



KRONENWETTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

“Community Focused, People First”

Established 2004

**CHIEF OF POLICE
DANIEL L. JOLING**

**POLICE LIEUTENANT
TERRY P. McHUGH**

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer: Officers Luis Lopes-Serrao and Chris Smart

Date Awarded: 01/25/15

Type of Incident: Burglary Investigation KP14-453

Submitted By: Lieutenant Terry McHugh

SYNOPSIS OF EVENT

On June 5, 2014 at 11:10 pm, Officer Lopes responded to a report of a residential burglary in which the subjects not only burglarized the victim’s home, but also stole, forged, and passed one of his checks. Through his investigation, Officer Lopes learned one of the suspects passed the stolen check at the US Bank in Rib Mountain while another suspect cashed the victim’s stolen change at a “CoinStar” machine at the Pick and Save in Rothschild, WI.

Officer Lopes enlisted the assistance of day shift Officer Chris Smart, who followed up on tasks such as securing video, interviewing additional subjects and witnesses, and obtaining a subpoena for bank records. Each officer worked countless hours on this investigation, gathering facts and evidence as they progressed. The investigation spanned almost a month and a half and included eight reports plus interviews with no less than nine people. During this time frame, both officers not only worked this investigation, but also handled their regular patrol responsibilities.

Ultimately, the officers identified four subjects and referred them for various charges ranging from misdemeanor theft to felonies such as burglary and forgery. Due to their outstanding efforts, the officers were also able to recover most of the stolen property.

The amount of dedication in this case is noteworthy for several reasons. First, Officer Lopes works a permanent night shift and therefore his ability to follow up on cases is limited. Despite this hurdle, he was able to do a great deal of follow up on this case and oversaw it as the case agent throughout the entire investigation. In addition, Officer Smart put in a tremendous number of hours obtaining a subpoena and subsequent records, as well as interviewing additional parties involved in the incident.

Often, citizens do not understand or witness the hard work put into complex investigations such as these. When an officer takes an initial report on calls of this nature, it is often only the beginning of what can turn out to be days, weeks or even months of investigation. Both officers displayed commendable devotion to duty and a spirit of teamwork that embodies our profession. Their work reflects great credit upon themselves, the Kronenwetter Police Department, and Law Enforcement as a whole.

Daniel L. Joling
Chief of Police

