



Kronenwetter Police Department

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Daniel Joling
CHIEF OF POLICE

Terry McHugh
LIEUTENANT

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer: Officer Chris Smart

Type of Incident: Illegal Duplication & Manufacture of DVD's, KP 10-234

Submitted By: Lieutenant Terry McHugh

SYNOPSIS OF EVENT

On February 17th, 2010, KPD was contacted by an investigator from the Motion Picture Association in reference to a Village resident who was believed to be illegally duplicating and selling DVD'S. Officer Smart volunteered to lead the investigation and worked with the Motion Picture Association, who made an undercover purchase from the resident. Once the DVD was inspected and there was confirmation that it was in fact illegally burned, Officer Smart obtained a search warrant for the residence.

Officers executed the search warrant on March 28th, 2010, and located copious amounts of physical evidence. As officers searched the residence, they located evidence in virtually every corner of the home. In addition, the Motion Picture Association Investigator, Ken Klitzke, advised that in all his years of investigating illegal DVD burning, he had never seen anything of this magnitude. The amount of physical evidence was so overwhelming that officers had to rent a large U Haul truck in order to transport it all back to the police department. The full amount of illegally burned DVD's was later counted and it amounted to a staggering total of 14,515.

Unfortunately, the search warrant was just the tip of the iceberg as far as the investigation went and Officer Smart would end up continuing to investigate this case for more than a year and a half. Over the course of this time, the case bounced back and forth between the Federal Court system and the State Court system and Officer Smart was constantly being assigned additional investigative tasks. During this time, he worked with agencies such as the US Attorney's Office, the FBI, the US Postal Inspectors, the WI Dept. of Justice, and the Marathon County DA's Office. All told, this case required 29 reports and the amount of paperwork was so great that it filled 3 large binders.

Even though this case took approximately three years to come to fruition, Officer Smart never stopped working to ensure that the defendant was held responsible. His tireless efforts and infinite patience were instrumental in seeing this case through to its final disposition. Ultimately, the defendant accepted a plea in State Court in order to avoid prosecution in Federal Court. The defendant became a convicted felon and was rightfully held accountable for her actions, thus bringing the case to a successful conclusion.

For his tremendous efforts, Officer Smart received a laudatory letter from Assistant US Attorney Tim O'Shea. I cannot put into words the unbelievable amount of time and work Officer Smart put into this case and I would submit that we have never had a case yet which has required as much follow up and persistence as this case generated. Despite the grueling amount of follow up needed, Officer Smart never complained; nor did he ever put forth anything less than 100 percent effort. I find Officer Smart's exceptional dedication to duty remarkable and clearly worthy of recognition. His hard work reflects great credit upon himself, the Kronenwetter Police Department, and law enforcement as a whole.

Daniel L. Joling
Chief of Police

