



Division of Capitol Police News Release

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Va. Capitol Police salute a year of support and growth

RICHMOND – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police used its 2024 awards and recognition dinner to celebrate a year of support and growth.

Speaking at Friday night’s event at the Virginia War Memorial, Col. John T. McKee thanked the members of the Legislative Support Commission for continuing to champion and assist Capitol Police in the division’s mission to provide the most progressive law enforcement possible in and around Capitol Square.

“Not only is their support crucial to what we do,” McKee said, “but it enables us to focus on the future by being able to plan for our needs and make sure we have the proper staffing to take care of our stakeholders.”

Since the 2023 awards and recognition dinner, Capitol Police added eight recruits and eight certified officers, four dispatchers and 40 hourly security screeners, two hourly background investigators, one hourly security clearance coordinator and an hourly human resources assistant, McKee said. The agency also upgraded its IT coordinator job from an hourly position to a full-time one.

The agency conducted nearly 42,000 property checks in the past year, almost 2,000 more than the previous year, and it increased its high-visibility assignments as part of a year when Capitol Police officers logged nearly 48,000 calls altogether.

“Capitol Square is constantly changing,” McKee said, “and the Legislative Support Commission is giving us the ability to meet those needs. Not only was this our first full year in our new headquarters at Old City Hall, but we took on many added responsibilities with the opening of the new General Assembly Building.”

The employees of the quarter were Rushal Patel, IT coordinator; Kristi Phaup, HR director; Lt. Reggie Reavis and Officer Benjamin Ransom, who also was named the division’s employee of the year.

Officer Breanna Saunders not only was named the Capitol Police rookie of the year, but McKee noted that her work in the field to arrest suspected drunken drivers had prompted the area chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving to select her for a special award to be presented at a ceremony scheduled for next month.

Capitol Police awards of excellence went to Reavis as well as Officer Kevin Jones, and Officer Michael Enz was recognized with another lifesaving award for his use of NARCAN to revive opioid victims.

Employees recognized with service awards were:

- Twenty-five years: Officer Jerry J. Chandler II
- Twenty years: Capt. Phillip A. Blaschick, Capt. Anthony M. Gulotta, Communications Officer Valencia R. Wilson
- Fifteen years: Reavis, Lt. Michael H. Flick, Capt. Chanda C. Hickman, Special Agent John M. Jones
- Five years: Officer Elizabeth A. Bergeron, Officer Timothy D. Etterling, Officer Michael D. Light, Public Information Officer Joseph Macenka, Officer Nicholas Tolbert, Officer Taj A. Wesley-Noor

Retirement awards were presented to Macenka as well as Officer Arthur W. Clarke and Officer John T. Nicholson.



Col. John T. McKee (left) and Major Chris Gleason flank Officer Ben Ransom, HR Director Kristi Phaup, IT Coordinator Rushal Patel and Lt. Reggie Reavis.

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