



# VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## PRESS RELEASE Release Immediately

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### Police Officer and Civilian of the Year Awards for 2010

Plainfield, IL – The Plainfield Police Department is proud to announce its recipient of the Officer of the Year and the Civilian of the Year Awards for 2010.

#### POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2010

School Resource Officer Rich Meszaros is the recipient of the Plainfield Police Department's "2010 Police Officer of the Year." This award recognizes officers whose service to both the Department and the Village is exceptional and professional. The men and women of the Police Department nominate officers they consider worthy of this highest degree of recognition.

Officer Rich Meszaros started working with the Plainfield Police Department in August 2002. After academy, he worked as a Patrol Officer until his assignment to the Traffic Unit in 2004 where he was also trained as part of the Motorcycle Unit. In January 2007, Rich was selected as the School Resource Officer for the newly opened Plainfield North High School, where he has spent the last 4½ years. He still works summers on the Motorcycle, but most of his year is spent as liaison with school administration, students, and parents, ensuring they have a safe and secure educational experience.

During 2010, some of Officer Meszaros' highlights were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Fourth of July Click It or Ticket (35 occupant restraint citations)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Route 30 Corridor Traffic Safety Campaign (28 citations)
- Became a Certified Lidar Instructor
- As part of the Strategic Planning Committee, created the 2010-14 Strategic Plan
- Was an original creator, and updated Employee Evaluation Database and System

Rich is described by his peers as a dedicated, hard worker, who is always willing to help out and goes above and beyond his duties. Additionally, Rich is a positive influence at PNHS and a great role model for the students. Rich is also very active with many charitable activities in the community, such as the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, St. Baldrick's, Shop With A Cop, Cell Phones for Domestic Violence Collection through Tom Cross' Office, and more.



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Officer Rich Meszaros has exhibited dedication, integrity and pride to his peers, management, and the Village of Plainfield. He sets an admirable example of the qualities all of our officers possess.

Pictured from Left to Right: Chief John Konopek, Officer Rich Meszaros, Commander Kevin Greco, Commander Anthony Novak, Commander Kenneth Ruggles

### **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2010**

Executive Assistant Angela Winiarski was selected as the Plainfield Police Department's "2010 Civilian Employee of the Year." This award was established to recognize a civilian employee whose service to the Department is respected and admired by his or her peers. The men and women of the Department nominate an employee that they feel is worthy of this acknowledgement.

Angela started with the Plainfield Police Department in July of 2001 as a part-time Records Technician, was promoted to full-time status as the Court Secretary, then promoted to Executive Assistant for Patrol Operations in April of 2004. Angela is self-motivated, efficient, and able to work on multiple projects with extreme accuracy and flexibility. She ensures the "behind the scenes" statistical analysis of Patrol data is error-free and assists the Commander and Sergeants with a wide array of administrative tasks.

Angela is described by her peers as "the go to person for Patrol;" with her willingness to provide help, even if the issue is beyond the scope of her responsibility. She keeps the Patrol area in order, which is no small feat. Angela's positive attitude and commitment to the Department make her a tremendous asset.

Angela is also the "unofficial" Department photographer, keeping photographic records of many of the activities throughout the year. She is also very active with the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, as co-captain of the Police Department team, and Official photographer for that event!

Executive Assistant Angela Winiarski has shown dedication to her peers, management, and the Village of Plainfield. Angela is an inspiration to Department members through her dedication, work ethic, knowledge, experience, and professionalism.

Pictured from Left to Right:  
Commander Kevin Greco,  
Commander Kenneth  
Ruggles, Executive Assistant  
Angela Winiarski, Chief John  
Konopek, Commander  
Anthony Novak



Throughout the week of May 9-15, the Plainfield Police Department recognized National Police Week, where special recognition is paid to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. The Annual Department Meeting was held the following week, recognizing all Plainfield Police Department Employees' awards and commendations throughout the previous year, and each employee was presented with a 'Challenge Coin' acknowledging our values, our badge, and Never Forget 9-11-01.

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cc: All PD Employees  
WESCOM  
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