



FORT WORTH
POLICE OFFICERS'
AWARD FOUNDATION

Contact: Kate Lattimore
817-546-8169
kate@pavlikandassociates.com

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For immediate release

**FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICERS' AWARDS
FOUNDATION HONORS EXEMPLARY SERVICE**

Fort Worth Officer Michael Ruelas was named Officer of the Year for 2014 at the 63rd Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the Fort Worth Club. Official host was the Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation. Platinum sponsors included the AM Pate Jr. Charitable Trust, R4 Foundation, Karen and Larry Anfin, Bell Helicopter, QuikTrip Corp., The Miles Foundation, Happy Davis Foundation and BNSF Foundation.

The honor for Commander of the Year went to Lieutenant Pedro Criado. Detective Charla Smith and Officer Mark Windsor were both honored with the Dwayne Freeto Service with Respect Award.

Other award nominees and award winners in their respective areas of assignment are:

Central Northwest Command

Officer Drew Hernandez

Officer Nathan Lehman

Officer Joseph Preston

Officer Kirby Proffitt Winner**

Officer Gregory Stanley

Officer Walter Watkins

(cont.)

Southeast Command

Officer Travis Chromaster

Officer Kyle Davis

Officer Edward Donnelly Winner**

Officer Thomas Dugan

Officer Rodney Gilbert

Officer William Margolis

Officer Darrin Parr

Officer Matthew Rushing

Officer Robert Sims

Detective Charla Smith

Officer Joshua Ward

Specialized Units

Detective Wayne Browning

Detective Jerardo (Jerry) Cedillo

Officer Clay Collins

Officer Nathan Danford

Officer Alfredo Dominguez

Officer Lorenzo Edwards

Officer Michael Johnson

Corporal Tracey Knight

Officer Renee Lamond

Officer Derrick Lopez Winner**

Detective Maricelia Maldonado

Officer Matthew McMeans

Officer Perry Moore

Detective Duc Nguyen

Detective Edward Raynsford

Officer Michael Ruelas

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Gilbert Banda Winner**

Sergeant Sean Lacroix

Sergeant Joe Loughman

Sergeant Douglas Lusty

Sergeant Matthew Mapes

Sergeant Todd Plowman

Commander of the Year

Lieutenant Pedro Criado Winner**

Lieutenant James Stockton

(cont.)

Officer of the Year, 2014 and Amon G. Carter Award Recipient - Officer Michael Ruelas

An integral member of the Fort Worth Fugitive Unit since 2004, Officer Michael Ruelas truly cares about the people who have become victims and wants them to receive justice. Officer Ruelas has remarkable computer skills and often uses technological know-how to help locate information about criminals—often even discovering their physical location. He works tirelessly to keep Fort Worth safe, often forgoing evenings at home to spend late nights in the office.

According to the nomination form, “Officer Ruelas has a knack for getting people to share the information that is necessary to put felons behind bars. He has a calm demeanor that naturally puts people at ease. The danger he encounters daily is something he doesn’t think twice about when conducting his job. He makes real sacrifices to ensure public safety.”

On August 03, 2014, several alleged gang members were at an afterhours nightclub in Fort Worth, where one suspect became involved in an argument with a rival gangmember. The dispute ended in gunfire and one person was killed. Officer Ruelas, along with Fort Worth Police Department’s fugitive unit, was asked to help locate six alleged gang members accused of murder. The investigation led officers to several locations over a period of a month. Eventually, all six suspects were taken into custody at different locations.

In another case in late 2014, Officer Ruelas assisted Homicide Detectives in finding a murder suspect. Over a period of several weeks, the fugitive was able to remain at large, at one point even escaping the net of an intensive manhunt involving numerous law enforcement agencies. After Officer Ruelas set up surveillance, the fugitive and a second person became suspicious and attempted to elude officers by ramming one of the police cars on the scene. The driver fled the scene on foot. Officer Ruelas chased him, tackled him, and took him into custody. The fugitive was booked on a murder warrant, and the driver was charged with Aggravated Assault of a Peace Officer.

“Officer Ruelas exemplifies the topnotch quality of our Fort Worth Police Officers. The Foundation is proud to honor this great group of men and women who keep Fort Worth safe,” said Larry Anfin, board president of the Foundation.

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