

# QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2020

September 1, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

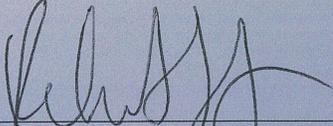
Please join me in congratulating the following employees for being selected as the Quincy Police Department September 2020 Employees of the Month. In no particular order: Sergeant Nathan Elbus, Lieutenant Jeff Nevin, Crime Scene Technician Emily Pezzella, Officers Matt Hermsmeier, Erik Cowick, Mike Cirrincione, Stephen Hischier, Craig Russell, Amber Haistings, Peter Hummel, Bill Calkins, Taylor Dralle, Megan Dolbeare, Kelby Rescinito, and Kris Billingsley.

At 4:59 p.m. on August 14, 2020 there was a horrific traffic crash at 4<sup>th</sup> & Broadway. The "at fault" vehicle was traveling at an extremely high rate of speed westbound on Broadway, ran the red light, and collided with another vehicle travelling northbound on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.. The second vehicle was occupied by an older couple and their three grandsons, 18 months old, 4 years old, and 6 years old. The grandmother and the 4 year old were ejected from their vehicle and were pronounced dead at the scene. The 6 year old was transported to Blessing Hospital and was pronounced dead there. The 18 month old was transported to Blessing Hospital and then on to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, where he died a few hours later. Only the grandfather survived the crash, though seriously injured. The driver of the at fault vehicle fled the scene on foot and was apprehended on the Bayview Bridge.

Responding Officers were met with one of the most gruesome crash scenes Quincy has ever had. The actions taken by the officers in the ensuing hours were nothing short of heroic. Some of the employees were on scene, some were tasked with duties away from the scene, and some conducted follow-up investigation at a variety of locations. Some of the duties undertaken included: life saving efforts, removing victims from their vehicle, arresting the at fault driver, blocking and directing traffic, photographing the crash scene and the victims, collecting evidence, reconstructing the crash, obtaining surveillance video of the crash and of the at fault vehicle prior to the crash, attending autopsies of the victims, and securing the at fault driver while at the hospital prior to going to jail.

Our employees train to respond to such incidents, however, no amount of training can prepare anyone for the experience of working such a traumatic event. Child death scenes and investigations are some of the most painful to work, let alone one with such a large amount of senseless death and carnage as this one. These employees will never forget this incident and will be forever affected by it. Yet every one stood firm and performed their duties diligently, admirably, and professionally. So much so, that their work led to the indictment of the at fault driver for the charges of four counts of First Degree Murder, among others. "Job well done" to everyone involved.

Again, please join me in congratulating each of these employees for being selected as the Quincy Police Department September 2020 Employees of the Month.



Robert A. Copley, Chief of Police