

Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 2.15
	Effective Date: 01/01/04
	Prv. Rev. Date: 11/18/21
	Revised Date: 09/07/23
Chapter: Personnel	Accreditation Standards:
Subject: Awards	

2.15 AWARDS

2.15.1 POLICY

It is the mission of the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) to deliver professional, effective services, fairly and ethically, at all times, to all people, in order to prevent crime, control crime, and enhance the overall quality-of-life for citizens and visitors. The department encourages and promotes community involvement, on all levels, to achieve these ends. The department will honor extraordinary work, by both sworn and professional staff personnel, that reflects the department's creed of "Service & Integrity," as well as the department's mission.

The efforts and accomplishments of LMPD award recipients must be consistent with the values delineated in the acronym "METRO:"

- M** – Making the Community our Primary Focus
- E** – Ethical Behavior and Accountability
- T** – Trustworthy
- R** – Respect for All People
- O** – Objectivity

Members who are under Public Integrity Unit (PIU) or Professional Standards Unit (PSU) investigation can only receive awards at the discretion of the Chief of Police, or their designee.

2.15.2 AWARDS COMMITTEE

An awards committee will determine eligibility and recommend awards according to the criteria stated in this policy. All awards will be approved by the Chief of Police.

The committee consists of members of the department and community. The number of individuals will be determined by the Chief of Police.

Members of the committee are eligible to receive awards but may not participate when the committee deliberates and votes.

2.15.3 AWARDS PROCESS

Any member, regardless of rank or title, may receive a departmental award or nominate a departmental member, unit, or a private citizen for an award, using the guidelines in section 2.15.4 of this policy.

Any member who wishes to make a nomination must fill out an electronic Award Nomination form, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://louisvilleky.wufoo.com/forms/lmpd-award-nomination-form>. This form can also be found on the LMPD Intranet by clicking on the "Personnel Information & Instructions" button. The Award Nomination form must be 400 words or less. Hardcopies of Award Nomination forms will not be accepted.

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2.15.3 AWARDS PROCESS (CONTINUED)

Nominations resulting from a specific act or event must be submitted no later than 60 days after the date of the act or event, or by January 5th of the following year, whichever comes first. Any nominations received after this period will not be considered.

The form may also include an attached addendum stating any additional details of the effort making the individual worthy of an award. If relevant Body-Worn Camera (BWC) and/or Mobile Video System (MVS) footage exists, the nominating party will create a clip of the event in Evidence.com and provide a link to the footage in the video link section of the Award Nomination form.

The committee reserves the right to investigate all award nominations. Any member of the department who nominates an individual may be requested, at a specified time, to appear before the committee in order to answer questions about the nominee and why the individual is worthy of an award.

2.15.4 AWARDS

AWARDS OF HEROISM

- **Police Medal of Honor** – The Police Medal of Honor may be awarded to members who perform an act of exceptional bravery so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes itself from other acts of recognized bravery. The recipient's actions must be above and beyond the call of duty, with awareness of the possibility that the act could result in great bodily harm or death to the member. The recipient's actions must have substantially contributed to the saving, or attempted saving, of a human life. The Police Medal of Honor may be awarded posthumously.

Recipients will receive a medal, breast bar, and citation.

- **Medal of Valor** – The Medal of Valor may be awarded to members who perform a heroic act that, by its nature, could result in great bodily harm or death to the member. The recipient's actions must result in the saving of a life, the prevention of a serious crime, or the apprehension of a person who commits a serious crime. The Medal of Valor may be awarded posthumously.

Recipients will receive a medal, breast bar, and citation.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Purple Heart** – The Purple Heart may be awarded to members who are seriously injured in the performance of their duty under honorable conditions due to assaults, fires, explosions, or other actions. Serious injury is defined as any injury from a life-threatening situation, which requires substantial medical treatment. The Purple Heart may be awarded posthumously.

Recipients will receive a medal, breast bar, and citation.

- **Distinguished Citizen Service Award** – The Distinguished Citizen Service Award may be awarded to any citizen in the community, not employed by the LMPD, who performs an act of bravery on behalf of

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2.15.4 AWARDS (CONTINUED)

the LMPD. The recipients may include members of other law enforcement and public safety agencies. The Distinguished Citizen Service Award may be awarded posthumously.

Recipients will receive a citation.

AWARDS OF SERVICE

- **Exceptional Merit Award** – The Exceptional Merit Award may be awarded to members who display a superior performance of duty. The recipient must exhibit perseverance with actions that have made a significant contribution to the department and/or improve the quality-of-life in the community.

Recipients will receive a breast bar and citation.

- **Distinguished Lifesaving Award** – The Distinguished Lifesaving Award may be awarded to members who perform actions or who apply techniques that result in the saving, or sustaining, of human life.

Recipients will receive a breast bar and citation.

- **Meritorious Unit Citation** – The Meritorious Unit Citation may be awarded to units consisting of officers, professional staff, or both, who have distinguished themselves by the performance of acts of high initiative and innovation in the line-of-duty. The accomplishments of the recipients could not have occurred without the concerted effort of the unit's members as a whole.

Recipients will receive a breast bar and the unit will receive a citation.

- **Crime Reduction Award** – The Crime Reduction Award will recognize the division that achieves the largest annual reduction in crime over the previous year. More than one (1) award may be granted in case of a tie.

Recipients will receive a citation.

- **Commanding Officer of the Year** – The Commanding Officer of the Year Award may be awarded to an officer with the rank of sergeant or lieutenant who has demonstrated superior communication, dedication, leadership, and motivational skills throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Police Training Officer (PTO) of the Year** – The PTO of the Year Award may be awarded to an officer certified as an LMPD PTO, with at least one (1) year of experience training or evaluating new officers during their post-academy training. This PTO has demonstrated, by their actions and communication, the superior determination, consistency, leadership, dedication, professionalism, initiative, and motivation to train or evaluate new officers throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

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2.15.4 AWARDS (CONTINUED)

- **Detective of the Year** – The Detective of the Year Award may be awarded to a detective who has intelligently and consistently demonstrated superior perseverance, initiative, leadership, dedication, professionalism, and motivation throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer of the Year** – The CIT Officer of the Year Award may be awarded to an officer who has demonstrated superior communication, compassion, and de-escalation techniques in dealing with individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis, or are struggling with addiction, while assuring the safety of themselves and others throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Officer of the Year** – The Officer of the Year Award may be awarded to an officer with at least one (1) year of service, who has intelligently and consistently demonstrated superior perseverance, initiative, leadership, dedication, professionalism, and motivation throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Bluecoats Officer of the Year** – The Bluecoats Officer of the Year Award may be awarded to an officer who has demonstrated courage, bravery, dedication, and overall outstanding service in the community. The winner of this award is determined by Bluecoats of Louisville, Inc.

The recipient will receive a breast bar and a plaque.

- **Civilian Supervisor of the Year** – The Civilian Supervisor of the Year Award may be awarded to a professional staff supervisor who has demonstrated superior communication, dedication, leadership, and motivational skills throughout the year.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Civilian of the Year** – The Civilian of the Year Award may be awarded to a professional staff member whose work goes beyond what is required by their job description. This individual must be highly motivated, with innovative ideas and outstanding leadership qualities. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A member who develops new and more efficient ways of helping their division/section/unit conduct daily business that benefits both the department and the community;
- A member who develops new ways to improve the professional development of subordinates; or
- A member who, through perseverance and dedication, continually does extraordinary work in a downsized work environment.

The civilian of the year must serve as a role model to other LMPD members.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

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2.15.4 AWARDS (CONTINUED)

- **Traffic Guard of the Year** – The Traffic Guard of the Year Award may be awarded to a professional staff traffic guard whose work goes beyond what is required by their job description. This individual must be highly motivated, with innovative ideas and outstanding leadership qualities.

The recipient will receive a plaque.

- **Honorable Conduct** – The Honorable Conduct Award may be awarded to officers who complete three (3) consecutive years of “honorable and faithful service” without sustained disciplinary actions.

Recipients will receive a letter of recognition and a ribbon.

- **Military Service** – The Military Service Award may be awarded to officers who have served, or are currently serving, in the United States military.

Recipients will receive a ribbon that can be worn on the Class A or B uniform, if desired.

AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- **Educational Achievement** – The Educational Achievement Award may be awarded to officers who have achieved a substantial milestone in their education.

Recipients will receive a ribbon for each of the following:

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree

- **Perfect Attendance** - The Perfect Attendance Award may be awarded to members who do not utilize sick time in a calendar year. Members who are injured on-duty as a result of their official duties will continue to be eligible for this award.

Recipients will receive a letter of recognition.

CHIEF'S AWARDS

- **Kent Taylor Community Oriented Policing Award** – The Kent Taylor Community Oriented Policing Award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of a community member or organization to the department. Contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Time;
- Money;
- Leadership;
- Development of innovative crime-fighting strategies; and
- Forging new bonds between citizens and the police.

All members of the community are eligible for this award, but it is limited to one (1) citizen or organization, per division, per year.

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2.15.4 AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Recipients will receive a plaque.

- **Equitable Policing Award** – The Equitable Policing Award recognizes members who display outstanding efforts in diverse community outreach and engagement.

Recipients will receive a plaque.

- **Distinguished Community Service Award** – The Distinguished Community Service Award recognizes members who, outside of the scope of their normal duties, touch the lives of a member of the community with extraordinary assistance, kindness, and compassion.

Recipients will receive a plaque.

- **Neighborhood Watch Outstanding Achievement Award** - The Neighborhood Watch Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes a Neighborhood Watch Program that is doing extraordinary work. This award recognizes the work the citizens are doing, in conjunction with their respective division, to make the community safer. The evaluation criteria used to judge the Neighborhood Watch Program include, but are not limited to:

- The development and sustainability of its Neighborhood Watch Program;
- Innovative and effective Neighborhood Watch crime prevention initiatives;
- Community projects and events;
- The creative and effective use of its Neighborhood Watch members;
- The ability to recruit, train, and maintain Neighborhood Watch members;
- Level of coverage by the media to showcase the positive programs that the Neighborhood Watch is doing; and
- The methods that the Neighborhood Watch uses to promote their Neighborhood Watch Program.

The divisions will nominate a Neighborhood Watch group from its respective Neighborhood Watches. The Community Engagement Unit will select the overall winning Neighborhood Watch.

The recipient will receive a plaque.