

**LAFAYETTE POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2021**

Members present: Mike Thiel, President; David Knott, Vice President; Robert Siemers, Secretary, and Laura Vanier.

The meeting was called to order by Mike Thiel. The minutes of May 12th, 2021 were distributed. Dave Knott moves to approve. Laura Vanier seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Bob Siemers moves to extend Officer Clinton Plake probation period by one month. Dave Knott seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Siemers moves Sergeant Shawn Verma, Sergeant Joshua Saxton, and Sergeant Ian O'Shields promotions be made permanent. Dave Knott seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

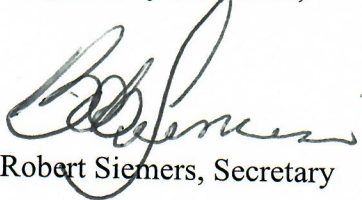
Dave Knott moves Officer Jacob Daubenmier be promoted to the rank of sergeant. Bob Siemers seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Vanier moves Lieutenant Shana Wainscott, Sergeant Blake Switzer, Officer Michael Sears, Officer Nicholas Maxwell, Officer Brittany Tate, Officer Zachery Cain, Officer Brad Servies, and Officer Danny Anthrop receive a bronze merit award. Dave Knott seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Vanier moves Officer Marc Griffith receive a bronze merit award. Bob Siemers seconded. Motion carried.

With nothing further to discuss Dave Knott moves to adjourn. Bob Siemers seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Siemers, Secretary

(Minutes written by A.W. Deckard)



November 7, 2020

Members of the Merit Commission,

I respectfully submit this letter to nominate Officer Marc Griffith for a merit award. I reviewed this incident, watched the video footage, and was impressed by how Officer Griffith performed during this stressful, unusual situation. I was so moved that I felt compelled to share this story. Please see the incident facts below.

Incident Facts

On October 21st, at approximately 2:34 am, Officer Griffith, other officers, and medical personnel were dispatched to the 1500 block of Broadway Street in reference to a medical call. Dispatch relayed a frantic male called 911, stating his wife was seven months pregnant and possibly in labor.

At approximately 2:37 am, Officer Griffith arrived on scene, and he was greeted at the door by the panicked stricken husband. The husband quickly showed him to the bathroom, where his pregnant wife lay on the floor. She was obviously in an immense amount of pain, and was extremely distraught. Officer Griffith quickly assessed the situation, and realized that the baby's head was crowning. He stayed calm, and moved the husband out of the way so he could get into position to assist with the delivery. He learned that this was the mother's first child, and that she had recently gone to the hospital in suspected labor, but was discharged due to the fact that she was only seven months pregnant.

Sgt. Switzer arrived on scene and entered the bathroom to help keep the mother and father calm while Officer Griffith prepared himself to deliver the baby. Officer Griffith directed the father to get more towels, and he started to calmly speak with the mother. He described what was happening, and informed her it the time to deliver the baby was now. The first-time mother was obviously doubtful, and the pain of child birth left her feeling like it was an impossible task. Officer Griffith continued to encourage her, and ultimately she began to push with her contractions. He used his hands to help guide the baby's head out, and then kept a hold of the baby so that it would not go back into the birth canal when the mother quit pushing. At this point, the mother was ready to quit, but with all three men in the small bathroom giving her verbal support, she was able to push through the pain and deliver the baby.

After the baby was delivered, Officer Griffith quickly realized that the umbilical cord was wrapped around its neck. He quickly untangled the newborn, and held him in his left hand face down, lightly smacking the baby on the back. The newborns cry was an immediate relief for everyone in the room, and Officer Griffith was able to present the mother with her newborn baby boy.

Officer Griffith's actions during this incident were remarkable. He was presented with an unconventional situation that he had no specialized or specific training. He used his experience as a police officer to keep himself cool, calm, and collected, but used his experience as a father and husband to successfully deliver the baby. Officer Griffith plunged into a daunting task that early morning, and did it without waiver and with complete poise. His actions during this incident were extraordinary and should be commended. I recommend that Officer Griffith be awarded the Bronze Merit for his meritorious actions.

Respectfully, Lieutenant Randy Sherer



Police Department
20 N. 6th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901
Phone (765) 807-1200 Fax (765) 807-1201

Members: Officers Michael Sears, Nick Maxwell, Brittany Tate, Zachary Cain, Brad Servies and Danny Anthrop

Date: April 19, 2021 Reporting Commander: Sgt. Steven Prothero

Incident Facts:

On April 19th, 2021, at approximately 7:00 pm, this department received a report of a missing nine-year-old child from the 2400 block of Main Street. Due to the extreme vulnerability of endangered/missing children cases, all available officers began to work the incident.

During the course of the investigation Officers Z. Cain and Nick Maxwell had contact with a neighbor in the 700 block of Park Court. The neighbor gave the officers information that appeared, at first glance, to be helpful. As the case progressed Officers Maxwell and Sears grew suspicious of the neighbor's initial story; concerned his statement was peculiar. Officers determined it was necessary to check the neighbor's residence, to ensure that the child was not inside.

Based on those concerns, Officers Z. Cain, Brad Servies and Brittany Tate went back to the neighbor's residence to request consent to search. He granted consent and the officers searched the home. Officer Tate located the missing juvenile concealed in the locked basement of the residence. The child had been stripped naked, bitten by both the suspect and a dog, and had ligature marks on her neck from where the suspect had attempted to strangle her. The child advised that the suspect had been trying to kill her. Officer Tate immediately directed Officers Servies and Cain to detain the suspect in handcuffs. Officers Servies and Cain showed no hesitation and swiftly placed him in handcuffs and in the back seat of a patrol vehicle.

Officer Tate called for detectives while she remained in the basement and reassured the distraught child. Officer Tate promptly began photographing the child's injuries while keeping her calm in a traumatic moment. Officer Tate's composure and empathy under pressure are an example to all officers. Officer Tate kept her bearing and was able to preserve evidence, while simultaneously reducing the trauma felt by the victim of this crime.

Officers Z. Cain and Brad Servies conducted themselves with professionalism and decisiveness. They took immediate, definitive action while still respecting the suspect's rights and preserving goodwill to increase the chances of success for our detective division.

Officer Anthrop accompanied the juvenile victim to the hospital. Officer Anthrop stayed by the child's side throughout the examination process. Officer Anthrop was able to develop rapport with the child and keep her calm through a very traumatic time. Officer Anthrop's impact on this little girl was so great she has continued to talk and ask about him through her subsequent conversations with detective personnel. Officer Anthrop routinely demonstrates an ability to gain rapport and develop empathy in difficult times, but this incident was truly exceptional.

The turning point in this call was the moment Officers Sears and Maxwell determined secondary contact with the suspect was necessary and a search needed to be made of the residence. Without that decision being made, officers may never have found the child. From the time the call came in of a missing child (with no known destination), to the time the victim was located locked in a basement and the suspect detained, less than fifty minutes had passed. Through the officer's swift and decisive action, they were able to interrupt what appeared to be a child molestation and attempted murder in progress. Their actions were truly meritorious.

Investigations and interactions with offenders of this type are considered extremely dangerous and often times a SWAT team is utilized for any planned search warrants involving offenders such as these. The officers in this incident were not afforded the opportunity for planning or consultation. The officers involved in this case are deserving on a Bronze Merit Award for their good judgment, fast thinking, and teamwork.

Respectfully,

Sergeant S. R. Prothero #33



Police Department
20 N. 6th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901
Phone (765) 807-1200 Fax (765) 807-1201

Members: Lt. Shana Wainscott and Sgt. Blake Barker-Switzer

Date: April 19, 2021 Reporting Commander: Captain Scott Galloway

Incident Facts:

On April 19, 2021, at approximately 7:00 pm, this department received a report of a missing nine-year-old child from the 2400 block of Main Street. Due to the nature of endangered/missing children cases all available officers began to work the incident.

During the course of the investigation, officers made contact with a neighbor in the 700 block of Park Court. The neighbor gave the officers information that appeared, on its face, to be helpful. As the case progressed, officers determined it was necessary to check the neighbor's residence to ensure that the child was not inside. Upon entering, and searching the residence, officers located the missing child in the locked basement of this residence. The child was naked, battered, choked, and bleeding from what appeared to be a dog bite wound. The child was quickly transported for medical treatment.

Lt. Shana Wainscott and Sgt. Barker-Switzer both actively lead and managed this unique, critical investigation. Both commanders directed officers per department policy, while maintaining professionalism during this investigation. Once the child was located, Commanders maintained a calm demeanor and continued to provide clear guidance to officers to maintain case and evidence integrity.

Lt. Wainscott's and Sgt. Barker-Switzer's astounding direction, poise and leadership led to a safe recovery of an endangered/missing child in less than an hour after the initial report. Further, on-scene command presence led a successful investigation and arrest of the suspect. I recommend that Lt. Wainscott and Sgt. Barker-Switzer be awarded the Bronze Merit Award for their valuable leadership and diligence in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Scott Galloway