

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

BARBARA C. DOUDEL,

Plaintiff
(VLB)
v.

Civil No. 3:11-CV-001164

CITY OF NORWALK, et al,

Defendants

EXHIBIT BB

THE DEFENDANTS

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Norwalk officers awarded Officer of the Year and December Officer of the Month

By ROBIN KAMINSKI

Hour Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:31 am

NORWALK -- On Oct. 11, 2012, Lt. James Walsh reported for duty at the Norwalk Police Department and was quickly thrust into a tense, hour-long standoff on Hillside Place.

His skilled leadership during the strenuous situation was recognized by the Norwalk Police Commission Monday with the distinction of "2012 officer of the year."

"Jim was an incredible sergeant and is now our right arm as a lieutenant," said Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik. "If we know Jim is responding to a call, we don't have to worry about anything because we know he's the best."

The day of the standoff, Kulhawik said Walsh coordinated the entire response team and pulled a person to safety in the area.

The suspect, William Loeffel, 24, eventually surrendered to police outside of his 4 Hillside Place residence and was taken into custody before he harmed himself or someone else.

"Jim in a number of ways has performed as an incredible lieutenant on the day shift," Kulhawik said. "It was a difficult decision (to select officer of the year) but there was really just one choice."

Walsh, who was previously awarded officer of the year in 2005, said he was working as a shift commander on the day of the standoff and was first on scene. While there, he orchestrated a school lockdown to ensure the safety of nearby students.

"I'm very grateful to be recognized by the chief," Walsh said. "There are a lot of officers who are deserving of an award from that day."

Walsh said his 22 years of experience in emergency services helped during the situation.

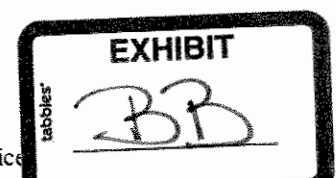
"I reverted back to my training (that day)," Walsh said. "It just kicked in."

In addition to Walsh's award, Detective James O'Leary was awarded the December officer of the month for his investigative work during a Sept. 22, 2012, burglary on Heritage Hill Road. O'Leary was unable to attend Monday's event.

"We wanted to recognize him for an excellent job with the investigation," Kulhawik said.

O'Leary is credited with locating some of the items stolen from a safe in the burglary.


Distinguished Service awards were also given at the ceremony to Walsh, Lt. Shawn Wong Won and officers Hector Delgado and James Mosher for their work during the Hillside Place standoff.



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Police & Fire

Lt. James Walsh Named 2012 Officer of the Year

Led department's response in October to man barricaded in home with a rifle.

By [Harold F. Cobin](#) [Email the author](#) January 29, 2013

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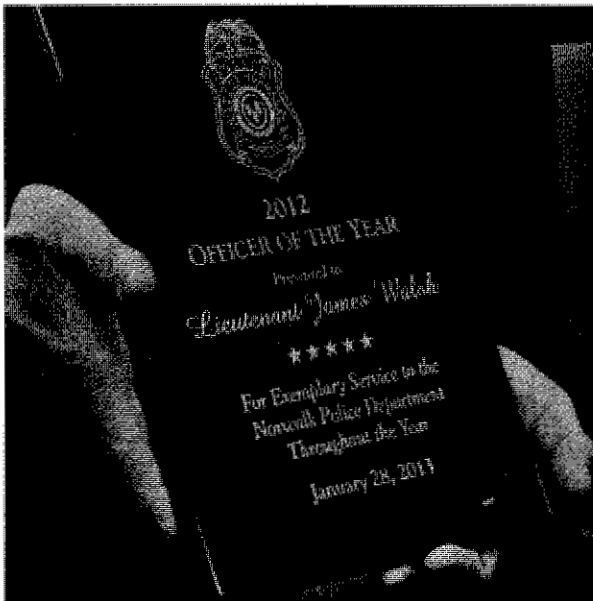
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Plaque presented to Lt. James Walsh during presentation naming him 2012 Officer of the Year.

Credit

The police lieutenant who led the department's response in October to a [man barricaded in his home with a rifle](#) was named Officer of the Year Monday by the city's Police Commission.

James Walsh, who was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in July, also performed outstandingly at several other incidents during the year, said Police Chief James Kulhawik during the commission's January meeting in Police Headquarters.

"The deputy chief and I reviewed Officer of the Month (awards) for 2010," Kulhawik said, "and it was clear once we looked at everything that there was really only one choice for Officer of the Year for 2012."

Walsh has led the department's day shift patrol operations since his promotion to lieutenant.

"If there's a serious call that happens and (Deputy Chief David Wrinn and I) know that Jim's responding, we both look at each other and say, 'O.K. We don't have to worry about it because

he's the best.' "

During the October incident, police were advised that a man, later identified as William Loeffel, was inside a two-family house at 4 Hillside Pl. with a rifle and he intended to kill himself.

The police response quickly ramped after a dispatcher contacted Loeffel by phone and he threatened to shoot anyone he saw. Loeffel said he would fire a warning shot and officers at the scene reported by radio they heard a shot fired.

The house is next door to Benjamin Franklin school, and Walsh ordered dispatchers to contact officials there and lock it down. Walsh also ordered the city to use a reverse 911 system that could contact every phone number in the neighborhood and advise occupants they should remain inside.

Police negotiator Lt. Shawn Wong Won contacted Loeffel by phone, and about an hour and 15 minutes later, Loeffel agreed to exit his residence unarmed and be taken into custody.

Police said Loeffel had a Remington 700 bolt action rifle with an attached scope loaded with .308 caliber, full metal-jacketed cartridges.

During Monday's meeting, Wong Won and Walsh received the department's Distinguished Service Award for their actions that day.

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CERTIFICATION

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