



Upper Darby Township Police Department Office of the Superintendent of Police



Date: April 4, 2024

To: All Police Personnel

From: Timothy M. Bernhardt
Superintendent of Police *T.M.B.*

Subject: Outstanding Employee – First Quarter 2024

After reviewing the nominations, the committee has selected **Officer Richard Howell #51** as the recipient.

Officer Richard Howell has been with the Upper Darby Township Police Department since March of 2018 and a member of the Narcotics/Criminal Intelligence Unit for over four years. In that time, he has taken on many different roles and responsibilities without hesitation, using every opportunity he can to exceed expectations. Regularly Officer Howell goes above and beyond to turn a drug tip with very minimal information into an active investigation, leading to arrests and drug seizures. Even when there isn't an arrest to be made, he gathers valuable intelligence that can be used to assist with other ongoing investigations throughout our department. In some instances, his information has been used to assist outside agencies, as well. His experience, knowledge, and hard work has been the reason for many investigations leading to arrests and successful prosecutions.

In January of 2023, there was a Homicide at 444 Long Lane, Upper Darby Township, while in the undercover capacity, Officer Howell responded to the immediate area of the scene to start gathering information. He was able to provide the Detective Division with witness and suspect information within minutes of our department receiving the 911 call. Not only did he provide this valuable information, he was able to use one of his ongoing narcotics investigations to further assist the Detective Division in investigating this homicide, which ultimately led to an arrest of two homicide suspects.

In April 2023, Officer Howell initiated and led a six month drug investigation into a large-scale drug trafficking organization that was delivering a substantial amount of narcotics throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. This type of investigation required a great deal of creativity, dedication, and attention to detail, which ultimately led to Upper Darby Township Police Department's first Non-Consensual Intercept (wiretap). This investigation ultimately led to the collapse of a major drug trafficking organization. As a result, Officer Howell's efforts yielded five arrests, over 1,000 grams of cocaine, 170 grams of methamphetamine, 60 grams of fentanyl, over \$900,000 in United States currency, and additional high-end jewelry, accessories, and vehicles.

Officer Howell has a recognized commitment to his co-workers, public safety, and the Upper Darby Township Police Department. It is because of his actions, his attitude, and his dedication to duty that I respectfully nominate him for our Outstanding Employee for the First Quarter of 2024.