



PRESS RELEASE

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Three Cumming Police Department Employees Receive 2020 Departmental Awards

CUMMING, Ga - Three of the City of Cumming's finest were recognized during the December Work Session of the Mayor and City Council on Dec. 1, 2020. These Cumming Police Officers were presented by Police Chief David Marsh with departmental awards for outstanding service in 2020.

Sgt. Tracy Holbrook and **Officer Howard ("Howie") Corrigan** were both presented with the department's **Lifesaving Award**. Sgt. Holbrook arrived on a scene in June in which a woman was having trouble breathing and had fallen unconscious. Sgt. Holbrook started CPR on the patient and continued for several minutes until paramedics arrived on scene and transported the woman to Northside Forsyth Hospital. Sgt. Holbrook's quick response to the scene combined with her knowledge and willingness to perform CPR kept the patient alive until medical personnel could take over. Officer Corrigan responded to a call in June of a person who was down and unresponsive. When Officer Corrigan and Sgt. Sebastian Strano arrived on scene, Officer Corrigan very quickly recognized the signs of a potential drug overdose and administered a dose of NARCAN, a medication designed to overcome the effects of an opiate-based overdose. The initial dose had some effect; however, the patient was still struggling to breathe so Officer Corrigan used a second dose provided by Sgt. Strano, which almost completely revived the patient, who was later transported to the hospital in a conscience and alert state. Officer Corrigan's quick thinking and medical background undoubtedly saved a young man's life.

Officer Corrigan was also presented with the department's **Officer of the Year Award**. Chief Marsh called Officer Corrigan "one of the kindest and most-humble people I have ever had the pleasure to work with, who spends every minute of his day working at this agency looking for ways to help others." He added that Officer Corrigan exhibits all the functions of what a good police officer does for his community, noting that he "works simple car wrecks with the same level of empathy and caring as he does reports of violent person crimes." Officer Corrigan is a trained paramedic, an accomplished proactive police officer with many arrests to speak of, as well as a volunteer on an FBI violent crimes task force. Chief Marsh added that he "represents the true spirit of law enforcement and upholds his oath to 'faithfully perform and discharge the duties of his position, conscientiously and without malice

or partiality' as well as any officer I have ever met; he is an inspiration to all of us for serving others with humility and looking out for the interest of others."

Sgt. Tony Hodgkins was presented the department's first-time **Supervisor of the Year Award**, which recognizes the work and sacrifices of a supervisor. Sgt. Hodgkins, who is assigned to an evening uniform patrol shift, helps supervise all calls for service along with two patrol officers. Additionally, he also plans, coordinates, and/or teaches all of the in-service training for the police department. Chief Marsh said Sgt. Hodgkins "does a fantastic job of juggling the state-mandated training needs as well as coordinating agency-specific training; he is a driving instructor, firearms instructor, medical instructor, general instructor, and gives of his time willingly to help teach large classes, as well as to help individuals who need further assistance." Chief Marsh added that he serves with "a true servant leadership mindset and is always willing to help in any manner that he can," noting that Sgt. Hodgkins has given his time to ride a bicycle during protests on the square, cook food for family cookouts at the department, plan and organize difficult road races like the Cumming Marathon, fix doors, and help clean up the police department building, and help with any task no matter how seemingly mundane. "Tony sets the standard for leadership at this agency, and provides an example for others to follow by putting others' needs before his own," Marsh said.

Following the awards presentation, Mayor Troy Brumbalow commended the three award recipients but reminded all of the Cumming Police Department employees that he and the City Council respect and support the entire department.

"These three may have received awards tonight, but you all are Officer of the Year in my heart," he said. "I want you all to know that I and this City Council support all of you and the job that you all do for our community every day."

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