



# Seattle Police

## "Thank an Employee"

### Commendation

**Name**

**Comments**

To provide you with these monthly commendations in a timely manner, please note that some may be redacted and paraphrased appropriately, and/or transcribed exactly as found in its original format, complete with any erroneous spelling. Specific details about incident numbers, complainants or victims from the incident are also removed from the commendation where appropriate.

Employee(s)

July 2019

**Younghun Kim #8500**  
**Joshua Vaaga #8397**

*On June 26, 2019 we attempted to have a guest at the Alexis Hotel, evicted. The guest had been abusive to our employees and visiting guests. When she was denied an extension of her stay she went off the deep end. The attending officers Kim and Vaaga were exceptional. This guest was combative and threatening to kill. Mental crisis or medicated issues appeared in her response by being extraordinarily vocal, confrontational and difficult for several hours. She made her presence known at the City Police station as well. The professionalism of these two officers - their calmness and ability to work with her and keeping the integrity of the hotel and guests in mind was text book perfect. There was an Animal Control officer involved as well who also was extremely impressive. Huge kudos to all involved in a successful outcome.*

**Officer Name Not Provided**

*Hello! I was recently at the Pride Parade and met a Seattle policer officer and wanted to thank him more formally for his service and kindness, perhaps a mention to his supervisor. However, I did not catch his name. Thank you! This was a kind gentleman!*

**Brandon Gandy #8370**

*I would like to thank Officer B. Gandy for his kindness and respect for the pride parade crowd goers and parade marchers. Officer Gandy did not know this but as his back was turned to the large crowd behind him at times, I, as an off duty police officer myself, there with my wife, had his back. I observed Officer Gandy interact with the crowd of onlookers to the parade in a positive way. This officer would shake hands, give high fives and even hugged a mother who was offering free hugs which warmed my heart to its core. Officer Gandy should know that his kind acts of being open to hugs and positively engaging with the event goers did not go unseen.*

**Jonathan Flores #7487**

*Detective Jon Flores was so helpful with our theft incident. He continued to follow up through the process of tracking down the thief. He was able to resolve our situation very professionally as well as with compassion. We Thank you so much Detective Jon Flores! Your time and care really made us feel seen and important. Thank you!!*

**Katherine Rottman #8571**  
**Zsolt Dornay #5966**

*Officer Rottman help me retrieve my lost cell phone, was very helpful, kind, respectful and professional. Officer Dornay worked together with Officer Rottman in this incident to bring it to its successful resolution.*

**Officer Name Not Provided**

*This is not specific to an officer or staff member, but I would like to make a general shout out to thank everyone who worked on our Independence Day. Every officer out on beat, parking, crowd, and marine patrol was exceptionally courteous and friendly. Thank you all for sacrificing your time away from your families and friends to keep us safe, and allowing us the opportunity to comfortably spend it with ours. Keep up the good work!*

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<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I commend the SPD and am sympathetic to the hardships in placed upon you as a whole!</i>
<b>Felton Miles #5110</b>	<i>We had an issue with a homeless person blocking the sidewalk in front the dumpsters and the garbage people said they would not pick them up. They were overflowing. Officer Miles made contact with this person and got him medical intervention. Our front sidewalk is now clean and open. A great job by SPD. Thank you.</i>
<b>Mika Harmon #7666 Gregory Gaffney-Bills #8545</b>	<i>Officer Harmon responded along with her partner to a suspect inside of a restaurant bathroom. Once they got the suspect out of the bathroom they conducted a routine check of his name. He returned as an escaped subject from involuntary commitment from a state operated location. There was a recapture order but it was not clear how that worked per the order. Officer Gaffney-Bills worked on the issue while Officer Harmon continued to deescalate and keep the suspect who has been diagnosed with anti-social, psychosis. He has an extensive aggressive history towards persons of authority and when unmedicated, as he currently was, hears voices. His case worker who was present warned he becomes extremely aggressive without warning. Officer Harmon recognized that when kept busy with other things the suspect remained in a calm state. Officer Harmon did an exceptional job in talking with the suspect through the entire contact. She went above and beyond the call of duty spending her own money to buy the subject in crisis a burger from a nearby store to keep him busy as he had mentioned before that he was very hungry. This diversionary tactic worked extremely well as Officer Gaffney-Bills continued to work through the administrative part of this highly unusual call. As a CIT officer, I could see that he had been tending back and forth between compliance or fight and flight. She recognized the early warning signs and would go talk with the suspect and he would de-escalate his actions. During the nearly hour long wait for a copy of the court issued paperwork from the case worker, Officer Harmon showed a level of caring and understanding that needs to be recognized. Her outstanding work on this call to de-escalate and keep the subject calm as she gained good rapport with the suspect. I believe as a direct result of Officer Harmon's actions the suspect then gave us voluntary compliance and got onto AMR gurney without any assistance from the seven SPD Officers on scene who were all expecting a knock-out-drag-out fight with the suspect to get him to go back. Exceptional job Mika!</i>
<b>Kyle Squires #7437</b>	<i>Officer Squires responded to an alarm call and found the callers smoke detector battery was dead. Officer Squires then ran to 7-11 to get the caller a new 9-volt battery and went back inside to replace it for the caller. The officer went above and beyond the call of duty and took that extra step to assist in building community trust and relationship. He is an asset to the Seattle Police Department and should be commended for his effort. Officer Squires should be knighted. Thank you.</i>

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**William Griffin #7482**  
**Daniel Reyes #8615**

*I wanted to express my gratitude to the officers that showed up so quickly, and rushed right into the situation to evaluate the problem as best they could. We'd heard an incredibly loud noise that sounded like a bomb going off. The four SPD vehicles that I saw were right on top of the situation, as much as that was possible. The officer I talked to was very gracious and treated me like my thoughts and concerns actually mattered to him, including that they'd appreciate any info I came across that may have been initially missed. And I don't think he was being condescending or dismissive. I really appreciated him taking the time to talk with me. I wish I'd read his name plate, though I'd recognize him in person. And I believe I was the last person he spoke to before leaving. I know that many of my neighbors feel the same appreciation that I do. Thanks very much to the SPD officers that responded to what really sounded like a bomb at our apts late Wednesday night, 7-10-19! Sincerely,*

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**Alyssa Mustain #8548**

*Good afternoon, I wanted to share the excellent work of Seattle Police Officer Alyssa Mustain in hopes that you can forward to her chain of command. Specifically, Officer Mustain responded to a call to assist with the service of a DVPO and Order to Surrender Weapons. During her contact with the victim, she learned additional information about a recent DV assault (occurring in Bremerton) and the location of a firearm. Officer Mustain was able to locate the respondent/defendant and serve him with the protection order documents and also arrest him on PC for the recent DV incident. Officer Mustain also applied for a search warrant and recovered the firearm in the car (as described by the victim). Thanks to the quick work of Officer Mustain and the Seattle Police Department, the defendant, is now charged with UPFA 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and held on \$200,000 bail.*

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**Officer Name Not Provided**

*Came to house after prowler report, and was very professional and confidence building.*

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**Grant Mayer #8436**

*VST received a call from Ofc. Mayer to assist a victim of assault and sex trafficking at 4th/Lenora. VST responded and transported her to West Precinct to find safe housing and provide some basic needs for her. Officer Mayer checked in to make certain she was ok and see if she needed anything else. The victim said several times that she had spoken with officers before about being trafficked, but this was the first officer that believed her. The overall impact of Officer Mayer's kindness and compassion to this victim resulted in her getting connected with resources. Just listening to her and letting her know that she mattered made an amazing difference in her life. Thank you for all that you do.*

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**Rene Miller #5928**  
**Kathryn Reed #8567**

*Officer Miller was first officer on scene, arriving with Seattle Fire. Officer Miller had the foresight to respond quickly from a long distance after hearing the call details. Officer Miller understood the immediate need to contain and secure the scene. Officer Miller had Seattle Fire assist her with police line tape, professionally securing and preserving the scene. Officer Miller remained on scene on assigned duties until relieved by a supervisor. Officer Miller was a valuable member of the team at this scene. Officer Reed arrived on scene. Officer Reed interviewed multiple witnesses. Officer Reed noticed one witness /security guard that may have been traumatized and in crisis over the suicide event. Officer Reed calmed the witness. Officer Reed offered the assistance of the SPD Chaplain service. Officer Reed screened the need for the Chaplain with Sgt. Monzon on scene. The Chaplain did respond to assist. Officer Reed then checked for video from surrounding businesses and buildings. Officer Reed obtained a video from the nearby Target store as well as making arrangements for video from a second location. They took the extra time to get the job done right. Officer Reed then remained on a traffic post at the direction of Sgt. Monzon until relieved. Outstanding job by both officers.*

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<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>Recently SPD started patrolling the area around Alki and ticketing loud vehicles (exhaust, Harley Davidson, etc). This has made a huge difference down by the beach. Residents and visitors alike just want to enjoy the sun and water. The loud cruisers ruin it for everyone. I thanked the officer for patrolling the area and he was very gracious and gave my kid a sticker. This has made life great down here. Keep it up. Thanks</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>As a security guard, I have had to call SPD a few times for minor incidents like trespassers. I have always had a great experience with SPD officers and their response times, and I wanted to specifically thank the officer who responded to my call about picking up a prescription pill bottle that had been left out for anyone on the sidewalk to take. He was very nice and professional; officers like him reflect very well on SPD as a whole.</i>
<b>Keith Tisdale #8560</b>	<i>Officer Tisdale came to my home after I had reported my car had been stolen. He gave good factual information but more importantly was very kind. The dispatcher I spoke with on the phone was also helpful. I wanted to thank all involved for good service.</i>
<b>T. Kevin Willoughby #5560</b>	<i>Because he saved my life.</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>I would like to thank all those involved, and there were lots of you, who were finally able to move the homeless camps behind Home Depot and Puts. Everyone knows these camps were behind businesses but few realize they were also behind residential areas on the other side of the street. After decades of negative activity along the stretch of Stone Way north of 115th it is so nice to have peace and quiet. Albeit a camper does remain. A big shout out to all... THANK YOU!</i>
<b>Officer Name Not Provided</b>	<i>Hey, I wanted to let you know that my family is visiting from Chicago and we were at Seward Park yesterday with our friends and four mounted police officers rode through the park. We had a very interesting informative and friendly enjoyable conversation with them about the history of police on horseback and the benefits to the city. He talked about all the great things that being on a horse enables these officers to perform their job better but my take away from the experience was how the community reacted to them. If they had been in a car or on a bike or on foot they would not have been nearly as approachable. Police get kind of a bad rap lately in the news and social media and I feel that it's really important for every day residents to have more friendly interactions with officers like we had yesterday.</i>
<b>Mark Mulvanny #5698</b>	<i>Absolutely amazing service and help. We have a power boat. Today we experienced a one-in-a-million failure that caused a fire in our engine room. We would have lost the vessel and been in the water had our halon fire suppression system not discharged. SPD was first on the scene and took amazing care of us during a stressful, scary time. I am truly grateful for everyone who helped us today from SPD. Professionals and water heroes. Thank you.</i>

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**Daniel Hynes #7566**

*My family was visiting Seattle as we had to go to the Federal Building to obtain a passport for our newly adopted daughter. As she has come from having lived in another country she had expressed to us that she would never call 911 and that police were bad and not to be trusted. She is 11. We believed the best thing we could do would be to allow her to meet and interact with some men and women in uniform and see for herself that they are members of the community and human just like us. So without warning or plan, as we walked by the HQ building my wife and I looked at each other and decided to walk in and see if she could meet a Police Officer. The lobby was quiet and the officer of at the front desk asked how he could help us. We explained we wanted our daughter to meet an officer. He promptly introduced himself as Officer DJ, spent a few minutes talking with her and telling her about his family and how he lives in the community just like everyone else. He made her feel welcomed and then he offered her a Seattle Police Department patch which is not proudly displayed on her most treasured backpack which still holds the other items she values the most after having a life where she has had little consistency and nothing of her own. Each day when I see the patch, it reminds of that day and Officer DJ and I always take that moment to offer up a prayer for the safety of all the men and women in Law Enforcement and that they find a peaceful way through each encounter they have that day. I would like to thank Officer DJ for the kindness shown to a little girl who has not known kindness from others of authority in the past. He has helped to change the perceptions of a child and maybe allow them to retain a small bit of childhood a bit longer and that is a precious gift.*

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**Krista Bair #6110**

*I appreciate the understanding shown to my reactions to negative news. I also appreciated the Sergeant reminding me of the priority of my issue versus that of department, and city's priorities. Thank you, and thank you for all you do for the city. They should double your staff, and construct a new precinct in the North end.*

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**Officer Name Not Provided**

*The incident was at about 1730. Three officers responded to a call for a man in my apartment building screaming and making threats. They were professional, calm, and respectful, and treated my neighbor and myself really well. I was happy to provide a witness statement. I wanted to stay out of their way to let them work the call, so I didn't have a chance to say thanks, but I wanted to pass that along.*

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**Andrew Swartz #8372**

*Just want to thank Officer Swartz and the other two officers with him on 7/29. Our place was robbed and Officer Swartz and the other officers were so helpful throughout the ordeal of getting our stuff back. We really appreciate the professionalism and candor you and your officers displayed!*

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**David Ogard #5152**

*This was my first experience being pull over by a police officer and my expectations (from past stories told to me) - it would not be pleasant. Yes, the traffic violation was my fault, however, Officer Ogard was courteous, efficient and clear in the explanation. I appreciated his communication style and he made a bad situation for me not so bad. Thank you.*

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