

Muncie Police Merit Commission

Call to order:

A meeting of the Muncie Police Merit Commission was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 300 N. High Street Muncie, IN 47305- City Hall Auditorium
Jonathan Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm

Roll Call:

Attendees included –Jonathan Mitchell, Phillip Miller, Deb Mace, Dea Bell and Chief Sloan

Members not in attendance:

Members not in attendance- Attorney Mark Ervin

Approval of minutes:

Dea Bell made a motion to accept the April 20, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, Deb Mace seconded the motion. Motion to accept meeting minutes as presented is carried by voice vote.

Business from Chief Sloan:

Chief Sloan read Commendations for both Officer Chris Wells and Officer Josh Carrington. Both Officers were awarded the Muncie Police Department Medal of Valor at the Policeman's Park on May 4, 2021 as presented by the Muncie Police administrative team, Mayor Dan Ridenour and United States Senator Todd Young.

Business from Attorney Mark Ervin:

n/a

Other Business:

n/a

Adjournment:

Deb Mace made a motion to adjourn. Dea Bell seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn is carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.



Muncie Police Department

MUNCIE, INDIANA

Nathan A. Sloan
Chief of Police

Melissa Pease
Deputy Police Chief

Christopher Deegan
Deputy Police Chief

5-4-21

On March 3 2021, Officers from the Muncie Police Department were called to the Morningside area on a report of two subjects arguing in a red Trailblazer and the possibility of shots being fired. When the officers arrived, the male driver of the Trailblazer admitted he had firearms, threatened to shoot himself, and drove off at a high rate of speed with his female occupant. Due to the suspect's erratic driving behavior and the presence of school children, the pursuit was discontinued.

A short time later, the Delaware County Sheriff's office came into contact with the same vehicle stuck in a farm field in the county and attempted to make contact with the occupants. Officers quickly determined that the male occupant was armed and he advised that they were going to have to kill him or he would kill himself. The male suspect further advised that he was going to kill his female passenger. Somehow the suspect managed to free his vehicle from the field mud and another pursuit began. The Muncie Police SWAT team was training at the time and was activated to assist county officers.

Officers from numerous agencies, including the Muncie Police Department, responded to this critical incident. During the initial stages of the pursuit, the suspect fired rounds from the Trailblazer and struck two pursuing county police vehicles, one of which was shot in the driver's side window narrowly missing Chief Deputy Jeff Stanley. The suspect also fired at innocent civilians in Selma.

Muncie S.W.A.T. Officers Chris Wells and Officer Josh Carrington were pursuing the suspect together in a police vehicle and maneuvered their way to the front of the pursuit amidst dozens of other officers. Once at the head of the pursuit, the officers followed the suspect back into Muncie as he continued to fire weapons, drive against traffic, and endanger the public. The pursuit continued through the downtown area and then continued north into heavy traffic near Central High School. The suspect fired more shots at the officers and innocent civilians in the area.

It became clear that the suspect, identified as Jonathan Levi Allen, had committed several serious crimes, was determined to take innocent life, and would attempt escape by any means possible. Upon receiving orders from command staff, Officer Wells and Officer Carrington worked as a team to stop the threat. Officer Carrington was driving the lead pursuit vehicle as Officer Wells leaned out the passenger window and steadied his rifle.

From one moving platform to another, at 40mph and at significant distance, Officer Wells fired one round from his rifle that traveled through the SUV's tinted rear window, through the rear head rest, through the front headrest, and struck Allen in the head. The SUV wrecked, Allen was taken into custody, and the hostage emerged unharmed.



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Nathan A. Sloan
Chief of Police

Melissa Pease
Deputy Police Chief

Christopher Deegan
Deputy Police Chief

Consider all the things that were going on around the two officers and what they had to deal with: the stress of a lengthy pursuit, radio traffic, vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, consideration of backstop, bumps in the road, wind in the face, paying attention to a reticle, trigger control, breathing, etc. This level of skill and teamwork is what the Muncie Police Department and specifically the Muncie Police Department S.W.A.T. team trains and for. Significant resources have been allocated towards training within the department and this is reflected in the level of expertise and ability of the officers. In this instance, Officer Wells and Officer Carrington performed most admirably in a dire situation and without question saved lives.

For their heroic actions on March 3 2021, Officer Wells and Officer Carrington were awarded the Muncie Police Department Medal of Valor on May 4, 2021 as presented by the Muncie Police administrative team, Mayor Dan Ridenour, and United States Senator Todd Young.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan A. Sloan #0104", written over a horizontal line.

Nathan A. Sloan #0104
Chief of Police



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Nathan A. Sloan #0104
Chief of Police