



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 6, 2013

**Celebrating Outstanding Service: the Year-End Awards Ceremony**

*Oakland, CA* —On Thursday, December 5, 2013, the Oakland Police Department held a year-end awards ceremony to acknowledge the outstanding work of the men and woman in the Department.

In addition to honoring police officers and civilian employees, Interim Chief Sean Whent presented Oakland citizen Dan Gale with a Chief's Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his distinguished service. Mr. Gale was the AC Transit passenger who went to the aid of Luke "Sasha" Fleischman when he was intentionally set on fire while sleeping on the bus.

As well as Chief Whent and his executive team and a room full of OPD peers, Mayor Jean Quan, City Administrator Deanna Santana, OPD General Counsel Rocio Fierro, and members of the clergy, family and friends were all there to honor the individuals and teams for their hard work, dedication, courage and distinguished service to the City and the citizens of Oakland.

The ceremony was MC'd by Interim Deputy Chief Danielle Outlaw. Ms. Angel Coogler sang the national anthem a capella. Police Chaplin Rev. Ruffus Watkins gave the invocation and benediction.

**HONOREES**

**MEDAL OF MERIT (meritorious service):**

- Officer James Gordon
- Officers Bobby Ko, Torrey Nash, Jonathan Douglass

**UNIT CITATION (meritorious and exemplary performance while assigned to an organizational unit):**

- CRT 5: Sergeant James Beere, Officers Eric Barangan, Christopher Cardona, Ronald Johnson, Enrique Lara, Ernesto Leyva, Jr., Rich Niven, and Amie Rutten
- Tactical Sniper Element: Sergeant Phil Green, Officers Erik Arriaza, Bruce Christensen, Victor Garcia, Todd Martin, John Perrodin, Luke Sincerny, Jeffrey Smoak, Anthony Tedesco, Martin Ziebarth, and Yun Zhou
- Patrol 1st Watch, Team 3B: Sergeant Angelica Mendoza, Officers Anthony Banks, Jr., Gloria Beltran, Stephen Choi, Jay Factora, Darrell Sariano, and Luke Sincerney

**CHIEF'S LEADERSHIP AWARD-** Sergeant Angelica Mendoza

CHIEF'S CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION (outstanding service):

- Captain Darren Allison
- Sergeant Jack Doolittle
- CRT 2: Sergeant Curtis Worcester, Officers George Buford, Michael Jaeger, Eric Kim, Pheareak Phan, Raymond Ward, and Yun Zhou
- Officers Gunther Lee, Dana Ly
- Mr. Dan Gale

BUREAU PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

- Bureau of Risk Management – Police Records Supervisor Veronica Johnson
- Bureau of Field Operations – Police Records Specialist Aki James
- Bureau of Services – Administrative Analyst II Andrea Van Peteghem
- Support Operations Division – Police Services Technician Eddie Simlin

CHALLENGER AWARD – Police Services Technician Eddie Simlin

TEAM SUPPORT AWARD – Police Property Specialist Mark Halal

SPIRIT AWARD – Police Records Specialist Lourdes Guevarra

NIGHT OWL AWARD – Police Communications Dispatcher Muluaem Abate

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR – Police Communications Dispatcher Kent McNab

Chief Whent thanked everyone, noting that “People enter law enforcement with the noblest of intentions: to help people, to make our city safer, to serve the public. Not for recognition. We can fall into a trap of accepting service and not acknowledging it. Today we correct that.”

Mayor Quan announced that Thursday, December 5, 2013 was officially Dan Gale Day in the City of Oakland and spoke of how the Department’s partnerships with the community are producing a change in tone and relationship. City Administrator Santana said that she appreciated the way ceremonies such as this one allow her to hear true stories of community and constitutional policing at its best.

In closing, the Chief spoke of how the hard work, passion, and dedication of his troops inspire him daily, saying, “I am honored to serve as your chief.”

Nixle Tip Watch allows tipsters to send OPD a tip three ways:

1. *Text* **TIP OAKLANDPD** to **888777** from your cell phone
2. *Call* our toll-free tip hotline at **855-TIPS-247** (855-847-7247)
3. *Respond* to OPD's Nixle messages\

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or [opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com).

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