

Supervisor Leadership Award

Jill Branch
Coronado Police Department

Jill is a "dispatcher's dispatcher." She came into her Dispatch Supervisor position in late 2018 and has had a long list of accomplishments, from bringing the dispatch center up to full staffing, implementing part-time positions, building camaraderie, advocating for dispatch, and bridging the gap between dispatchers and officers just to name a few. Like most centers, Coronado PD had a staffing shortage and at one time, we were down to just 4 dispatchers. It was expected that the watch commander would relieve the dispatcher, and when hot calls would come out, the dispatcher would have to wait until the watch commander cleared the call-in order to get a few-minute break. Jill made it a top priority to get the dispatch center staffed and have 2 dispatchers working at all times. She made this possible by recruiting laterals and implementing part-time positions. Coronado PD is a small department, and we are fortunate to have a close working relationship with the officers. Jill has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap by sending dispatchers and officers to work side by side in training classes and opening any overtime shifts that may come up in dispatch to the officers. Jill makes it known that she is available 24/7 for anyone's questions or needs, she is very approachable and serves as a mentor for the dispatchers. She makes it clear that her door is always open, and you can expect that after a priority incident you will receive a text or call. Jill emphasizes having a home/work balance and will work a shift to allow her dispatchers to have the necessary time off. It is for all the above-listed reasons and many more that the Coronado Police Department Dispatch Center nominates Jill for the Supervisory Leadership Award.

Ashley Harris
San Diego Sheriff's Department

Ashley Harris was a dispatcher for the San Diego Sheriff's Department for 10 years before promoting to supervisor in 2017. She holds both the Intermediate and Advanced POST Dispatcher Certificates. As a dispatch supervisor, Ashley ensures the overall efficient and effective operation of the Communications Center. Ashley is a highly competent supervisor, trusted to do significant tasks always producing exceptional results. Her peers continue to look up to her as a leader and a mentor. Ashley's commitment to excellence is what sets her apart from the rest. She dedicates herself to her staff making herself readily available to assist her coworkers and subordinates. She provides logical guidance and direction and she can deliver criticism with thoughtfulness and consideration. Ashley's strong ability to lead can be attributed to her lengthy background as a one-on-one trainer and classroom instructor. A large number of our current dispatchers were fortunate enough to have Ashley as their Training Officer or Academy Instructor. Ashley took the time to form solid relationships with all of her students and she has continued to be a mentor to our newest and most impressionable dispatchers. They have found a great leader in Ashley. Ashley is described by dispatchers as being hard-working and a pleasure to work for. She is approachable, understanding and treats everybody with patience and respect. She is very helpful and always ready to give advice or lend an ear. While supervising the dispatch floor, she is always calm, confident, proactive, and attentive. She has been an extraordinary leader. Ashley is truly an asset to the Sheriff's Communications Center and very deserving of the Supervisory Leadership Award.

Simone Fanene
Carlsbad Police Department

In June of 2020, racial tensions were running high nationwide, ultimately with protests and marches happening in the streets of Carlsbad. During a debrief after one of the protest details, Simone Fanene approached Assistant Chief Mickey Williams with a suggestion: Can the department begin to have open discussions regarding race, implicit bias, and the current cultural climate affecting our nation and police department? Assistant Chief Williams told Simone it was a great idea and asked her to help create the program. Simone partnered with Lt. Calderwood and created what became 'Conversations about Current Events/Race Relations.' This program has met 4 times and has been highly attended. Those who attended believe everyone in the department should attend at least one of these meetings, and some employees have attended multiple times. The meetings are facilitated by a licensed therapist from one of the department's counseling teams and are intended to reach both sworn and non-sworn personnel. Through these meetings additional brainstorming sessions have occurred that are resulting in additional dispatch training, a team of employees that reach out externally to school aged kids to open up dialogue during these distressing times, and employees finding ways to bond during unprecedented times. The program has just begun and based on its success will obviously develop into integral part of the Carlsbad Police Department's culture of open dialogue and a yearning to remain progressive, even under difficult circumstances. It is our privilege to nominate CPD Dispatch Supervisor Simone Fanene for the 2020 Supervisory Leadership Award.