



# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**From the office of Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart**

13301 Hanson Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 324-5000

May 5, 2021

## **Anoka County Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Ceremony**

On April 29, 2021, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office held the Annual Awards Ceremony celebrating public safety staff and civilians who went above and beyond to pursue justice for victims, keep the public safe, and save lives. The adapted virtual ceremony due to COVID-19 was broadcast live on Facebook and currently available [online](#). Below is a list of individuals who received Office Commendations, Lifesaving Awards, or a Medal of Meritorious Service.

Reflecting on this year's award recipients, Sheriff James Stuart offered these words, "It can be difficult for the awards committee to select individuals within our office, as it is in our culture to exceed expectations, but this year's award recipients do stand out and make us all proud. Additionally, to see partner agencies go above and beyond, and citizens stepping in to serve at a moment's notice brings immense delight and fulfillment to our office and community at large."

### **Office Commendations**

#### ***Sexual Assault & Homicide Investigations***

Detective Joseph Price

#### ***Homicide Investigation***

Detective Patrick Nelson  
Detective William Jacobson

#### ***Narcotics Investigation***

Deputy Jonathan Tschida

#### ***Mortgage Foreclosure Fraud***

Civil Specialist Heather Rivers

#### ***Homicide Suspect Apprehension***

Deputy Cole Bangert & K-9 Heinz

#### ***Burglary Suspect Apprehension***

Deputy Jesse Cutler & K-9 Diesel

#### ***Suspicious Vehicle Response***

Deputy Chad Erickson  
Deputy Jacob Bayer

#### ***Criminal Sexual Conduct Investigation***

Detective Matthew Aker

#### ***Human Trafficking Investigation***

Detective Michael Schantzen

#### ***Located Shelter for Woman and Child***

Deputy Bryan Pierson



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## **Lifesaving Awards**

***Response to Drowning***

Deputy Michael Arthur

## **Medal of Meritorious Service**

***Minneapolis Unrest Response***

Chief Deputy Kevin Halweg

## ***Medical Response to Cardiac Event***

Deputy Christopher Vitek

Blaine Police Officer Daniel Zimmerman

## ***Andover Fire Department:***

Paul Blesi

Bill Dietzler

Chris Dvorak

Larry Elfelt

Aaron Groven

Tom Johnson

Pat Nugent

Ernest Scherger

Tammy Dietzler

## ***Allina EMS:***

Paramedic Mike Vander Heyden

EMT Dana Bentfield

## ***Civilians:***

Chloe LeBlanc

Tiffany LeBlanc

Tierney Peters  
Community Relations Coordinator  
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