

New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement

Award Criteria

*Nominations are for endeavors occurring between January 1st, 2025 & December 31st, 2025.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 2, 2026.*

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.

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.

The Jacqueline Montanaro 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 oneself.

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 Excellence 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.

Prosecutorial Commitment Award:

This award shall be given to a prosecutor who has performed his or her duties through their dedication to establishing connections with law enforcement and our communities and in turn has had a great impact on the community.

Civilian Service Award:

This award will be given to any non-sworn law enforcement professional employed by a public safety agency 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 contributions 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

Community Innovation Award:

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer to recognize creative and innovative projects or initiatives that have positively impacted the community. This nominee must go above and beyond our call of duty to showcase the positive aspects of community policing in New Jersey.

Community Outreach and Engagement Award

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer to acknowledge the positive outreach and engagement work being done with our communities. This award acknowledges an officer that has actively engaged with the community to foster trust and build positive bonds.

Corrections Impact Award

This award will be given to a corrections police officer who has dedicated their career to the safety and security of the unique community they serve. This person display the utmost of integrity, positively impact the culture of their agency through their individual mindset and actions, and strive for professional excellence.

Rising Star Award:

This award will be given to a law enforcement officer who is currently within their first five years of service and has gone above and beyond. This officer displays the highest standards and work ethic in law enforcement.