



## **The Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to recognize Patrol Officer Jim Thomas as the September 2021 Police Officer of the Month.**

**Patrol Officer Jim (JT) Thomas** is surely “the apple that did not fall far from the tree!”

Jim’s father, retired CPD Officer John Thomas, was the epitome of Community Policing and an officer committed to community involvement. Jim has carried on that tradition, volunteering many times to help with community events while off duty, and pitching in financially to help community members.

When asked about Officer Thomas’ dedication to his profession, retired CPD Captain Keith Sulzer stated, “In addition to his workload on duty, Jim has volunteered to come out twice a month and do yard work at the Cleveland Police Foundation’s Officer Derek Owens’ Memorial Park located at 10404 Parkview. His commitment to the community and CPD surely gives me hope for the future.”

It is because of this commitment to the community and his profession that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name Patrol Officer Jim Thomas its **Police Officer of the Month for September 2021**.

[More about the Police Officer of the Month Program . . .](#)



## **The Cleveland Police Foundation proudly announces that the recipient of our Community Partner of the Month Award for September 2021 is the Amazon Distribution Center DCL7.**

**The Amazon Distribution Center DCL7** is a true supporter of the Cleveland Division of Police and especially the officers of the CPD First District!

Located at West 110th and Madison Avenue, the Amazon team is led by Angela Green, the force behind the many events they have assisted with. The group helped out at a recent school supply drive at the First District Police Station on West 130th Street. Not only did Angela and numerous Amazon employees assist at the event, they also provided much of the needed school supplies that were distributed and a disc jockey to provide music!

When asked about Amazon's participation, CPD Community Engagement Officer Kerry Adams stated, "Angela Green from Amazon has been amazing to work with at our previous events and has agreed to donate an estimated 300 coats to our upcoming coat drive to be held in November. She really is a very special person and our thanks goes out to Amazon DCL7 for their continued support."

It is because of their continued support of the Cleveland Division of Police and the CPD First District that the Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to name the Amazon Distribution Center DCL7 as its **Community Partner of the Month for September 2021**.

[More about the Community Partner of the Month Program . . .](#)

**Engage. Invest. Implement.**

**PLEASE HELP US...**

transform police culture to improve police community relations, and achieve a safer community for you and your family or business.



**VISION '21  
CAMPAIGN**

**CONSIDER BECOMING  
A FRIEND**

of the Cleveland Police Foundation, and receive some "cool" perks in appreciation for the support.



**Support Vision '21's Programs: Help the Police Help the Community**

Our mission is to strengthen the bonds between the Cleveland Division of Police and the citizens it serves, working together to make our city safer for all. To accomplish that goal, the CPF works proactively to support and invest in programs, community policing initiatives and engagement, events that foster stronger relationships between citizens and police officers, and police charities.

Your participation will make a direct impact on the future of our community and give you sense of pride knowing you are an official FRIEND of the Cleveland Police Foundation.

[More about the Friends program . . .](#)

## **BOLO**

OCTOBER 16, 2021

[Second District's 21st Annual Baby  
Shower](#)

Held for the benefit of Providence House  
1:00-4:00 PM

## **In the News Around Town**

### **Challenge Coins to Benefit the Cleveland Police Honor Guard**

A 22-year veteran of the Cleveland Division



of Police, Detective James Skernivitz was a victim of gun violence during an undercover drug operation ambush on September 3, 2020. "Skern" was also a member of the Honor Guard for 20 years and these coins honor his sacrifice.



The challenge coins are \$10 each. Please contact Bob Guttu at [rguttu@clevelandpolicefoundation.org](mailto:rguttu@clevelandpolicefoundation.org)

Thank you for remembering Detective Skernivitz and for supporting the Cleveland Police Honor Guard!

## Raising Funds for the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit

The tradition of the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit has always been dear to the hearts of the community, as demonstrated by the outpouring of support over the past few decades. Officially established in 1911, the team has been in several presidential inaugural parades, helped with crowd control, and spreads good cheer and PR throughout the City of Cleveland.



To further reinforce the future of the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit, the Challenge Coins are for sale at the stables at 1150 East 38th St. in Cleveland for \$10. If you choose to have them shipped, the cost is \$15. Please message the unit with your information via their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandPoliceMountedUnit>

Thank you for your support of this Cleveland tradition!

## Cleveland Police SWAT Officer Jonathan Rodriguez Retires

Officer Rodriguez was one of five Cleveland SWAT officers seriously hurt on June 5, 2020 during a crash while responding to a call on the near-east side. Jonathan sustained a paralyzing injury of his spinal cord. His rehabilitation therapy is continuing. PO Rodriguez, 31, was on the force for seven years. He was joined at his recent retire party by his wife Patrol



Officer Zuleika Rodriguez and their two young children.

Chief of Police Calvin Williams, police union officials, friends, and supporters cheered for the officer and his courage and willingness to put his life on the line. Outside the FOP Hall on Payne Avenue, police cars drove by in a parade of support. Please show your support by helping the Rodriguez family with ongoing expenses. Any donation can be made by [clicking here](#) or sending checks to: The Cleveland Police Foundation, 2301 Payne Ave, #201, Cleveland, Ohio, 44114. Please specify "PO Rodriguez" on your check or online contribution. Thank you!

## Congratulations to the new Cleveland Police Law Enforcement Explorers!

The Law Enforcement Explorers Program is a cooperative effort with the Boy Scouts of America. It is directed toward young men and women who have completed the eighth grade, are between 14 and 21 years old, and interested in law enforcement careers. The youth are offered experiential learning with lots of fun-filled, hands-on activities to promote growth and development.



But the celebration of the young Explorers was bittersweet as they learned that their commander, Cleveland Police Officer Rayshawn Rahim, was being deployed to go overseas with the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Rahim, on the force since 2014 will be gone at least six months. The officer compares his military duty to that of law enforcement and says, "I have a job to do and I am going to do my job, to the best of my ability."

*For more information on Explorers, contact CPD Community Policing at 216-623-5080.*

## Hispanic Police Officers Association at the UMADAOP Fair

The Hispanic Police Officers Association had the privilege of helping out at the community fair sponsored by the [Cleveland Hispanic UMADAOP](#) (Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Project).

Since 1989, Hispanic UMADAOP has existed to empower the Hispanic/Latino community in Cleveland to reduce the



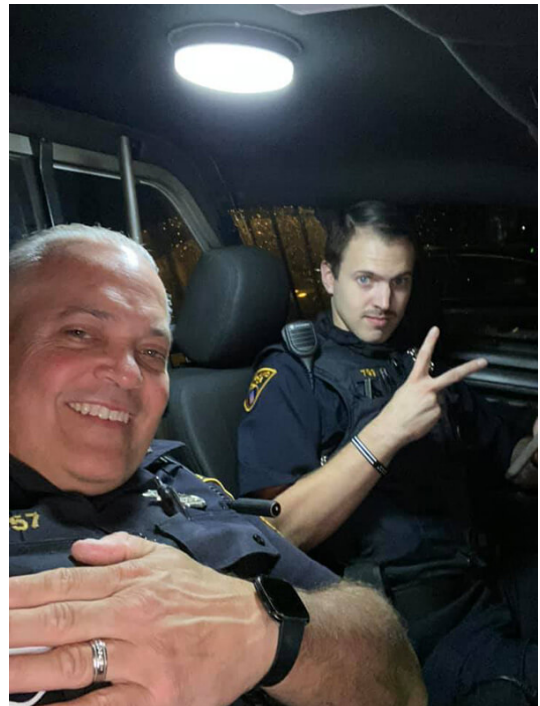
negative impacts of abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs through culturally sensitive, holistic prevention, education, intervention, and treatment programs.

UMADAOP accepts all ages and additionally offers counseling, family support and pregnancy/postpartum care.

## Like Father, Like Son

After Patrol Officer Max Estremera and his son Anthony had an opportunity to work together, they commented on their special moment:

“One of the greatest events of my career happened on September 21, 2021 when I had the opportunity to work with my son, Anthony Estremera. Anthony was hired in January 2020 [Max was hired in September 1998] and proudly serves the Second District. The highlight of our night was when we received an assignment for Domestic Violence, and how different generations of training and experience come to play on the assignment. Anthony handled the call as he was taught, thoroughly questioning both parties, gathering the facts. While talking to the 53-year-old male complainant, he felt comforted by my words and actions. He looked at Anthony and said, 'You should be more like your partner.' I chuckled to myself as he didn't know we were father and son.”



Max further stated: “Working the zone car together is a memory that will last a lifetime for me. I got to spend time with my son, see him in action, share in a comradery that few understand. I want to thank all the bosses that made it happen! It truly is a highlight of my career in Law Enforcement!”

Anthony posted: “It’s not every day that as a law enforcement officer you get a chance to work with your dad. Grateful for all the people who helped it to happen and glad I got to drag my dad over to a night shift a couple nights ago.”

Thank you to the Estremeras! A fine example of tradition in Blue!

## Barbers with a Mission

The second annual “Barbers with a Mission” event was organized by First District Community Engagement Officer Juan DeJesus. Local barbers came together and volunteered to provide free haircuts to the kids at Laura’s Home, part of the City Mission!

We are grateful to all of the barbers who volunteered their time to make this event a tremendous success. Thank you Marcus Gonzalez, Alex Cruz, and Alex P. from Ole G’s Barbershop, Antonio Andino from HeadQuarters Barbershop, and Manny Salcedo from Barberia Cache! A tremendous job by all!



## We get mail!

### #Estremera

*Love the comments we got on Facebook RE father and son duo Max and Anthony Estrema. Both are on the force.*

"Wow! This is so great. Very happy they are able to experience these times together to make a positive difference in the world, and work together as father and son. May they always be at their best to serve and protect. God Bless." - Roelando Mirandilla

"My father was Sergeant when I started the department. He rotated every six weeks. After two years I was promoted to Sergeant and we relieved each other. He only got mad at me when I forgot and said 'Dad' in front of others. That sideways look..." - John Gregg

## Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

*The Cleveland Police Foundation in partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association presents these tips so residents can help to make our community safer.*





## Halloween Safety Tips

### WALK SAFELY

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing the street and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, face traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

### KEEP COSTUMES BOTH CREATIVE AND SAFE

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

### DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions in your car so you can concentrate on the road and surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn on your headlights.



- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., so be extra alert during those hours.

– *Safety is everyone's business. Practice good safety measures. Stay alert; if you see something, say something.*





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**CPF on Facebook** 

**The October 2021 *Partner***

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Forward

*The Cleveland Police Foundation is the official charity for the Cleveland Division of Police and the only organization authorized to solicit charitable contributions on its behalf.*

*In addition to providing funding for youth and community outreach programs, community policing and engagement initiatives, safety & crime prevention programs, and supporting the members of the Cleveland Division of Police to help them better perform their duties, the CPF proudly supports the following charities in accomplishing their mission.*



*Contributions to the CPF are tax deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code.*

[Donate Here](#)

*Thank you for supporting the mission of the CPF.*

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