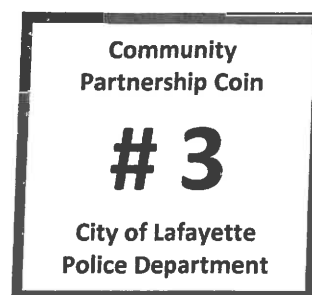




City of Lafayette Police Department



Date: April 20, 2016
To: Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Lafayette
From: Eric Christensen, Chief of Police 
Subject: Community Partnership Coin, J.D. O'Connor

Throughout history, military units have used challenge coins emblazoned with their unit insignia or crest to recognize members who perform acts that reflect their tradition of service or valor. This same practice has been adopted by police departments throughout the United States. Although some coins are sold as commemorative gifts, others are presented by police departments as recognition of individuals who perform acts that demand special recognition. The City of Lafayette Police Department's Community Partnership Coin is presented to those who have gone above and beyond to serve their community, the police department, and the City of Lafayette.

This Community Partnership Coin is presented to J.D. O'Connor, the editor of the News 24/680 Website.

In late 2012, Mr. O'Connor established a news website for residents of the Hwy 24/680 corridor. The site was named "News 24/680", to reflect the locations that would form the foundation of their news coverage. Since its debut, the site has provided in-depth local coverage of news and events that are important to the residents of our community. The website has a dedicated group of reporters and readers, who come from all walks of life and have expertise in a wide variety of topics. Both Mr. O'Connor and his readers are also quick to provide assistance when it is needed by the police department.

Over the last several years, Mr. O'Connor and his readers have provided significant assistance to the police department in identifying the make, model, and year of vehicles involved in crimes within the city. Although we have access to dedicated law enforcement groups who can perform this type of task, it normally takes almost a year to obtain an answer. This time delay allows the criminals to commit additional crimes, endangering members of our community. Each time we have requested, Mr. O'Connor has graciously posted our images to his site and asked his readers to provide us assistance in identifying these vehicles. Sure enough, the group responds in a matter of hours with information that will aid us in our investigation. Because of the interest the site generates, the contributors often critique each other's responses – leading to an accurate identification. Several of the cases that he and his readers have contributed upon have led to the arrest, conviction, and sentencing of offenders – protecting our community.

While we may be at odds once in a while, it's clear that Mr. O'Connor, his website, and his readers have made a significant contribution to the safety and awareness of local issues within our community. The News 24/680 Group is certainly deserving of this recognition and praise.

A copy of this document will be maintained at the police department along with a cataloging of the coins that have been presented throughout the history of the program. While not serialized, each coin is assigned a number that relates to the order of presentation. Records will be stored in order of presentation.