

Officer John Vande Brake receives 2015 Officer of the Year Award

Publisher's Note:

This year's TuPD Officer of the Year was awarded to John Vande Brake. The following is an excerpt from the speech at the annual police banquet in February given by Tualatin Police Chief Kent Barker.

The Officer of the Year award is intended to recognize one sworn Member from the Department for their outstanding service to the community and/or to the Department during the past year. This award reflects continuous service throughout the year and not just a single event.

This officer was nominated for this award by a large number of department members. Some of the comments on the nominations forms include:

He has done a tremendous job this past year. His positive personality is a 10 and his willingness to help is much appreciated. I have personally seen his interactions with the public where he consistently models "excellence



in customer service." He is always a hard worker, consistent, and a team player.

He continues to demonstrate a good work ethic, being out on patrol/enforcement most of his shift. This officer is very patient with his interactions and often gets praise from citizens even if they are receiving a citation. He easily holds the record for the most compliments from citizens in a calendar year (I have seen several that he did not turn in to his supervisor). He is customer service oriented. He is proactive.

His positive attitude and infectious smile break down barriers and open doors for him in ways others cannot. I believe he understands the City Managers "Seven Principles" and strives to maintain them every day.

He has done an excellent job in the past year of writing quality citations and providing excellent customer service to those he is citing. He is a good communicator and exemplary motor officer and works hard each and every day.

For his body of work as a whole coupled with the fact he has written nearly 1600 citations without generating a complaint. In fact, he actually gets "Thank-you cards" sent to him from people he has cited.

I have personally heard people come to the front counter to talk with one of the court clerks and pay their



Photos courtesy of Eric Hermann

traffic fine. While paying their fine, they ate making comments about how they appreciate the way Officer Vande Brake treated them with dignity and respect.

He knows how to engage the community. Most recently he was recognized by the principal at Horizon Elementary for his presentation at their Veteran's Day Assembly.

Officer Vande Brake was a hit at the Stoneridge Neighborhood Cleanup and Celebration on July 25th. There is a great YouTube video where he engages with some kids during the event by hopping on their tricycle and riding it down the hill.

Officer Vande Brake was featured in the International Chief's of Police magazine and web blog post about "Why I Wear The Badge". It is evident Officer Vande Brake cares about the people in the community he serves.

For all these reasons, Officer John Vande Brake is selected as the 2015 Officer of the Year and will hold the title of "OOTY" until next year...

