



# Cheyenne Police Department

415 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
<http://www.cheyennepd.org>



*Protecting the legend...*

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**For Immediate Release**

**January 31, 2024**

## **Cheyenne Police Officers and Employees Honored at Awards Ceremony**

CHEYENNE, Wy — On Wednesday, January 31, numerous Cheyenne Police Officers and professional staff members were awarded for exceptional performance in their duties. The annual award ceremony was held at the Public Safety Center with City officials, members of the department, and families in attendance.

Awards were presented in 14 categories to over 80 employees, including Officer of the Year, Specialty Officer of the Year, Civilian of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year.

“Each officer, civilian, and volunteer plays a crucial role in the overall success of our operations and well-being of our community,” said Chief Mark Francisco. “It is important to hear these stories and celebrate their achievements.”

Heroic stories were highlighted during the event – like that of Officer Micah Veneigas. In October, he applied a tourniquet to the arm of a gunshot victim. The bullet severed an artery, and the quick actions of the officer saved the victim’s life.

The Officer of the Year award was presented to Officer Kaitlin Peterson. Throughout her career, she has regularly performed above and beyond what is expected while serving the department in multiple roles – as a patrol officer, squad leader, Field Training Officer, and a new member of the Bomb Squad. During the awards ceremony, she received multiple recognitions for her work throughout the year.

Detective Mike Fernandez received Specialty Officer of the Year for his outstanding work as an investigator. He was recognized for his overall body of work while serving the Detective Bureau, as well as the determination he exhibited as the lead detective assigned to a homicide in April 2023. Additional case highlights included breaking up a check fraud ring and detecting an interstate theft group.

The Civilian of the Year Award was presented to Amy Dillon for her tireless work in the Recruiting Division. Her efficiency and streamlined operations have expedited the hiring process and resulted in her being selected for this award.

Harriet “Binney” Stevenson was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year. She has contributed thousands of hours of service to the department and celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a



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volunteer during the ceremony. Her dedication and commitment to helping the community is truly commendable.

Meritorious Service awards were presented to Officer Greg Hutchinson, Detective Ty Volin, Officer James Womack, and Conner Collins for their exemplary performance. The Chief's Award was presented to Officer Mark Ehlman for his high quality of work and professional performance on the Traffic Unit and Major Crash Unit. Unit Citations were also given to eight teams that demonstrated excellence during complex incidents.

Additionally, Ellie vanSwearingen, the wife of a Cheyenne Police Officer, was honored with the Family Member award for supporting department personnel. Officers were also awarded for firearms proficiency with the Top Shot going to Officer Nathaniel Lucero. Physical fitness awards were given to 17 members who scored above 75% on PT tests.



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## 2023 CHEYENNE POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Officer of the Year – *Officer Kaitlin Peterson*

Specialty Officer of the Year – *Detective Mike Fernandez*

Civilian of the Year – *Amy Dillon*

Volunteer of the Year – *Harriet “Binney” Stevenson*

Chief’s Award – *Officer Mark Ehlman*

Meritorious Service Awards – *Officer Greg Hutchinson, Detective Ty Volin,  
Officer James Womack, Connor Collins*

Lifesaving Award – *Officer Micah Veniegas*

Unit Citation - *Jennell Webster, Connor Collins, Tammy Gutierrez, Tressa Wellman,  
Officer Teralyn Alarid*

Unit Citation - *Officer Brian Ahearn, Officer Brian Davis, Officer Blake Martin, Officer Emily  
Taraski, Officer Cole Tompkins, Officer James Womack, Officer Dan Zabriskie*

Unit Citation – *Detective John Maule, Officer Patrick Johnston, Officer Ben Lewis,  
Officer Mathew Mikesell, Officer Brendan Tait, Officer Dan Zabriskie*

Unit Citation - *Sergeant Eric Norris, Detective Allison Baca, Detective Jeffrey Cover, Detective  
Damon Hall, Officer Teralyn Alarid, Officer Reece Federer, Officer Talmage Peden, Officer  
Jonathan Penhale, Officer Emily Taraski, Officer Daniel vanSwearingen, Officer Chad Wellman*

Unit Citation - *Sergeant Eric Norris, Officer Corrin Campbell, Officer Reece Federer,  
Officer Audrey McGraw, Officer Noah Rodgers, Officer Robert Wingeleth*

Unit Citation - *Sergeant Zack Johnson, Officer Mariah Bolkovatz, Officer Jeremiah Keslar,  
Officer Talmage Peden, Officer Kaitlin Peterson, Officer Daniel vanSwearingen,  
Officer Robert Wingeleth*

Unit Citation - *Lieutenant Brett Durante, Sergeant Tom Hood, Sergeant Kevin Malatesta,  
Sergeant Jake Reiber, Sergeant Chase Rippey, Detective Allison Baca, Detective Matthew  
Freeman, Detective Damon Hall, Detective Caresa Marino, Detective Craig Sanne, Detective  
Sean Smith, Detective Jeremy Walker, Detective Aaron Willmarth, Julie Anthony, Officer Patrick  
Johnston, Officer Ben Lewis, Officer Audrey McGraw, Officer Jay Remers, Officer Dan  
Zabriskie, Officer Matt Ryan, Officer Chad Wellman*

Unit Citation – *Officer Jaime Glasby, Officer Greg Hutchinson, Officer Brendan Tait,  
Officer James Womack*

Family Member Award – *Ellie vanSwearingen*



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Commendation Awards – *Officer Mariah Bolkovatz, Officer Corrin Campbell, Officer Mark Ehlman, Officer Reece Federer, Officer Audrey McGraw, Officer Michael Nelson, Officer Nathaniel Lucero, Officer Daniel vanSwearingen, CSO Kyleigh Price, CSO Zachary Sage, CSO Sybryna Schaffer*

Longevity Awards – *Officer Chad Wellman (5 years/Field Training Officer), Lieutenant Brett Durante (15 years/SWAT), Officer Greg Hutchinson (10 years/SWAT), Sergeant Zack Johnson (15 years/Bomb Squad), Officer Kurt Hunter (15 years/Bomb Squad), Harriet “Binney” Stevenson (25 years/ Citizens on Patrol), Marnee Sullivan (10 years/ Citizens on Patrol), Krista Cooke (5 years/ Citizens on Patrol), Shari Bolden (5 years/ Citizens on Patrol), Charles Cruff (5 years/ Citizens on Patrol), Nancy Cruff (5 years/ Citizens on Patrol)*

Top Shot – *Officer Nathaniel Lucero*

Marksmanship Awards - *Captain David Janes, Captain Jared Keslar, Lieutenant Brett Durante, Sergeant Jake Reiber, Sergeant Chase Rippey, Sergeant Matthew Solberg, Detective Mike Fernandez, Detective Josh Hedum, Detective James Pendleton, Detective Ty Volin, Detective Aaron Willmarth, Detective John Maule, Officer Brian Ahearn, Officer Reece Federer, Officer Nicholas Gordon, Officer Brockton Hayden, Officer Jesse Horne, Officer Greg Hutchinson, Officer Jeremiah Keslar, Officer Lisa Koeppel, Officer Ian Lohnes, Officer Talmage Peden, Officer Noah Rodgers, Officer Matthew Ryan, Officer Greg Smith, Officer Cole Tompkins, Officer Daniel vanSwearingen, Officer Benjamin Vapenik, Officer Micah Veneigas, Officer Brian Wiltjer, MSO Brady Pierson*

Physical Fitness Awards - *Sergeant Zac Bentley, Detective Mike Fernandez, Detective Craig Sanne, Detective Sean Smith, Detective Ty Volin, Officer David Allen, Officer Mariah Bolkovatz, Officer Nicolas Gordon, Officer Marcus Hairston-Payton, Officer Jesse Horne, Officer David Inman, Officer Noah Rogers, Officer Kilian Sweet, Officer Brendan Tait, Officer Micah Veneigas, Officer Daniel vanSwearingen, Officer Justin Young*