

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
2024 QUARTER THREE AWARDS CEREMONY

December 17, 2024

3 p.m.

Mannahouse Church

14311 SE Mill Plain Blvd

VALOR. PROFESSIONALISM. DUTY.

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vision

To reflect the rich diversity of Vancouver and make it the safest city for everyone to live, work and play.

Mission Statement

We partner with the community to preserve life, protect property and enhance livability through equitable law enforcement and effective use of resources.

We Value

Ethics. Doing the right thing; maintaining self- discipline, credibility and moral behavior.

Respect. Treating all people with compassion, respect and fairness; honoring diversity of thought, experiences and opinions.

Honesty. Upholding the principles of honesty and transparency.

Communication. Communicating with openness, active listening, fostering an environment of inclusion, trust and empowerment.

Collaboration. Actively seeking collaboration with each other and the community to achieve mutually desired outcomes.

VPD EXECUTIVE TEAM

- ◆ **Chief** Troy Price
- ◆ **Deputy Chief** Erica Nilsen
- ◆ **Assistant Chief** Darren McShea
- ◆ **Assistant Chief** Pat Moore
- ◆ **Commander** Blaise Geddry
- ◆ **Acting Commander** Kathy McNicholas
- ◆ **Commander** Michael Whitney
- ◆ **Commander** Chad Williams
- ◆ **Assistant City Attorney** Taylor Hallvik
- ◆ **Human Resources Business Partner** Rob Prociak
- ◆ **Administrative Assistant** Heather Abbott
- ◆ **Records Manager** Olga Dacy
- ◆ **Finance and Logistics Supervisor** Daphine Harris
- ◆ **Public Affairs Manager** Kim Kapp
- ◆ **Administrative Assistant** Teri Kenning

MEET OUR NEW PROFESSIONAL STAFF



Nalon Sombounvong
Police Records Specialist
Joined VPD July 1, 2024

PROMOTIONS



Assistant Chief Darren McShea

Promoted to Assistant Chief August 16, 2024



Commander Chad Williams

Promoted to Commander July 16, 2024

AWARDS AND MEDALS

Silver Star



Medal of Valor



Medal of Distinction



Purple Heart



Lifesaving



Department Citation



Career Service



Meritorious Service



Special Service



Team Commendation



MERITORIOUS SERVICE & TEAM COMMENDATION

The Meritorious Service Award is given to an officer for very competent and professional performance. This award recognizes an officer that performed competently in a stressful situation, in a stressful position over an extended period of time, or that performed duties beyond normal expectations in the investigation and case preparation of an unusual case.

A Team Commendation is presented to a group of officers, civilian personnel and/or citizens whose collective efforts significantly impact the overall service delivery for the Vancouver Police Department.



Sergeant Tim Huberty
Meritorious Service



Officer Andrea Bauman
Meritorious Service



DOC Officer Ivan Bickler
Team Commendation



U.S. Marshal Vince Byford
Team Commendation



DOC Officer Brian Ford
Team Commendation



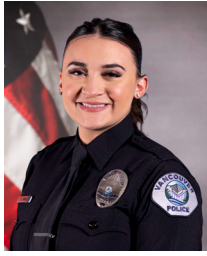
Officer Tim Pfeifer
Meritorious Service



Detective Cpl. James Porter
Team Commendation



Detective Colton Price
Team Commendation



Officer Rachel Toves
Meritorious Service



Detective Aaron Yoder
Team Commendation

On September 9, 2024, Vancouver Police received information of a social media message regarding the threat of a possible shooting outside Mountain View High School. There was no date specified in the threat. While police were investigating the origin of the threat, Vancouver Police patrol officers responded to the school and observed two males approaching the school. The officers were able to safely detain both males. Each had a loaded firearm in their possession. Officers Bauman, Toves, and Pfeifer, along with Sergeant Huberty were instrumental in determining the credibility of this threat to the school and students, taking immediate steps to ensure the staff and students were safe, and locate and apprehend the armed suspects. Along with the assistance of Detectives Aaron Yoder, Detective Colton Price, Detective Corporal James Porter, U.S. Marshal Vince Byford, DOC Officer Brian Ford and DOC Officer Ivan Bickler, their determination and tenacity thwarted a potential violent encounter at the school, and prevented any injuries or deaths that could have resulted from the violent plans of the suspects.

For their work in the apprehension of the suspects and averting a potential school shooting Detective Colton Price, Detective Aaron Yoder, Detective James Porter, Vince Byford, Officer Brian Ford and Officer Ivan Bickler are being presented the Team Commendation.

For their swift and decisive actions, exceptional teamwork, and courage in the face of danger ensured the safety of countless students and staff, preventing what could have been a catastrophic event. Sergeant Huberty, Officer Rachel Toves, Officer Andrea Bauman, and Officer Tim Pfeifer are being presented the Meritorious Service Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD

The Lifesaving Award is given to an officer or citizen who is directly responsible for the saving of a human life. Documentation and supporting evidence, which may include statements of witnesses, physicians, or supervisors, must be included to substantiate the award. This award is also appropriate in those circumstances where the action of an officer prolonged human life to the extent of the victim being released to the care of medical authorities, even though the victim may have expired at a later time.



Michael Brennan
Lifesaving Award

On September 5, 2024, VPD responded to Wintler Beach on report of a person in the Columbia River possibly drowning. There were multiple Beach goers calling 911 related to this situation. One of the callers was noted as saying the drowning person was approximately 200 yards offshore yelling for help. Another caller reported to dispatch that her father was on a jet-ski and going to help him. When officers arrived, the jet-ski owner, Michael Brennan had gotten the drowning man back to the beach. Michael told police that when he observed the man in the water, it was clear he was in distress, asking for help, and near drowning. Michael said that the man eagerly and willingly jumped onto the back of his jet-ski and held on very tightly to Michael as they returned to the beach. The man appeared to be exhausted and grateful to be out of the water.

Were it not for his observation of the man in distress and quick intervention to go out to rescue this person, he would have likely drowned before first responders could arrive.

For his efforts to that day, Michael Brennan is being presented the Citizen Lifesaving Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD



Officer Janell Cusick
Lifesaving Award



Officer Jesse Stokes
Lifesaving Award

On September 28, 2024, Officer Stokes and Officer Janell Cusick responded to a reported early birth of a 26-week-old baby. The mother called 911 after she was experiencing some discomfort and while using the bathroom her baby and placenta dropped into the toilet. Officers Stokes and Cusick were the first to arrive and began life saving efforts on the 26-week-old baby. They maintained gentle CPR until medics arrived. The medics do not have small enough equipment to accommodate such a small baby and the time the baby received the initial medical care by the officers was essential. Working with the medical responders they were able to identify a faint pulse and the baby was rushed to the hospital along with mom who also required additional medical care. VPD was notified by Vancouver Fire that that the baby had a better heartrate, was breathing and even let out a little cry before fire personnel left him in the care of the doctors.

Vancouver Fire personnel acknowledged the efforts of Officers Stokes and Cusick performing CPR with a calm demeanor while under stress was essential in the positive outcome of this incident.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The Meritorious Service Award is given to an officer for very competent and professional performance. This award recognizes an officer that performed competently in a stressful situation, in a stressful position over an extended period of time, or that performed duties beyond normal expectations in the investigation and case preparation of an unusual or special case.



Officer Doug Keldsen
Meritorious Service

On May 16, 2024, Officer Doug Keldsen was conducting a follow-up regarding a harassment that had taken place the evening prior. The harassment suspect had a similar description to a suspect who had stabbed a woman at the Clark College campus earlier that day. That incident garnered national news media and created a sense of public fear for community members, and Clark College staff and students. Officer Keldsen interviewed the victim of the harassment and believed that the suspect may be residing in a house nearby. A canvass of the neighborhood had been done after the harassment was reported but officers did not locate the suspect. Officer Keldsen canvassed the area again, which was beyond normal expectations in this investigation since it had been turned over to the Major Crimes Unit. During his canvass of the area, he made contact with a resident who lived less than 500 feet from where the harassment happened.

That resident confirmed through picture identification that the suspect was sleeping in a truck on the property. Officer Keldsen called for additional officers and kept watch on the truck. The suspect was taken into custody and resulted in the arrest of an armed and violent person. The man was determined to be the suspect in both the harassment and the stabbing at Clark College.

CAREER SERVICE MEDAL

The Career Service Medal is awarded to officers who complete at least 20 years of active civilian law enforcement service, of which at least 15 years were served with the Vancouver Police Department. This medal is presented to eligible sworn officers.



Lieutenant Brian Ruder

Hired by VPD in 2006. Has held assignments in Patrol, Arson Investigations, Bike Unit and Professional Standards.



Detective Rodrigo Osorio

Hired by VPD in 2007. Has held assignments in Patrol, Drug Task Force, Neighborhood Response Team, Major Crimes and as a School Resource Officer.



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Vancouver Police Department



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