

Peace Officer of the Year

North Metro Task Force

March 19, 2002

Nomination for Adams County Peace Officer of the Year

Please accept this as my nomination of Lieutenant Lori Moriarty and the members of the North Metro Task Force, for the Adams County Peace Officer of the Year Award.

The year 2001 has been an exceptionally busy and challenging year for the North Metro Task Force. Through the leadership of Lieutenant Moriarty the unit has distinguished itself as a leading drug enforcement unit in the State of Colorado. The task force is staffed by members of the Adams County Sheriff's Office and the police departments of Brighton, Broomfield, Commerce City, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster.

Lieutenant Moriarty and the members of the North Metro Task Force have raised the high professional standards of the unit through the implementation of innovative policies and high quality training, both within the unit and externally.

The North Metro Task Force in a vigorous and exhaustive battle against the illegal drug laboratories operating throughout Adams County has also been able to maintain an admirable record of undercover drug enforcement.

The strategy has included not only the identification, processing and dismantling of drug labs, along with arrests for manufacturing, but also a comprehensive program for the protection of the investigators and the education of the public about the hazards of drug labs and their toxic byproducts. The North Metro Task Force became the first drug enforcement unit in the State of Colorado to ensure every member of the task force received 40 hours of clandestine drug lab training in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (29CFR1910) as standards set by OSHA.

The task force implemented a strict protocol for the safe investigation of drug labs. This protocol is unprecedented in the State of Colorado because it involves a joint response with local fire departments and the Adams/Jeffco Haz-Mat Team as part of the standard response. The response is based upon drug lab enforcement in California, Utah, Kansas, Oregon,

Washington, Arizona and Ohio. The North Metro Task Force researched appropriate responses from these states where the lab problem has existed for several years. Through teamwork and consistently striving to improve the process, members of the task force were able to reduce the amount of time it took to investigate a lab without compromising safety.

The North Metro Task Force developed an 8-hour OSHA compliant safety course for first responders and through an aggressive training schedule, trained over 700 employees during 2001.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and as the host agency of the North Metro Task Force, I proudly submit this nomination for Lieutenant Lori Moriarty and the members of the North Metro Task Force to be considered as a team for the Adams County Peace Officer of the Year Award. Their dedication and commitment to excellence has set the tone for an incredibly high standard of professionalism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Nursey

Chief of Police

City of Thornton