




**City of Lafayette
Police Department**



Date: April 27, 2016
To: Mayor Mark Mitchell, City of Lafayette
From: Eric Christensen, Chief of Police 
Subject: Community Partnership Coin, Donn Walklett

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 Donn Walklett, a member of the Lafayette Community.

Two days after I arrived as the Chief of Police, I was contacted by a resident who wanted to show me his camera system. That resident was Donn Walklett. Mr. Walklett met with me in his neighborhood and walked me through the design and operation of the community camera system that served his neighborhood. He explained to me how he had organized his neighbors, shared the costs, and installed a state of the art camera system within his neighborhood. Mr. Walklett walked me through how the data was stored and could be retrieved – offering his services on a twenty-four-hour basis. I later spoke with officers about the camera system and Mr. Walklett. The majority of the officers knew who he was and the value that his camera system provided to his neighborhood.

From that point on, I have spent several late nights with Mr. Walklett, asking him for video images and license plate numbers of vehicles that had committed crimes in his neighborhood or had committed crimes in other neighborhoods after visiting his. Mr. Walklett has always been accommodating and understanding of the need for quick information regarding criminal incidents. I can recall a situation where the suspects from a home invasion robbery in an unincorporated area had driven through his neighborhood earlier in the evening. Mr. Walklett provided images of the vehicle and the license plate number of the vehicle within minutes of my request. Had it not been for this information, the suspects would never have likely been identified, arrested, charged, and convicted of that crime (and several others).

In addition to managing the system from his own neighborhood, Mr. Walklett has graciously offered his assistance in organizing and assisting other neighborhoods with their camera systems. By providing his knowledge and experience, he has aided other neighbors in achieving the security of a camera system that can actually be used to assist the police department in solving cases. Because of his hard work and endless energy, our community is a safer place. His efforts are surely 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.