

May 29, 2024

Top Firefighter Nomination
Village of Wellington Public Safety Committee
12300 Forest Hill Blvd.
Wellington, FL 33414

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to nominate EMS Captain Jessica Banks for the prestigious Firefighter of the Year award. EMS Captain Banks, a mother of two, has been an exemplary member of our department since 2006. Over the last 18 years, EMS Captain Banks has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, and a commitment to excellence, which truly sets her apart. Not only has she climbed the ranks serving as a Paramedic, a Lieutenant, a Captain, and now EMS Captain, but she is also a Registered Nurse. She also spent several years working in fire rescue's Medical Services Division as the Hospital Liaison.

EMS Captain Banks came to work in Battalion 2 as the EMS Captain on A Shift in January. Her contributions to our team in such a short time are numerous and impactful. She recently organized and delivered battalion-wide pediatric cardiac arrest training to all 9 stations in Battalion 2. Her technical skills as a paramedic and registered nurse as well as a firefighter are exceptional. She consistently performs at the highest level during both training exercises and real-world emergencies. She is known for her calm demeanor under pressure, which has been crucial in many high-stakes situations.

Beyond her operational excellence, Jessica is a leader within our department. She has participated as a subject matter expert on many promotional exam processes for multiple ranks. She mentors new paramedics, sharing her extensive knowledge and experience to help them develop into skilled and confident first responders. Her ability to inspire and motivate her colleagues has significantly strengthened our team cohesion and effectiveness. She has truly been an asset to not only our organization but to the community we serve.

Jessica Banks embodies the qualities of an outstanding firefighter—courage, dedication, skill, and a relentless drive to serve and protect. Her contributions to

our department and the community are immeasurable, and she is highly deserving of the Firefighter of the Year award.

Thank you for considering EMS Captain Banks for this honor. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Amanda Vomero
District Chief
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
avomero@pbc.gov
561.214.3263

Top Firefighter Nomination 2024

March 23, 2024

Captain Cliff Mike Station 27 B-shift

Captain Mike is a solid officer that handles his station and crew in a responsible manner. He is aware of everyone's strengths and weaknesses and utilizes his personnel to accomplish a consistent service to the Wellington Community. I have the utmost confidence that Captain Mike abilities and following through on accurate Command Staff messages. He runs a tight ship and the result is an expectation to provide excellent customer service.

Aaron C. Pribyl, Battalion Chief
Battalion 2 / BC28 / B-shift
1040 Royal Palm Beach Blvd
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
District 8 Road Patrol

TO: Lt. Robert Humphrey

DATE: May 22, 2024

FROM: Sgt. Matthew DeJoy

SUBJECT: Nomination for Village of Wellington Top Cop – D/S Jeffrey Taschner #6982

I am recommending Deputy Sheriff (D/S) Jeffrey Taschner #6982 for the Village of Wellington Top Cop award. Over the last year, the need for increased traffic enforcement and promotion of traffic safety throughout the village was identified primarily through an uptick in traffic complaints and traffic crashes. During that time, D/S Taschner quickly identified key areas where traffic crashes, as well as complaints of reckless/aggressive driving and speeding were most prevalent. D/S Taschner tirelessly engaged in ongoing traffic enforcement and education throughout these areas, leading the district in traffic enforcement stats and having the fourth highest traffic enforcement stats in the entire county.

From April 1, 2023, to April 1, 2024, D/S Taschner conducted traffic stops on 1,955 vehicles and issued 2,221 citations, 195 written warnings, and hundreds of additional verbal warnings. Additionally, D/S Taschner has arrested 21 people for driving without a license, 36 for driving with a Suspended Driver's License, 12 for Reckless Driving, and 6 for Fleeing/Eluding. D/S Taschner also provides extensive education for all the motorists he comes in contact with in order to promote traffic safety and prevent repeat offenses. During the aforementioned enforcement and education actions, D/S Taschner has always maintained the utmost professionalism and portrays PBSO in the most positive light possible through embracing ongoing partnerships with the public.

In addition to his unwavering dedication to traffic safety, D/S Taschner also had several exemplary cases to include the following:

On 09/21/2023, D/S Taschner conducted traffic enforcement on Lyons Rd., near the Olympia community. Upon conducting a traffic stop of a motorist for speeding, an unrelated motorist who was upset by the sight of police in the area began revving its engine at D/S Taschner. The vehicle then rapidly accelerated towards D/S Taschner who was outside of his patrol vehicle talking to the other motorist he had stopped. The vehicle came within inches of striking D/S Taschner and fled southbound on Lyons Rd. at a high rate of speed. D/S Taschner, despite almost being struck, was able to maintain his composure and complete his original traffic stop and then conduct an investigation into the subject who assaulted him. During the course of his investigation, he was able to positively identify the driver and the vehicle that nearly struck him. D/S Taschner developed probable cause for Aggravated Assault on a Law enforcement Officer and Reckless Driving. D/S Taschner later located the subject and took him into custody without incident.

On 09/30/2023, D/S Taschner was patrolling Forest Hill Blvd., and Lyons Rd., near Palm Beach Central High School. While doing so, he observed a black Infiniti Q50 speeding in excess of 70mph in a 45mph zone. D/S Taschner attempted a traffic stop of the vehicle, however, it recklessly fled, endangering numerous other motorists and pedestrians.

D/S Taschner followed proper policy and elected to not pursue the vehicle, but rather to safely conduct an investigation. D/S Taschner conducted a thorough and complete investigation, identifying the driver shortly thereafter. The driver was found to be a habitual traffic offender with an extensive traffic history including 13 suspensions, previous convictions for fleeing/eluding, and dozens of citations. D/S Taschner later developed probable cause to arrest the driver for Fleeing/Eluding, Habitual Traffic Offender, and Reckless Driving. This led to the eventual location and arrest of the suspect by the District 8 Street Crimes Unit for these charges as well as additional charges for the suspect possessing a large quantity of narcotics and a firearm.

On 11/02/2023, D/S Taschner conducted covert traffic enforcement when he observed a speeding vehicle nearly strike another deputy conducting a traffic stop on Forest Hill Blvd. D/S Taschner caught up to the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. While writing the motorist several citations, D/S Taschner developed reasonable suspicion that the driver was impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. A DUI investigation was conducted which resulted in the arrest of the driver for DUI.

In addition to the aforementioned criminal cases, D/S Taschner also had many noteworthy traffic stops for extremely dangerous driving. A summary of some of these from late 2023 includes the following:

D/S Taschner witnessed a 2014 Nissan 370z traveling at a high rate of speed and operating in an aggressive manner weaving in and out of traffic. The vehicle narrowly missed a collision with another motorist which prompted D/S Taschner to take swift action. He followed the vehicle and navigated safely through heavy traffic to maintain visual control of the vehicle. Finally, when it was safe to do so, D/S Taschner conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver who claimed to just be having a “really bad day.” D/S Taschner maintained the utmost professionalism and educated the driver regarding the extreme danger of his driving. The driver was receptive to D/S Taschner despite being issued numerous citations including Aggressive Careless Driving. This was an example of a driver with no regard for the safety of others who were immediately identified, stopped, and cited for his reckless behavior.

While conducting speed enforcement on Forest Hill Blvd., D/S Taschner observed a silver Mazda Hatchback driving at a high rate of speed eastbound on Forest Hill Blvd. near Block Island Rd. The radar device clocked the Mazda at 76mph in a 45mph zone and later at 56 MPH in a 30mph zone which is a heavily populated neighborhood where children play. A traffic stop was conducted and D/S Taschner quickly realized that the underage driver only had a Learner’s Permit. The young driver was cited for Aggressive Careless Driving, Speeding 30+mph Over the Limit, and a Learner’s Permit violation. D/S Taschner educated the young driver and elected to have his vehicle removed by a family member instead of towing it to limit the hardship it would place on the family.

D/S Taschner was patrolling Forest Hill Blvd. at Wellington Trace when he observed a 2019 silver Honda traveling at a high rate of speed. The Honda was weaving in and out of traffic with complete disregard for the safety of other motorists and pedestrians in the area, nearly striking another vehicle in the process. D/S Taschner’s radar clocked the vehicle as a speed of 67mph in a 40mph zone. The driver admitted to wrongdoing and later thanked D/S Taschner despite being issued a criminal traffic citation for Reckless Driving, as well as two other traffic citations.

D/S Taschner was conducting speed enforcement west of Panther Run Elementary School during school zone hours (which limits the speed to 20mph). While doing so, he observed a black BMW SUV traveling east inside the school zone at a high rate of speed cutting in and out of the slower traffic. D/S Taschner promptly conducted a traffic stop and upon making contact with the driver, found that she was hostile and extremely uncooperative, refusing to answer general questions. D/S Taschner explained the reason for the stop and the driver completely refused to acknowledge him any further. Despite her demeanor and previous reckless behavior in a school zone, D/S Taschner maintained his composure and handled the stop in a calm and professional manner. The result was the motorist receiving a total of 2 criminal traffic citations and 2 traffic citations.

Despite some of the more profound cases as described above, the vast majority of traffic stops D/S Taschner initiated resulted in motorists displaying positive cooperation and apologies for their actions. D/S Taschner consistently treats all citizens with respect and dignity, focusing on the goal of traffic safety and education, rather than punishment.

In totality, I would like to commend D/S Taschner for his excellence and nominate him for this award due to his consistent, unwavering, and relentless pursuit of traffic safety and commitment to the citizens of both the county and the Village of Wellington.

PALM BEACH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF RIC L. BRADSHAW



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

District 8 - Wellington

TO: Wellington Public Safety Committee

DATE: June 5, 2024

FROM: Sergeant James Benedict

SUBJECT: Wellington Top Cop

I would like to nominate Agent Terrence McDonald ID# 30986 for the Wellington Top Cop. The Village of Wellington is fortunate to have an Agent like Terrence McDonald. Agent McDonald is dedicated to keeping the Village safe. He prides himself on keeping dangerous drugs and criminals off the streets. He has a passion for locating subjects who are detrimental to society. From the moment he comes in he is investigating and researching past and future incidents that have and or will affect the Village. He is the senior Agent on the Street Team and his experience and professionalism is a guiding figure on the team.

Here are some examples of Agent McDonald's work: during the 2022-2023 holiday season conducting surveillance on a holiday operation plan at the Wellington Green Mall, Agent McDonald observed a suspicious Black Kia. A subject exited the Kia and approached another vehicle in the parking lot. The vehicle continued to drive around the mall parking lot as he instructed the other agents to assist with surveillance. Agent McDonald conducted a traffic stop on the black Kia. The vehicle was occupied by three Hispanic males. Agent McDonald made contact with the driver. Agent McDonald observed the handle of a handgun sticking out of the driver's pants. While removing the driver from the vehicle the driver attempted to grab the firearm and un-holster it. Agents were able to gain control and place him into custody. While placing the driver into custody the two passengers fled from the vehicle towards an entrance to the mall. A perimeter was established and P.B.S.O. Eagle, K-9 and multiple deputies were called to assist. One passenger was apprehended after a foot pursuit at the entrance to JC Penny's. The second passenger fled on foot towards Wellington Regional Medical Center. The second passenger made entry into a medical building and was hiding. All buildings were being searched. The Eagle spotted the passenger fleeing from the building. The passenger was surrounded and apprehended without further incident.

The following items were recovered from the vehicle: Three firearms, AR 15 magazines loaded with green tip (vest penetrators), multiple 9mm round cartons, 99 THC cartridges, and packaged marijuana. One firearm was reported stolen from West Palm Beach. Detectives responded to the scene to conduct interviews reference the stolen firearm while Agent McDonald and other members of the District 8 Street Crimes Unit were working on fresh charges and keeping the crime scene secure. The subjects were documented gang members (Bloods). The three suspects showed no respect or fear for law enforcement putting the many shoppers at the mall in danger. Agent McDonald was tasked with protecting the shoppers at the mall during the busy holiday season. Agent McDonald and the other members of the Street Team risked their lives to keep the public safe. Agent McDonald showed great diligence and pride in his job.

Another shining example of how Agent McDonald puts the welfare and safety of the citizens of Wellington above his own. On April 15th District 8 deputies received information via dispatch that a white cargo van was driving recklessly and the driver was possible intoxicated. The van was driving throughout Wellington driving up and down dark roads. A citizen called it in and was following the vehicle as deputies were heading to the area. The citizen lost sight of the vehicle. Deputies located the vehicle driving West on South Shore Blvd and then East on 120 Street South. Deputies attempted to stop the vehicle by initiating lights and sirens. The vehicle refused to stop and continued East on 120th. Agent McDonald stayed with the vehicle causing the driver to drive off the road into a field but had to stop short of a fence. The driver of the van exited and began to run from the scene jumping a fence heading out into a large dark field. P.B.S.O. Eagle and K-9 Units were in-route. Agent McDonald immediately jumped the fence and pursued the suspect on foot into the dark field. Agent McDonald caught and tackled the subject in the field where the subject dropped a bloody knife. The suspect's hands were also covered in blood. As Agent McDonald brought the suspect, back to the van we observed in the front passenger seat was a Hispanic male with multiple stab wounds and lacerations to the neck.

Agent McDonald advised via radio there was a victim of a murder in the van. Agent McDonald began setting up a large crime scene and shut down the road. There was another subject balled up hiding in the back of the van. The weapon was secured and a pristine crime scene was established. Everything was perfect for when VCD Homicide arrived and took over the investigation. Agent McDonald's quick reaction and tactical approach took a dangerous killer into custody with no injuries to himself or anyone else. Agent McDonald's dedication and drive prevented a known killer from escaping and made sure he did not make contact with any citizens

Agent McDonald has worked approximately 130 cases and made 58 felony and 26 misdemeanor arrests. Agent McDonald has authored 4 search warrants and initiated 380 traffic stops recovering 4 stolen vehicles and 9 guns. He has conducted over 1000 of surveillance and investigative hours to assure the Village of Wellington remains safe and well protected. When you put your head on your pillow you can sleep sound knowing he is out there watching over the Village.

Agent McDonald is my training Agent and is admired by his fellow agents as well as myself. I am grateful to have such an experienced and skilled agent under my command and I am sure the Village feels the same way. For Agent McDonald's daily actions, I believe he is the Top Cop for the Village of Wellington.