

New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement
Award Criteria

*****Nominations should be made for endeavors occurring between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2022.***

*****All nominees must be employed as a law enforcement officer with a local, county, state or federal law enforcement agency within the State of New Jersey except for the benefactor and civilian award nominees.***

*****There will be one recipient per award category for each year respectively***

Achievement in Public Safety/Departmental Award:

This award will be given to an organization that works to promote enthusiasm, harmony, gender equity, and diversity in the organization and community as a whole. The nominee demonstrates an open attitude, attentiveness to community needs and concerns, and a commitment to equitable treatment and the promotion of diversity. The organization exemplifies professional integrity and devotion to public safety.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer who has taken a long-term leadership role in which they have made extraordinary contributions within their respective organization. Nominees must have no less than twenty years in direct support and/or service to the law enforcement community. Nominees must have made significant and meritorious contributions that have positively impacted the law enforcement community during their career.

The Abigail Powlett Police Officer of the Year Award:

Officer Powlett was the first female law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in the State of New Jersey on March 15, 1985. She served three years with the Plainfield Police Department and is survived by her mother and two children.

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer dedicated to improving the lives of citizens in the communities in which they serve. Through individual deed(s), this officer symbolizes the profession of law enforcement. The Officer of the Year is an individual who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in carrying out of their duties. Extraordinary valor, investigative work, community policing efforts, other police endeavors and/or an outstanding nature will qualify for consideration of this award. This award denotes the highest level of achievement among officers.

Heroism Award:

This award recognizes a law enforcement officer who performed a lifesaving act under extraordinary circumstances. This law enforcement officer has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at risk to one's self.

Valor Award:

This award recognizes a law enforcement officer who has demonstrated boldness, determination and bravery in the face of great danger. The nominee demonstrates to some great degree characteristics of selflessness, personal courage, and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Service Award:

This award recognizes notable acts of service that need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self, but put into practice law enforcement skills and/or ideals. This law enforcement officer has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the law enforcement profession.

Investigative Excellence Award:

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer who conducted a comprehensive investigation which led to the arrest and successful prosecution of a subject which caused significant impact by thwarting the criminal enterprise or the exposure of a major criminal conspiracy.

Prosecutorial Award:

This award shall be given to a prosecutor who has performed his or her duties with outstanding performance, enthusiasm, teamwork and integrity. The nominee has secured conviction(s) of notorious criminal(s) in the pursuit of justice.

Civilian Service Award:

This award will be given to a civilian employee in a law enforcement or public safety organization whose work is in direct support of the profession. Through individual deed, this person exemplifies dedication to the profession of law enforcement and the citizens in the communities in which they serve. The nominee should be an individual who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in the carrying out of their duties.

Community Impact Award:

This award will be given to any law enforcement officer who has demonstrated devotion to community service as well as improving the conditions within a community. This includes contribution to non-profit organizations and volunteer efforts to community causes. The nominee fosters a positive relationship between law enforcement officers and the citizens within the State of New Jersey.

Benefactor Award:

This award will be given to a citizen, community member, business or volunteer organization which supports women in law enforcement or the law enforcement community. The nominee demonstrates a continuing commitment to service and leadership support to the police community.