



Upper Darby Township Police Department

Office of the Superintendent of Police

Date: July 1, 2020
To: All Police Personnel
From: Timothy M. Bernhardt
Superintendent of Police
Subject: Outstanding Employee – Second Quarter 2020

After reviewing the nominations, the committee has selected **James Kellar** as the recipient.

Lieutenant Lanni wrote in his nomination of Officer Kellar the following:

On Monday, May 18, 2020, at 0220 hours, a resident of the 100 block of Wellington Road was awakened by a male climbing through her dining room window, just feet away from where she was sleeping in the living room. When the male realized he had been observed by the resident, he fled the scene on foot.

Responding officers arrived quickly. They relayed information from the resident, identified evidence, and secured the crime scene for detectives. While checking the area for the suspect, Highway Patrol Officer James Kellar #97 came upon a male who fit the physical description of the suspect. When he viewed the male, Officer Kellar recognized what was immediately apparent to him to be suspicious behavior. Fearing the male would flee upon contact, Officer Kellar requested backup, and without delay, stopped the male, cutting off all avenues of escape. During the stop, the male would not follow directions. His repeated and furtive movements toward his waistband led Officer Kellar to believe he was armed and dangerous. Officer Kellar's instincts were confirmed when a stolen 9mm handgun was recovered from the male's waistband.

Officer Kellar's stop led to a successful investigation, in which the male was charged with the Wellington Road burglary and numerous firearms offenses.

The following day, Officer Kellar viewed an alert that was disseminated regarding a May 17th home invasion in the city of Philadelphia, during which one female victim was sexually assaulted, and another was shot. Officer Kellar identified the male he arrested for the burglary as the male in the alert. Philadelphia Police investigated, and through forensic analysis, matched evidence from their shooting with the gun recovered from Officer Kellar's suspect.

This stop and subsequent investigation are indicative of sound patrol tactics and police work on their own merits, but what is extraordinary is that this is not uncommon behavior for Officer Kellar. Just a week prior, he and another officer made a robbery apprehension. A month before that, he identified a vehicle that was later confirmed to be involved in another armed robbery. His work ethic and enthusiasm are consistent, and his instincts are extraordinary. His actions are always well-articulated; and he prepares a fine and thorough report.

Because of your professionalism and dedication to duty, and because of these incidents, in particular, you are recognized as Outstanding Employee for the Second Quarter of 2020.