



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

DETECTIVE/CORPORAL JAMES SCHWARTZ NAMED 2008 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Ocean City Neighborhood Watch Association recently selected Detective/Corporal (D/CPL) James Schwartz to be the honorable recipient of the 2008 Ocean City "Officer of the Year" award. Nearly 120 guests attended the event which was held on Monday, January 12, 2009 at the Ocean City Elks Lodge. The Neighborhood Watch Association is made up of six groups with residents from Caine Woods, Caine Keys II, Montego Bay, Little Salisbury, Bayshore Drive and Edgewater Avenue.

D/CPL Schwartz was a seasonal officer in 1997 with the OCPD, after which he was employed for 2 years with the City of Norfolk, Virginia Police Department before returning to the OCPD and becoming a full time officer in 1999. D/CPL Schwartz is currently assigned as a detective in the Vice/Narcotics Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division.

During the nine years he has spent in Vice/Narcotics, D/CPL Schwartz has been deemed an expert drugs/narcotics investigator. He is also a member of the OCPD Commendation Board and is a State of Maryland, court certified expert witness regarding Controlled Dangerous Substances. D/CPL Schwartz has completed specialized Narcotics training from MCTFT, MAGLOCLIN, and the DEA.

During his tenure in Narcotics, he has authored almost 50 Drug Search & Seizure warrants, initiated and supervised over 50 long term felony drug investigations, served as the primary undercover detective in dozens of undercover drug investigations and been involved in hundreds of drug arrests. In 2003 and 2008, D/CPL Schwartz initiated pharmaceutical diversion investigations which resulted in the arrest of two local physicians. The two cases produced charges of several counts of prescribing prescription medication outside of common medical practice.

D/CPL Schwartz has received over 17 intradepartmental recognitions for above average performance. He was promoted to the rank of Detective First Class in March 2004 where he finished first out of 11 police officers. In 2005, D/CPL Schwartz was involved in the seizure of 1 kilogram of powder cocaine with an estimated street value of \$100,000. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

D/CPL Schwartz is the first Narcotics Detective to win the award of Officer of the Year. "I think it is outstanding to see our community recognize an undercover officer," commented Chief Bernadette DiPino. "D/CPL Schwartz is a fantastic investigator and an impressive detective. He has worked very hard to keep our city safe from drugs and I am thrilled to see him rewarded for his commitment to the Ocean City community."

January 13, 2009

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococyan.com



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Above: Ocean City Neighborhood Watch Area Coordinators congratulate 2008 Officer of the Year Nominees. From Left to Right: Dan Donatelli (Little Salisbury), Bill Neimiller (Montego Bay), Bev Townsend (Bayshore Drive), Kathy McCauley (OCPD), Sydney Findley (OCPD), Shawn Jones (OCPD), Aaron Morgan (OCPD), Jeff Smith (OCPD), Tonja Sas (Caine Woods), Mary Cascio (Edgewater Ave), Roland Murray (Caine Keys II). Not pictured: Officer of the Year James Schwartz



Nine additional officers received recognition on Monday night for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Ocean City. Left: Daniel Jacobs, Todd Speigle, Andrew Yeager, Chief DiPino, Ryan Flanagan, Brooks Inman, Joe Zurla. Not pictured: Al Custer and Vicki Martin

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