

***Promotion
&
Commendation
Ceremony***

Thursday, July 9, 2020





The Upper Dublin Township Police Department is guided by the philosophy of Professionalism, Integrity and Community Policing. Our greatest asset is our personnel; our greatest strength is our partnership with our community.

In Recognition & Appreciation

Unfortunately with the pandemic the police department felt it would be inappropriate to hold a public promotion and recognition ceremony. Police operations and administrative business has continued throughout the pandemic which necessitated the need for us to hold this event. The Police Department would like to thank our Board of Commissioners, the Township Manager, Paul Leonard for their continue support of the police department.

The promotion of Cpl. Rowland to the rank of Sergeant is the culmination of a six-month civil service approved promotional testing process. Sgt. Rowland will immediately take over responsibly and oversight of one of the four patrol squads. The Upper Dublin Police Department takes great pride in the exceptional police services that we provide to our community every day. Outlined in this report are thirty-five commendations & recognitions that demonstrates exceptional police work, criminal investigations and true acts of bravery and heroism by members of this police department. Police command presented the recognitions to each recipient listed in this report at the private ceremony.

With the national narrative about defunding police services taking place across our country the police department is extremely proud to showcase policing excellence that is taking place here in Upper Dublin Township. The Upper Dublin Police Department is always be *Ready to Protect and Proud to Serve*.

Respectfully,

Francis X. Wheatley, Chief of Police



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley,
Lieutenant Darren Nyce

Promotion



Andrew Rowland was promoted to Sergeant after a six-month testing process which included a written examination and an interview with a panel of independent executive level police administrators. Prior to being promoted to Sergeant, he held the rank of Corporal. Since joining the Department, Sergeant Rowland has served in the Patrol Division and has been a member of the following:

- Montgomery County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force
- Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team's Bicycle Response Team
- Upper Dublin Township Police Department's Bicycle Patrol Unit
- Upper Dublin Township Police Department's Field Training & Evaluation Unit, Coordinator
- Upper Dublin Township Police Department's Use of Force Training Unit

In addition, Corporal Rowland is a Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor; is certified in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE); has received awards from the Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Program for aggressive driving enforcement actions in 2013, 2014, and 2017; and was awarded a Lifesaving Commendation for pulling the operator out of a burning vehicle on March 18, 2013.

With his promotion on Thursday, July 9, 2020, Sergeant Rowland will assume supervision of Platoon A and will now wear badge 30.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, District Judge Paul Leo, Sergeant Andrew Rowland and his spouse, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley

Commendation Letter

For his performance of outstanding police work which brings credit upon him and the entire Department, **Corporal Stephen Nick** is hereby presented this Commendatory Letter.

On Sunday, February 07, 2016 Cpl. Nick was actively patrolling the Dresher section of Upper Dublin Township on the lookout for a male suspect with an active arrest warrant for aggravated assault against police. Cpl. Nick observed the suspect standing with a group of people in front of a residence. Prior to his approach, the suspect entered a vehicle and attempted to flee the area. Cpl. Nick initiated a felony stop on this vehicle and ultimately positively identified and arrested the wanted male.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For their performance of outstanding acts of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Officer Gregory Borgmann** and **Officer Thomas Szybowski** are hereby awarded with the Commendation for Merit.

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, Ofc. Szybowski and Ofc. Borgmann responded to a suspicious person call in the North Hills Section of Upper Dublin Township. On arrival, they quickly discovered a burglary in progress by two offenders. One offender fled the scene on foot and was pursued and caught by Ofc Borgmann after running several hundred yards from the scene. Ofc Szybowski remained behind with the second offender, who physically attacked him in an effort to escape. After a lengthy physical fight Ofc Szybowski was able to subdue the suspect and take him into custody. Both suspects were arrested and charged with various offenses including burglary and assault.

These Officers dedication to staying physically fit and their enduring commitment in effecting these arrests reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For their performance of extraordinary acts under adverse conditions which resulted in the successful saving of a life, **Sergeant Michael Janoski, Corporal Shea Creamer, Officer Gregory Borgmann** and **Officer Tegan Timcho** are hereby awarded the Commendation for Live Saving.

On Monday September 4, 2017, the Officers responded to a report of a suicidal subject armed with a knife. Upon arrival they discovered a male inside a bedroom in his residence holding a knife to his chest. They attempted to negotiate with the male and deescalate the situation however the male refused to comply. He readied the knife and indicated he was going to stab himself. The Officers quickly formulated a plan to successfully resolve the escalating situation. Sgt. Janoski deployed the less lethal shotgun and struck the male in the hand, causing him to drop the knife. The remaining Officers then rushed into the room and detained the male before he could retrieve the knife. He was later transported to Abington Hospital for treatment of his injuries and an involuntary psychiatric commitment.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Corporal Stephen Nick,
Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Officer Gregory Borgmann, Officer
Thomas Szybowski, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Officer Gregory Borgmann, Sergeant Michael Janoski, Corporal Shea Creamer, Officer Tegan Timcho

Commendation for Merit

For his performance of an outstanding act of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Detective Michael Scarpato** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Merit.

On Thursday September 28, 2017, Detective Scarpato was assigned a juvenile sexual assault case. This case was aggressively investigated utilizing his extensive network of law enforcement resources and agencies. Detective Scarpato showed outstanding resolve in this investigation to include an article search of a wooded area which resulted in the recovery of crucial evidence, ultimately leading to the arrest and conviction of the offender.

His actions throughout the course of this investigation and trial reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Bravery

For their performance of an outstanding arrest where their efforts were met by an armed and dangerous adversary, **Sergeant Ryan Judge** and **Corporal Shea Creamer** are hereby awarded the Commendation for Bravery.

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, these Officers were serving as operators for the Montgomery County SWAT – East Region Team. Due to their superior past performance and experience, the Officers were assigned as part of a four-man entry team attempting to apprehend a murder suspect. Upon physical breach of the door the suspect began to attack the Officer's with a hatchet which was concealed in a plastic bag. These Officers physically engaged the suspect in a violent struggle to effect the arrest. The suspect was later charged with a number of offenses including criminal homicide and aggravated assault on police.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Valor

For his extraordinary act of outstanding courage without regard to his personal safety while in actual combat with an armed and dangerous adversary, **Officer Michael Milligan** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Valor.

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, Officer Milligan was serving as an operator for the Montgomery County SWAT – East Region Team. Due to his superior past performance and experience, he was assigned as part of a four-man entry team attempting to apprehend a murder suspect. Upon physical breach of the door, Officer Milligan was immediately attacked by the suspect with a hatchet which was concealed in a plastic bag. During this initial assault Officer Milligan was struck in the helmet and face as well as suffered a significant knee injury. Not knowing a hatchet was being concealed Officer Milligan secured his weapon and physically engaged the suspect in a violent struggle to effect the arrest. The suspect was later charged with a number of offenses including criminal homicide and aggravated assault on police.

His actions that day inspired those around him and reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Sergeant Ryan Judge, Officer Michael Milligan,
Corporal Shea Creamer

Commendation for Merit

For their performance of outstanding acts of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Sergeant Ryan Judge** and **Corporal Andrew Rowland** are hereby awarded with the Commendation for Merit.

On Sunday, December 16, 2017, Sgt. Judge and Cpl. Rowland were dispatched to the Ambler section of Upper Dublin Township for a reported disturbance inside an apartment building. Dispatch informed them that a male on scene was having a psychiatric emergency, was threatening people and was trying force his way into a neighbor's apartment. Furthermore, the Officers were advised that the suspect had access to multiple firearms. Upon arrival both officers used sound tactics to deescalate the situation and bring the man into protective custody. A search incident to arrest revealed that the male had multiple rifles and handguns loaded into "go bags". The male was transported to Montgomery County Emergency Services for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. The officer's exemplary control of the situation certainly stopped a tragedy from unfolding.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Detective Michael Scarpato, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Sergeant Ryan Judge & Sergeant Andrew Rowland

Commendation for Life Saving

For their performance of extraordinary acts under adverse conditions which resulted in the successful saving of a life, **Corporal Stephen Nick** and **Officer Brooke Molino** are hereby awarded the Commendation for Live Saving.

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, Cpl. Nick and Ofc. Molino responded to the Butler Park Condominiums for the report of an armed suicidal man. Upon arriving on location they discovered the male bleeding profusely from the neck after stabbing himself with a butcher knife. The male was non-compliant with police and refused to obey commands, forcing Ofc Molino to deploy a Taser on the male. Cpl. Nick was then able to secure this male for safety before applying direct pressure and immediate medical care until EMS arrived. Cpl. Nick and Ofc Molino demonstrated great mental discipline and calm under pressure. Their rapid assessment and medical care led to this male's life being saved.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For his performance of an outstanding act of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Officer Thomas Szybowski** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Merit.

On Monday April 23, 2018, Officer Szybowski was on routine patrol in the Dresher section of Upper Dublin Township. He observed a suspicious male exit the Wawa convenience store and enter a vehicle parked in the lot. A NCIC check of the registration revealed that the male was on an FBI watch list. Officer Szybowski followed the vehicle a short distance after it exited the lot before initiating a vehicle stop. He identified and investigated the male operator before ending the vehicle stop. He immediately followed up with the investigating FBI Special Agent, who was investigating the male for tax evasion and his role in a domestic hate group. The information provided by Officer Szybowski provided the final link in the FBI investigation and resulted in a grand jury indictment of the male.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Distinguished Service Award

For their actions and performance of duty which greatly enhanced the reputation and image of the Department, **Detective Christian Fiedler, Officer Michael Bortnichak, Officer Kyle Gallen, Officer Thomas Miller, Officer Brooke Molino, Officer Thomas Szybowski** and **Officer Tegan Timcho** are hereby presented the Distinguished Service Award.

On Tuesday August 8, 2018, the Officers responded to an active shooter in Cheltenham Township. Upon arrival they found a chaotic shopping center with multiple wounded victims and an unknown location of the shooter. Consistent with their training, the responding officers immediately formed into teams and began to systematically search for the suspects. After learning that the suspect had fled prior to their arrival, they remained on scene and assisted with traffic and crowd control.

Their actions that day were recognized and appreciated by those around them and reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Corporal Stephen Nick, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Officer Kyle Gallen, Officer Tegan Timcho, Detective Christian Fiedler, Officer Thomas Szybowski



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Officer Thomas Szybowski, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley

Commendation for Heroism

For his act of heroism and outstanding courage without regard to his own personal safety which resulted in the saving of a life, **Corporal Stephen Nick** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Heroism.

On Tuesday November 6, 2018, Cpl. Nick responded to the Somerset House Condominiums for a fire alarm. Upon his arrival, he observed heavy smoke coming from a third-floor condo. He entered the complex to locate the exact condo and began evacuating residents along the way. As he reached the third floor, he was able to discover the smoke was coming from condo A308. He began knocking on the door, at which point he heard a female resident yelling for help inside. Without hesitation, he entered the condo and was immediately met with heavy smoke conditions inside. He searched for and located the female resident lying on the ground near the front door. He pulled the female out of her condo and assisted her until EMS arrived. If not for his quick response, the female resident would have quickly succumbed to the smoke conditions inside her condo.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For their performance of outstanding acts of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Corporal Andrew Rowland** and **Officer Stephen Pimm** are hereby awarded with the Commendation for Merit.

On Tuesday November 27, 2018, Cpl. Rowland was on routine patrol in the Ambler section of Upper Dublin Township when he observed a suspicious vehicle exiting the Rite Aid parking lot. An NCIC check revealed that the operator had an active arrest warrant for a probation violation. A vehicle stop was initiated, and the male operator was arrested for his outstanding warrant. During the course of the vehicle stop, Cpl. Rowland observed multiple cartons of Newport cigarettes in the rear seat of the vehicle. The male operator and female passenger provided inconsistent stories as to where the cigarettes had been purchased. Cpl. Rowland requested that Officer Pimm respond to the Rite Aid, where the vehicle had been observed leaving, to investigate the potential theft of cigarettes. Officer Pimm made contact with the store clerk who was not aware of any theft. Officer Pimm was granted permission to access and review the store surveillance system, at which point he observed the male and female suspect inside the store. The female distracted the clerk in an aisle while the male went behind the counter and stole well over \$500.00 worth of cigarettes without the clerk noticing. Both suspects were later charged for theft and related offenses. This crime would have gone unnoticed and unreported had it not been for the excellent investigative teamwork of the Officer's involved.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For his performance of an outstanding act of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Corporal Stephen Scheier** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Merit.

On Saturday, December 22, 2018 Cpl. Scheier was on routine patrol in the parking lot of the Best Western Hotel in the Fort Washington section of Upper Dublin Township. During this patrol Cpl. Scheier observed an unoccupied vehicle in the parking lot that had numerous indicators of criminal activity. He surveilled the vehicle as he attempted to further investigate the matter. A short time later he observed a male exit the hotel and drive away from the location in that vehicle. He initiated a traffic stop and the subsequent investigation led to the discovery of a laptop, credit card reader/writer, and multiple skimming devices. Cpl. Scheier's outstanding patrol observations, knowledge, and intelligence resolved this case with the suspect's arrest and likely prevented numerous people from falling victim to his identity theft crimes.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation Letter

For his performance of outstanding police work which brings credit upon him and the entire Department, **Detective Christian Fiedler** is hereby presented this Commendatory Letter.

On Saturday, December 22, 2018 Det. Fiedler assisted in an investigation related to a traffic stop and ultimately the seizure of a laptop, credit card reader/writer, and multiple skimming devices. Det. Fiedler was instrumental in preparing search warrants for the seized devices as well as coordinating with United States Secret Service and Montgomery County District Attorney's Office for this investigation. Det. Fiedler demonstrated outstanding investigative skills, knowledge, and teamwork which ultimately led to the arrest of a suspect and likely prevented numerous people from falling victim to his identity theft crimes.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Corporal Stephen Nick, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Corporal Stephen Scheier, Detective Christian Fielder



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Sergeant Andrew Rowland, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley

Distinguished Service Award

For his actions and performance of duty which greatly enhanced the reputation and image of the Department, **Officer Michael Milligan** is hereby presented the Distinguished Service Award.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, Ofc. Michael Milligan was driving into work when he happened upon the scene of a single Pennsylvania State Trooper holding multiple suspects at gun point after what appeared to be a pursuit and subsequent vehicle crash. Realizing that the PSP Trooper was in need of immediate assistance, and without regard for his own safety, Ofc Milligan pulled over his personal car and identified himself by badge and verbal announcement to the trooper. Once recognized as an off-duty officer he drew his personal weapon and assisted the Trooper in the apprehension of several armed suspects.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Life Saving

For their performance of extraordinary acts under adverse conditions which resulted in the successful saving of a life, **Officer Tegan Timcho** and **Officer Thomas Szybowski** are hereby awarded the Commendation for Live Saving.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, Ofc. Timcho and Ofc. Szybowski were dispatched to assist a Pennsylvania State Police Trooper who had suspects at gunpoint in the Fort Washington section of Upper Dublin Township. They arrived to find that after a pursuit the suspect vehicle had crashed and caught fire. While other officers were arresting suspects that had already exited the vehicle, Ofc. Timcho and Ofc. Szybowski began to search the interior of the burning vehicle for injured suspects. They located and subsequently rescued a suspect that was trapped inside the smoke and flame filled vehicle. After rescuing the suspect, they carried him to safety and placed him into custody. Both officers not only assisted in arresting armed criminals but demonstrated great professionalism in saving the trapped suspects life.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation for Merit

For his performance of an outstanding act of police work which displayed superior intelligence and effort resulting in an important apprehension, **Corporal Andrew Rowland** is hereby awarded the Commendation for Merit.

On Friday November 8, 2019, Cpl. Rowland was in the Ambler section of Upper Dublin Township assisting the Ambler Police Department, who were searching for a female wanted for retail theft and fleeing and eluding police. Cpl. Rowland observed the suspect vehicle and attempted a U-turn to initiate a traffic stop, at which point the suspect vehicle fled a short distance before crashing. The wanted female ran on foot from the vehicle and again eluded capture. A perimeter was established and a K9 unit was requested to assist with the search. While manning a perimeter position, Cpl. Rowland observed a female run across Bethlehem Pike and onto the front porch of a residence. He initiated a pedestrian investigation of the female and soon learned that she was the wanted subject who police were searching for. The female was arrested and charged with a number of crimes including theft, receiving stolen property, fleeing and eluding police, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and narcotics violations.

His actions that day reflect great credit upon himself, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.

Commendation Letter

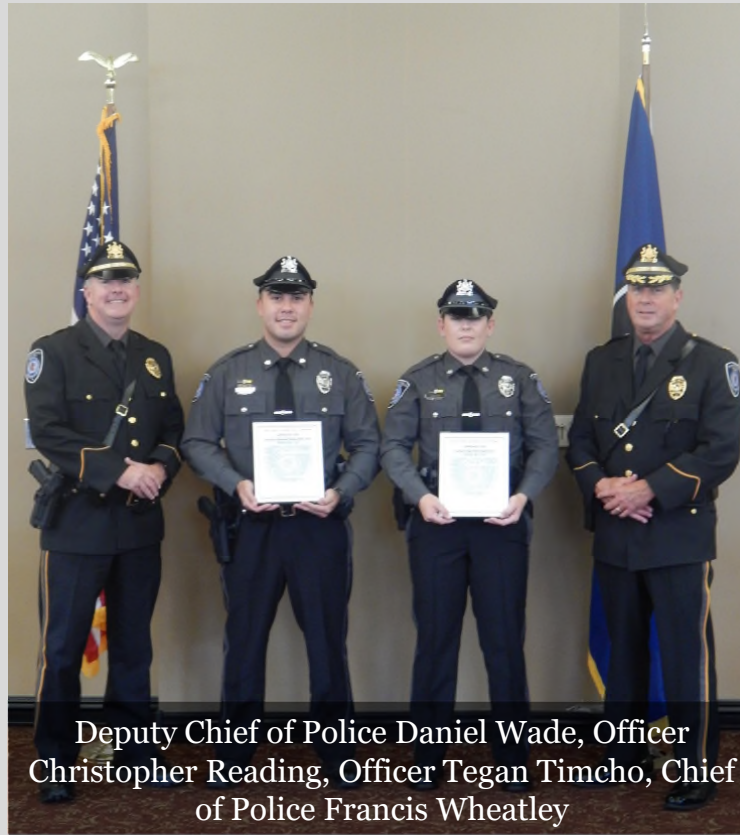
For their performance of outstanding police work which brings credit upon them and the entire Department, **Officer Christopher Reading, Officer Tegan Timcho** and **Officer Thomas Miller** are hereby presented this Commendatory Letter.

On Saturday April 18, 2020 Officers Reading, Timcho, and Miller responded to a cardiac emergency with CPR in progress to a residence in Upper Dublin Township. As they were responding, county radio advised that the patient had tested positive for COVID-19 and was showing symptoms prior to the emergency. Without hesitation the officers donned their PPE and entered the house. Working as a team the officers performed CPR and other medical procedures in an attempt to save the patient. While their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful their self-sacrifice is no less diminished. During normal times we associate police bravery with confronting armed subjects. Yet, in the middle of this pandemic, bravery has many forms. In the face of imminent danger these officers stepped up and put others before themselves.

Their actions that day reflect great credit upon themselves, The Upper Dublin Police Department, and the Police profession as a whole.



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Sergeant Andrew Rowland, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Wade, Officer Christopher Reading, Officer Tegan Timcho, Chief of Police Francis Wheatley



Patrol Officer Michael Milligan, Officer Tegan Timcho, Officer Thomas Szybowski

***AN ACCREDITED
LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY SINCE 2005***





READY TO PROTECT, PROUD TO SERVE

September 15, 2019 ~ Upper Dublin Township Police Department