



# The BLOTTER

Your place for up to date Police information

## Officer Discretion- Why do some people get citations and other do not.



As police Officers, we have discretion when it comes to how we handle most situations that we encounter. Under certain circumstances, such as Domestic Violence incidents, State law has taken away our discretion. Other than a select few incidents, Police Officers are left to determine the most appropriate resolution.

It is often hard to describe all the factors that influence an Officer's decision. There are an infinite amount of factors that can have an effect on the outcome, severity of the offense, previous police contacts for similar issues and the report from the person calling 911 are just a few that come into play.

As Police Officers, we are called upon to handle a variety of situations throughout our shift. A main goal of ours is to change behavior. I know what you are thinking...is it that simple? Throughout our shifts we

encounter people that break City Ordinances and State Laws. We have many tools at our disposal to attempt to change behaviors.

Sometimes this means a person will receive a warning for a violation, a citation or even get arrested! People will often ask, how to you decide what to do? When I trained new Officers, I would be asked this same question. My answer has always been the same. There are certain crimes that State Statute says we "shall" arrest, we have no choice. For the other instances, if we can change behaviors with a warning and education and remain confident it will get the job done, then so be it. There are times when a person demonstrates that a warning will not change their behavior, and then a citation may be issued. This is the reason we do not ticket or arrest everyone we stop. Every situation is different and we are only looking to change behaviors.

## Commendation Ceremony-

As an agency and community we were able to celebrate great work done by your Police Department, Community members and partners in the criminal justice system. The 2019 Duluth Police Department Commendation Ceremony was held at the Public Safety Building. Many cases of heroic actions, community partnerships, effective event planning, and headline worthy investigations with convictions of

very evil people were all recognized and awards were presented.



Sergeant Kelly Greenwalt (Community Policing Sergeant) was awarded the Supervisor of the Year Award! Sergeant Greenwalt's nomination was submitted on behalf of the Community Policing Unit and talked of his "lead from the front" leadership style. Sergeant Greenwalt supervises all Community Officers, two Civilian Staff, the Park Ranger Program and Canine Unit. His hard work, dedication and trust in employees is very much appreciated.



Officer Ethan Roe (East Area Community Officer) also received a Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding work implementing a plan for the 2018 UMD "move in". Officer Roe was credited for developing and implementing a plan to minimize issues caused by "move in". It was a true partnership working with multiple UMD departments, pre-

event information distribution to rental houses in the area and enforcement plans for the day of. Last year's "move in" plan was a major success with minimal impact to the surrounding neighborhood. We had less incidents, citations and arrests than previous years and it was all a result of Officer Roe's plan.



Officer Jeremy O'Connor (DTA Officer) received a Lifesaving Award for his role in working with a community member and undoubtedly saving a man's life. A community member called 911 and reported what they believed to be a person at the bottom of a ravine in the snow. It just so happened that this person was experiencing homelessness and was unable to move due to results of cold weather exposure. Officer O'Connor's quick work and partnership saved a life that day.



Officer Kaine Kaase (HRA Officer) received a Meritorious Service Award for his work at a problem apartment

building in the downtown area. He along with a partner worked an undercover detail to target quality of life issues at this property. During the detail 9 arrests were made and violators were trespassed from the property. In addition to this they conducted an investigation into an apartment, applied for a search warrant and subsequently discovered heroin, methamphetamine and proceeds of narcotic sales. This proactive work made this building a safer place for the residents and community alike.