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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Officer Shad Grile of Anderson is Awarded the Police Officer of the Year Award



Pictured Above: Officer Shad Grile of Anderson Police Department accepting his award.

Indianapolis, IN (February 5, 2016) —The Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held their annual awards ceremony last month during the IACP Mid-Winter Conference. Among the honorees, was Officer Shad Grile of Anderson Police Department, winner of the 2015 Police Officer of the Year Award.

Indiana has a wealth of law enforcement professionals who go above and beyond the call of duty in pursuit of excellence. The IACP holds an annual awards ceremony in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Conference, to honor and promote excellence within the Indiana Law Enforcement community.

On July 3, 2015, shortly after 1:00 p.m., Officer Grile was dispatched to a shooting in a residential neighborhood located on Anderson’s south side. There had been no description of the shooter and Officer Grile was unsure if the shooter was still at the scene or how many people had been struck by the gunfire.

As Officer Grile arrived on the scene, he focused in on a white pick-up parked in front of a nearby home. The rear window of the vehicle had been shot numerous times. Near the pick-up, he observed Howard McCoy lying on the ground. McCoy had later been determined to have been the victim of multiple gunshot wounds. The scene was chaotic, with numerous people trying to get Officer Grile’s attention. In an attempt to sort through the chaos Officer Grile began yelling “Tell me about the shooter!” A woman standing nearby directed his attention to an individual standing near the victim and stated “He’s right there”.

The shooter, who had initially appeared to be unarmed, had blended into the crowd of onlookers. Upon realizing that Officer Grile had identified him, the shooter revealed that he had a handgun. The shooter fired several shots into the air and then pointed the gun directly at Officer Grile. Officer Grile drew his weapon and began moving to a position of cover behind his police car. Despite repeated orders to “Drop the gun!” the shooter began circling the police car in an attempt to outflank Officer Grile. Realizing that the shooter had already shot one person and was refusing to comply with his commands, Officer Grile came to the conclusion that he would have to use deadly force. Officer Grile fired several shots, continuing to fire until the shooter dropped to the ground. While the shooter eventually recovered from his injuries, he has been struck by several rounds, serving to neutralize the threat that he had presented to those in the area.

After this incident, Officer Grile forged a meaningful and lasting relationship with McCoy and his girlfriend, Mechelle Vanderboeck, who had been present at the scene. Officer Grile regularly visited them, first at the

hospital and later at their home. McCoy's inability to work left the couple in financial ruins. Learning of this, Officer Grile began to assist them financially. His daughter, Hannah, even opened a lemonade stand with the profits going to assist McCoy and Vanderboeck.

Jim Rhodes, Assistant Chief of the Anderson Police Department, nominated Grile for the 2015 Police Officer of the Year Award citing "devotion to duty, his selfless acts during the incident and after" as just a few of the reasons he is deserving of this award.

To see all the award winners from the IACP Mid-Winter Conference, please visit www.iacop.org.

About the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

The Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police represents in excess of 95% of municipal law enforcement from around the state of Indiana and has been chartered since 1922. It and its sister foundation provide educational training and benefits to its nearly 500 members.

The mission of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police is to promote professionalism, training and networking for the law enforcement executive and to enhance public awareness of law enforcement and public safety issues.

The Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police is an individual member organization consisting of ten local districts within the State of Indiana. Each District has its own elected two-year representative on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors develops policies and programs for the membership as a whole. To learn more about the IACP, please visit www.iacop.org.

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