

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Winter Springs Police honor achievements and promotions at awards ceremony

WINTER SPRINGS, Fla. – On Friday, August 9, 2024, the Winter Springs Police Department held its Employee Promotional and Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony was to honor officers for their hard work and dedication to the department as well as promote several officers to new roles within the department.

During the ceremony, Chief Matt Tracht promoted Lieutenant Brad Heath to the rank of Captain, Sergeants Patrick Donovan and Kristin Herwick to Lieutenant and Officers Marette Sims, Christopher Roland and Kyle Harrop to the rank of Sergeant



L to R Chief Matt Tracht, Captain Brad Heath



Chief Matt Tracht, Lt. Kristin Herwick and Lt. Patrick Donovan



Pictured L to R Chief Matt Tracht, Sgt. Marette Sims, Sgt. Christopher Roland and Sgt. Kyle Harrop



Pictured L to R Lt. Kristin Herwick, Officer Laura Chitty, and Seminole County K-9 Deputy Sean Flanagan

Lieutenant Kristin Herwick, Officers Peggy Bittikofer, Mathieu Byers, Laura Chitty, Matthew Devernoe, Dwayne Darrisaw and Seminole County K-9 Deputy Sean Flanagan were honored for their quick action and teamwork in apprehending a suspect involved in a deadly shooting June 4, 2024.



Pictured L to R Chief Matt Tracht Officer Erik Schwartz

Officer Erik Schwartz was honored with a Life Saving Award for his actions while responding to a medical call.

On March 5, 2024, Officer Schwartz responded to a business after getting reports of a woman who was found unconscious and not breathing.

After arriving at the scene, Officer Schwartz was able to quickly assess the victim and began performing CPR until paramedics could arrive and transport her to a nearby hospital and later made a full recovery.



Pictured L to R Chief Matt Tracht, Sergeant Lynn Saccente Officer Jessica Garcia and Officer Anthony Mercado.

Sergeant Lynn Saccente, Officers Jacob Stewart, Jessica Garcia, and Anthony Mercado of Bravo Squad received Unit Citations for their actions in helping save the life of man who had made threats to harm himself.



Pictured L to R Chief Matt Tracht Officer Samantha Schmidt

Officer Samantha Schmidt received the Meritorious Action Award for her exemplary actions on March 16, 2024, where she helped save the life of a woman who had made threats to jump off the Lake Jessup bridge.

Officer Schmidt was able to approach the woman and pull her off the guardrail before she could jump, preventing tragedy.

The Winter Springs Police Department congratulates all of this year's honorees and thanks them for their service to the citizens of Winter Springs.