Honored by Knights of Columbus

On October 28th, Knights of Columbus St. Michael Council #4548 presented the Officer of the Quarter Award to Newark Police Detective Michael Watson for outstanding performance during the second quarter of 2013. At a meeting and dinner organized by Mr. Albert Ware and presided over by Grand Knight Francis M. Denver at Holy Family Church, Detective Watson was presented with a plaque to commemorate his award.

Detective Michael Watson received this award for his actions while conducting a stalking investigation. On April 27th, 2013, a 28 year old female from Newark reported that her ex-boyfriend, a 32 year old male from Florida, had been sending her unwanted text messages and packages. He hacked into several computer accounts changing her passwords and posting unwanted messages. He sent out naked photographs of her to her friends, family and former students. This activity occurred over a period of several months making the investigative process more difficult. Also adding to the complexity of the case was the suspect's sophistication of computers. Using his knowledge of computers, the suspect was able to hack into the victim's accounts using a number of spoofing programs in order to hide his identity. Detective Watson's lengthy and detailed investigation included obtaining and executing fifteen search warrants, three subpoenas and assisting the victim in obtaining a Protection From Abuse Order. Additionally, he coordinated with the Pinellas County (Florida) Sheriff's Office with serving the PFA and assisted with the Orange County (Connecticut) Police Department with their investigation into a violation of the PFA while the victim was visiting Connecticut. Finally, in June of 2013, Detective Watson travelled to Florida to coordinate with the Pinellas County Detectives in drafting and executing a search warrant at the suspect's Florida home. Because of his investigation, the suspect was arrested on numerous felony charges and the suspect's ability to further terrorize the victim was severely hampered.

The Officer of the Quarter Award originated in 1991, and has been presented each quarter for the past 23 years.

Photo (Left to Right): Detective Michael Watson, Captain John Potts (Photo Credit to Carmelo Palazzo, Knights of Columbus)

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