

Florida Cities of Excellence Awards

City Employee of the Year – City of Orlando – Bryant Doyle, K-9 Officer

K-9 Officer Bryant Doyle has been with the Orlando Police Department for more than 18 years, the past five with his K-9 partner, Taiko. Officer Doyle and Taiko are the heart and soul of the Department's K-9 unit. Officer Doyle and K-9 Taiko excel at their job with integrity, sound judgment and a "can-do" attitude. It is with great respect and admiration that we nominate Officer Doyle and his K-9 partner Taiko for Florida League of Cities – City Employee of the Year.

The job of a K-9 handler is extremely complex and dangerous. One not only has to perform in the standard capacity as a law enforcement officer, but he must also train, deploy, control and care for his K-9 partner. Officer Doyle continuously displayed exceptional work product and dependability with K-9 Taiko.

Officer Doyle and Taiko worked the midnight shift this past year (9:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.). They would alternate between working Sunday through Wednesday for one month and then switch to Wednesday through Saturday which required them to work eight straight days every other month to ensure coverage for the streets of Orlando. The K-9 unit operated with several vacancies in 2007 and overtime shifts were created to fill these openings. Officer Doyle and Taiko worked several of the overtime shifts, which either started right before or after his assigned midnight shift. Schedule changes with little to no notice were frequent in the K-9 unit this past year and Officer Doyle was always willing and eager to change his schedule to assist other K-9 handlers.

As a result of Officer Doyle and Taiko's numerous arrests for violent offenders, he had to attend court on a weekly basis this past year during daytime hours (opposite Officer Doyle's assigned shift). Criminal court can last from several hours to an entire day. Officer Doyle did not miss a single shift due to his court responsibilities. Several of his cases led to long prison sentences for the accused.

Officer Doyle and Taiko were also eager to participate in the additional responsibilities of citizen outreach with K-9 demonstrations for public schools, political seminars, community events and several other organizations' functions. Last year, the K-9 unit performed more than 150 demonstrations for the public. The demonstrations usually involved a lecture on the K-9 unit and K-9s in general, a question and answer session, followed by a physical demonstration of the K-9 performing several techniques. Officer Doyle and K-9 Taiko performed several of these demonstrations during their non-scheduled shift time.

Officer Doyle was also relied on heavily in the selection and training of new K-9 units. Officer Doyle was instrumental in picking three new K-9s, which he spent more than 32-weeks training them. Each K-9 completed the required training and passed the state certification on their first attempt, saving the City of Orlando tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of work hours in possible re-training and re-purchasing costs.

Officer Doyle's training expertise not only applies to animals, it applies to the officers who will one day handle the Department's K-9 units. Officer Doyle was the lead trainer for the unit this past year and researched, organized, scheduled and conducted weekly training for the entire K-9

unit. Training is critical for the K-9 unit and is a constant occurrence. Training handlers and their K-9 partners is a detailed and time consuming task. No two K-9s are alike, so Officer Doyle had to make each two-hour training session flexible in order to be successful. Last year, Officer Doyle successfully trained four new K-9 officers and their K-9 partners.

The K-9 team considers Officer Doyle and Taiko the unit's "lead team" because of their high quality of work, integrity and approach to the position. Officer Doyle and Taiko led the unit in arrests last year with a total of 60 arrests compared to 31 arrests by the next leading K-9 team. Last year, Officer Doyle and Taiko also confiscated more than 8.9 grams of crack cocaine, 622.5 grams of powder cocaine, 138.7 grams of cannabis, 22 MDMA tablets and 10 handguns. All this work was accomplished without Officer Doyle receiving a single formal or informal complaint.

Officer Doyle has a unique relationship with his K-9 partner, Taiko. He has spent hundreds of hours off-duty over the past several years training Taiko on his own. This extra training has paid off for the citizens of Orlando. Officer Doyle and Taiko track suspects over the worst terrain. They are the team called in when the trail has been lost or gone cold. Officer Doyle and Taiko also have a reputation for always being in the right place at the right time. Officer Doyle has an extensive knowledge of the layout of the City.

Listed below are a few cases Officer Doyle and K-9 Taiko worked this past year:

2007-029839, 01/23/07, 1:03 a.m.

The Orange County Sheriffs Office was in vehicle pursuit of two suspects wanted for over five Armed Robberies with guns. The pursuit passed Officer Doyle and the suspects abandoned their vehicle. Officer Doyle and K-9 Taiko caught both suspects and confiscated two guns. The two suspects were juveniles tried as adults. Both suspects received 20 year sentences.

2007-203937, 05/29/07, 9:49 p.m.:

A patrol officer checked out with a suspect who had illegal drugs on him. The suspect struck the officer and ran. Officer Doyle and K-9 Taiko responded approximately 10 minutes later. They tracked the suspect four blocks through residential yards and streets to the 4844 Tellson Pl.

Officer Doyle knocked on the door and spoke to the woman of the house. Officer Doyle saw the suspect run across the living room. Officer Doyle ran into the house and handcuffed the suspect.

It was later discovered the suspect was armed with a knife and had a history of burglary.

2007-308085, 08/06/07, 9:30 p.m.:

K-9 Officer Stanley fell into a mud/water hole. Officer Doyle pulled him to safety. Officer Stanley reported that he felt he would have drowned if Officer Doyle did not show up when he did.

The job of a K-9 handler can be best described as a multi-tasker. They not only do everything a patrol officer does, but have numerous other responsibilities. They are warriors, leaders, and community liaisons. Officer Doyle and his partner K-9 Taiko have performed all of these tasks and more with excellence. They have surpassed all job requirements and expectations which is

why Officer Doyle is an ideal candidate for the Florida League of Cities – City Employee of the Year Award.