



For Immediate release:

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Albert Lea Police Department to be recognized by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association for its Innovative idea to curb Retail Theft

St. Paul, MN – Albert Lea’s Police Department is set to receive the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association’s (MCPA) prestigious *Excellence in Innovation* Award Honorable Mention. Albert Lea’s recently adopted retail loss prevention program that partners with store owners in sharing data, including suspect information, and committing to a rapid response helped Albert Lea finish ahead of larger law enforcement agencies such as Bloomington, Metro Transit and Shakopee in competition for the award.

“There’s no doubt it’s challenging to be a law enforcement leader right now, but Minnesota’s police chiefs and their staffs are coming up with forward-thinking solutions to a variety of challenges,” says Andy Skoogman, MCPA Executive Director. “The Chiefs Association designed this award to highlight those agencies and ideas that are improving public safety, and Albert Lea should be proud to be among the state’s leaders in innovation.”

This is the MCPA’s second annual Excellence in Innovation Award, sponsored this year by 3M and Axon (formerly Taser). To be considered for the award, nominees are judged by the level of innovation, effectiveness of the program, ability for other departments to replicate and the overall impact the program is having on the community or the department.

“Through these continued collaborative efforts with our private-sector partners, successful outcomes have occurred,” said Albert Lea Deputy Director J.D. Carlson. “We’ve made numerous arrests for these types of crimes and retailers have been educated and have decreased their losses since the partnership began.”

The Plymouth Police Department took home the top prize in the Large Agency category for its holistic (mind, body, and spirit) approach to officer wellness. Wyoming Police topped the small agency category (15 or fewer sworn officers) with its social media program that has gained national attention. Eveleth Police received Honorable Mention in the small agency category.

Area media is invited to cover the Innovation Awards Luncheon. If you cannot attend, photos and additional information will be provided. Please contact Joe Sheeran, MCPA Communications Dir. 651-368-2951 or Lt. Jeffrey Strom, ALPD, jstrom@ci.albertlea.mn.us 507-377-5208.

What: Albert Lea Police Department recognized Excellence in Innovation Award honorable mention by the MN Chiefs of Police Association

Where: MN Chiefs of Police Convention and Awards luncheon, River’s Edge Convention Center
St. Cloud, MN Glen Carlson West Room

When: Monday, April 24, 12:15