



City of Lafayette Police Department



Date: June 8, 2017
To: Mayor Mike Anderson, City of Lafayette
From: Eric Christensen, Chief of Police
Subject: Community Partnership Coin, Sue Rusk

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 Sue Rusk, the principal of the Burton Valley Elementary School.

Over the past few years the police department has enjoyed an excellent relationship with Sue Rusk, the principal of Burton Valley Elementary School. In all aspects, Sue has proven her to be the person in charge at the campus. She knows the kids, she knows the campus, she knows the parents, and most importantly, she understands what her role is within the Lafayette community. In police lingo, without a doubt, Sue is the Chief of the Burton Valley Campus.

Over the last few years, Sue has repeatedly shown her ability to distill complex issues to their root cause. When handling issues, if the issue needed a police response, she has always called us. When we receive a call from Sue it is always presented in a manner that we are partners in resolving the issue - she understands that she has a role in resolving the issue. She seems to know everything that is happening both on and off campus and when asked to handle issues confidentially, she does. It's clear to all of our officers that Sue is concerned about the well-being of all the students on her campus and is invested in their futures.

For the members of the police department, Sue is different because she understands her role in a disaster or an emergency. There is no other campus within the city that does as much as Sue does to be ready. Whether it be her annual disaster drills, her desire to understand what the law enforcement response will be to an active shooter, or her response to a child being hit by a car, she is on it. During her time at Burton Valley, she has taken it to be her personal responsibility to make sure her campus, students, and teachers are ready. That makes all of our jobs a lot easier.

Sue has been a great partner with the police department and has had a positive impact on thousands of families within the community. All of our officers and staff members are honored to call her a friend. She is very deserving of this recognition.

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.