

# QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH APRIL 2018



April 1, 2018

It is with great pleasure I announce that Officers Matt Hermsmeier, J.D. Summers, Erin Dusch, and Kelsey Lepper have been selected as Employees of the Month for April 2018.

Officer Hermsmeier joined the department on March 23, 1998. He graduated from the Belleville Area College Police Academy on June 12, 1998. Officer Summers joined the department on April 7, 2004. He graduated from the ISP Academy on December 3, 2004. Officer Dusch joined the department on May 29, 2012. She graduated from the ISP Academy on August 30, 2012. Officer Lepper joined the department on June 12, 2017. She graduated from the College of DuPage Police Academy on September 29, 2017. All of these officers are patrol officers on the day shift.

These officers were nominated due to their heroic actions on February 22, 2018. At 0622 hours that date Officers Summers and Hermsmeier were dispatched to a domestic battery report. Upon speaking with the victim, the officers learned that her husband had physically attacked her that morning, and also a couple of days earlier. The victim was transported to the hospital where she was admitted for her significant injuries. The victim said her husband had threatened to kill her, and had a large knife in his possession with he left the residence. She indicated her husband also made suicidal comments prior to leaving the residence. After broadcasting information about the suspect and his vehicle, Officer Summers continued with his investigation.

At 1016 hours, Officer Dusch observed the suspect vehicle driving near 20<sup>th</sup> and Oak. Multiple officers then attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, however each time it fled at a high rate of speed. At one point, the vehicle stopped at 17<sup>th</sup> and Locust briefly and a passenger exited. Officer Lepper stopped and made contact with the passenger and another witness. While Officer Lepper was speaking with these two, the suspect vehicle returned and drove towards the three of them at a high rate of speed. Officer Lepper physically moved the subjects out of the path of the vehicle that was attempting to strike them. Officer Lepper was able to relay this information to dispatch as well. The suspect continued to flee from officers until he finally stopped in the parking lot of Knapheide Manufacturing, 1848 Westphalia Strasse. The suspect threw a knife at approaching officers before securing himself in the vehicle. Officer Hermsmeier immediately approached the vehicle and realized the suspect had severely cut his wrist and was bleeding profusely. Officers were not able to open the locked doors, so Officer Hermsmeier moved to the passenger side and broke out the passenger side window with his baton in order to gain access to the suspect. After being removed from the vehicle, the suspect continued to resist officers. Officer Hermsmeier then deployed his Taser and officers were able to safely handcuff and treat the suspect until EMS arrived.

While other officers and agencies assisted on this incident, these four officers specifically deserve recognition for their actions. As a result of these actions an extremely violent and dangerous individual was taken into custody without injury to officers or other citizens. While the suspect suffered self-inflicted injuries, his life was quite probably saved by the response and actions of all officers.

Please join me in congratulating Officers Hermsmeier, Summers, Dusch, and Lepper as being selected as the Quincy Police Department's April 2018 Employees of the Month.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Copley".

Robert A. Copley, Chief of Police