



## Category E

### Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year

This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of a Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner for his or her contributions and outstanding performance in the field of crime prevention between October 2013 and September 2014.

#### Eligible:

- Any law enforcement employee
- Any business employee
- **Nominee must hold the designation Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner**
- **Nominee must be a member of the Florida Crime Prevention Association**

#### ***Nomination Criteria:***

- Any law enforcement employee, business employee, employed full time, either sworn or non-sworn, and who holds a Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner designation and is an FCPA member in good standing is eligible for this award.
- The Nomination can be made by any member of the agency or business employing the Practitioner, or by someone having knowledge of the Practitioners work.
- Nomination to include:
  - Name, rank and years of service in crime prevention
  - Description of the outstanding work accomplished between October 2013 and September 2014
  - Community group/area served by the Practitioner
  - List of the programs and responsibilities of the Practitioner during this time frame.
- **Nomination must include at least one (1) letter of recommendation from the Practitioners Chain of Command or organizational structure.**



## Florida Crime Prevention Association 2014 Awards Packet

A copy of the "Award Nomination Categories" page and the "Nomination Contact Information" page must accompany EACH nomination.

### Award Nomination Categories

Check one:

☐ Category A  
**Outstanding Crime Prevention Organization**

☐ Category B  
**Outstanding Crime Prevention Program**

☐ Category C  
**Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year**

☐ Category D  
**Crime Prevention Unit of the Year**

☒ Category E  
**Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year**

☐ Category F  
**New Horizon Award**

☐ Category G  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**

☐ Category H  
**President's Award** (*This award is presented by the FCPA President for outstanding commitment to the area of crime prevention. No nominations are accepted. See Category H, page 12, for additional information about this award*)



## Nomination Contact Information

### Name of Person or Group Being Nominated

Name / Agency / Business Name: **Ofc. Donna Saxer / Pinellas Park Police Department**

Address: **7700 59<sup>th</sup> Street North, Pinellas Park Police Department**

Telephone #: **(727) 541-0761**

Fax #: **(727) 541-0786**

E-mail: **dsaxer@pinellas-park.com**

### Nominated By

Name: **Chief Dorene Thomas**

Agency / Business: **Pinellas Park Police Department**

Address: **7700 59<sup>th</sup> Street North, Pinellas Park Police Department**

Telephone: **(727) 541-0789**

E-Mail: **dthomas@pinellas-park.com**

**NOTE:** *This nomination form replaces all previous forms. No other form or award will be considered or accepted.*

# Memo

**To:** Florida Crime Prevention Association  
**From:** Chief Dorene Thomas  
**Date:** 7/10/2014  
**Re:** Nomination of Officer Donna Saxer for the FCPA 2014 Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year Award

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I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Ofc. Donna Saxer for the FCPA 2014 Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year Award. Ofc. Saxer is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year of employment with the City of Pinellas Park. Over the course of her career she has served as the crime prevention officer for a total of nine years. As she has progressed through her career she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of several programs. A brief description of Ofc. Saxer's accomplishments are listed below.

Ofc. Saxer is the point of contact for numerous crime watch groups in the city. She attends regular meetings and constantly keeps in touch with the members of the various groups that she has helped to form. She maintains communication with her various groups and organizations, via email and phone. These forms of communications allows members of the neighborhood watch program to receive the latest information regarding missing person alerts, crime trends, and alerts from law enforcement to be on the lookout for certain individuals.

Ofc. Saxer not only started the program, but continues to help maintain the department's "Night Eyes Program." This program was developed as a way to build and establish a working rapport amongst our officers and the business community. The goal of the program is to have our officers conduct business checks and after completing the check our officers will leave a night eyes card. This card indicates that the officer checked on the business and lets the owner know when the officer came by. The card also gives the officer an opportunity to address an area of concern they may have about the security of the business or the need for the owner to provide emergency contact information.

Ofc. Saxer recently helped implement a Bicycle Registration Program. She will routinely schedule visits with the citizens where she will register a number of bicycles. In doing so she provides the bicycle owner with a sticker that contains a unique number. After returning to the police department Ofc. Saxer has the number entered

into our database. As a result our officers are able to search, via our in-house system, when a bicycle is found or they are able to access an owner's information. Ofc. Saxer also teaches prevention by providing information on bicycle laws, how to properly wear a bicycle helmet, and how to properly lock a bicycle.

Ofc. Saxer has played an integral role in our vacation house check program. This program allows the citizens to fill out a form that includes pertinent information about how long their home will be vacant, what if any vehicles will be in the driveway, etc. While the homeowner is away the information is funneled to our officers and our volunteer road patrol. They will conduct periodic checks on the home and document their findings via our computer system. Ofc. Saxer goes the extra mile by providing vacationing citizens information on how to be safe while traveling on cruise ships, in hotels, driving long distances, etc...

Ofc. Saxer started a construction site crime prevention program. This program was started as a way to reduce the number of thefts from construction sites. The program details are distributed through our building department to the many different construction companies that operate in the city. The construction companies are asked to fill out an information sheet. This sheet provides information such as emergency contact, what type of equipment will be on site, who will be on site during construction hours, etc. Ofc. Saxer also provides information on securing their construction sites, inventory control, and notifying the Police Department for off-hours delivery (nights, weekends, etc...).

Ofc. Saxer started the "Do the Right Thing" program. This program focuses on students who live or attend school in the city limits. The program recognizes students for accomplishments that are not related to sports. The program tends to focus on students who typically make good choices that could be anything from returning a lost wallet to helping a handicapped person get on and off the bus. The students are then presented with their award at a city council meeting. The award that the students receive could be anything from a plaque to a gift certificate.

Ofc. Saxer played a part in starting a program called E & Long (The Enforcement and Licensing Officials Networking Group). This group was established to deal with a problem that Ofc. Saxer noticed was going unaddressed. As a result of her relationships throughout the city she realized that citizens were routinely being duped by unlicensed contractors. She also learned that most law enforcement officers are unaware of the consequences for our citizens when they hire unlicensed contractors. Seeing this need Ofc. Saxer has taken the lead in creating an instructional pamphlet that provides officers all of the information they need to move forward with criminal charges. The pamphlet was later presented at a statewide CLOAF (Construction Licensing Officials Networking Group) conference.

In addition to the programs above, Ofc. Saxer was instrumental in bringing Operation Medicine Cabinet to our police department. This program established a drug reception container that was placed in our lobby. The public is able to drop off their unwanted medicine which in turn allows for the proper and legal disposal of expired

or unused medicines. This program was started in February 2013, and to date, we have collected over 420 lbs of various unwanted medicines.

In addition to all of the above Ofc. Saxer is a regular contributor of written articles and crime prevention tips. This information is passed on to the public via the department's Facebook page, City Newsletter, local newspapers, and various community newsletters. Ofc. Saxer belongs to the following organizations: Suncoast Crime Prevention Association, Florida Crime Prevention Association, Safekids Worldwide, Metropolitan Planning Organization Pedestrian Safety Board, Pinellas Trail Safety and Security Board, and the Domestic Violence Task Force.

For all of the reasons mentioned above I feel that Ofc. Saxer is a worthy recipient of the FCPA 2014 Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year Award. I hope the information provided gives the Florida Crime Prevention Association a little insight into how valuable Ofc. Saxer is to our department and community. As you can see she has developed numerous programs that are designed to enhance our continual fight against crime.