



CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

David A. Wood, Mayor
Kenneth L. Witkowski, Chief

August 18, 2015

Mayor David A. Wood
Board of Public Works and Safety
City Hall - 600 East Third Street
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Re: Police Officers of the 2nd Quarter – 2015

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

I am pleased to announce Pfc. Joshua Watts and Psc. Kyle Miner as recipients for "Officers of the Second Quarter."

Officers Watts and Miner were unanimously nominated by the Afternoon Shift for locating and apprehending six suspects that were involved in an Armed Robbery.

On **April 15, 2015**, at 4:10 pm, Mishawaka Police officers were dispatched to Jared's Galleria of Jewelry at University Park Mall in reference to an armed robbery that had just occurred. As officers started toward the scene, information was given that the suspect vehicle, described as a white van, was traveling eastbound on West University Drive. Turning onto University Drive from Main Street, Officer Miner received information that the suspect vehicle had just turned into the Best Western Hotel. He reported the following: "I immediately noticed a white van in the parking lot facing west and a black male running to a silver car. As I pulled closer to the area that the cars were in, a blue Pontiac G6 began to drive toward my patrol car. At this time, dispatch notified me that the suspects were attempting to leave the hotel in a blue car and a silver car. I stopped directly in front of the Pontiac and exited my patrol unit. I then removed my duty pistol from the holster and began to order the driver of the Pontiac to stop the vehicle and to turn it off."

Emergency..... 911
Front Desk..... 574-258-1678
Investigative Division..... 574-258-1684
Records Division..... 574-258-1681

Chief..... 574-258-1683
Uniform Chief..... 574-258-1688
Traffic Division..... 574-259-2966
Fax..... 574-258-1690

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Officer Miner continued by reporting: "...the silver suspect vehicle, a Chrysler 200 began to drive toward me with a female behind the wheel. I began to move south with my duty pistol aimed at the female driver. I began to loudly and clearly order the driver to stop her vehicle and shut it off. I could see a male suspect leaning down in the back seat. The driver began to move the car forward, directly toward me. I continually ordered her to shut off the vehicle but she kept driving forward and stopping. Eventually, the driver shut off the vehicle."

As this was happening, Officer Watts arrived as back-up. Officer Watts, with his service pistol drawn, kept cover over Officer Miner until both suspect vehicles were stopped. Together, they secured both drivers in handcuffs. Once the drivers were secured, Officer Miner and Watts secured additional passengers. As information was coming in at a rapid pace, it was learned there were two suspects in the trunk. Both suspects were removed from the trunk and also secured. Officer Watts then reported the following: "I looked in the trunk and could see two jewelry display boxes with rings still in them."

All six suspects were taken into custody, evidence was recovered and the scene was secured for processing. Total value of the jewelry recovered at the scene was more than \$249,000. Also, one of the getaway vehicles was reported stolen.

Through interviews, it appears that this group of individuals had committed similar acts throughout the Midwest. On April 17, 2015, the FBI issued a Federal Indictment for Armed Robbery to all six criminals.

Thanks to eye-witness accounts and fast actions by Officer Watts and Miner, a well-organized group of jewelry thieves were apprehended.

On behalf of the Department and my Administration, I am proud and honored to present Officer Watts and Miner "Officers of the Second Quarter" for 2015.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd

Personnel Files