

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate Hartford Police Department Officer Cole Parker and his canine partner, Flash, for the Meritorious K9 Article Find. As a result of this find, a stolen handgun was located. That handgun was found to be in the possession of a convicted felon wanted with drug and weapon charges with a bond amount of nearly \$40,000 from Rockwell County Sheriff's Office in Texas.

On Saturday, June 18, 2022, at approximately 4:35 pm, our Emergency Communications Center received a mutual aid request from the Village of Slinger. An individual with multiple warrants for drug and weapon charges out of Rockwall County Sheriff's Office in Texas, was attempting to flee officers.

During a subsequent foot pursuit of the subject, it was observed by an officer that a firearm was thrown. The subject was eventually apprehended.

After an initial sweep of the area, law enforcement personnel were unable to find the firearm. K-9 Flash was deployed.

The area was thoroughly searched by the K-9 team, which included various portions of vegetation with waist-high grass and hard surfaces. The hard surfaces included hwy 60, which is heavily traveled, especially at the time of the request. Navigating this area made the search extremely difficult. Officer Parker and K-9 Flash worked tirelessly for an hour to find the suspected firearm.

Due to the length of time it was taking to find the firearm and heat conditions, K-9 Flash was showing signs of exhaustion. Officer Parker decided to try the area one last time. The team received a heavy gust of wind from the west, and suddenly K-9 Flash began showing several behavioral changes. Officer Parker noticed a head snap from K-9 Flash and he began crossing multiple lanes of traffic on hwy 60. K-9 Flash pulled Officer Parker approximately 40 yards to the suspected firearm, which was laying in a culvert. It was determined that the firearm had been run over by a

vehicle which caused it to be thrown nearly 120 feet. The firearm was found to be broken into two pieces.

Further investigation is being conducted of the firearm regarding potential use in multiple felony crimes in several states.

I am respectfully requesting that you consider Officer Parker and K-9 Flash for the Meritorious Article Find. This was the first deployment for an article search for Officer Parker and K-9 Flash. The team had only been on the road for approximately 2.5 months when this request was made.

Officer Parker encountered numerous challenges including length of time, different surfaces and terrain, and the firearm being run over causing it to be placed in an area I am confident patrol officers would have been able to locate on their own. It was Officer Parker's determination and training, which led to the successful location of the firearm.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sergeant Hubbard #630
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