



Department of Public Safety

STOP-DWI Program

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2025

LOCAL AWARDS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Monroe County STOP DWI & Traffic Safety Boards honor local champions

Rochester, NY – The 2025 STOP-DWI & Traffic Safety Board Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at the Shadow Lake Golf and Racquet Club. This is an annual event that recognizes outstanding efforts by law enforcement officers, other first responders, traffic safety advocates, community members and more to keep roads safe from unsafe drivers.

Richard V. Tantalo, Monroe County's Director of Public Safety, welcomed the 140 individuals attending, and then Monroe County Executive Adam Bello shared remarks. This year's featured speaker was ADA Merrick Sadler, Chief of Vehicular Crimes Bureau at Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

Below is a list of award recipients:

The *Top Cop Award* is presented to a Monroe County law enforcement officer who exemplifies a superior and well-rounded commitment to prevention of impaired driving through education, arrests, and training. This year's recipient was Deputy Gerald Ludwig from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

The *Jim Pond Lifetime Achievement Award* is presented to an individual who exemplifies commitment to promoting safe roadways and reducing traffic injuries in our community over an extended and significant period of time. This year's recipient was Ronald Hinz from Learn 2 Ride, Inc. Ron served on the Monroe County Traffic Safety Board for over 20 years.

Traffic Safety Board Community Service Awards are presented to individuals who demonstrate extra effort beyond their job-related responsibilities in preventing traffic-related injuries. This year's recipients were:

Lieutenant Stephen Sinaguglia, Irondequoit Fire District
The Henrietta Fire District
Erin Agnello, Injury Free Coalition for Kids - URMC
Deputy Khadija Fong, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

50 West Main Street • Room 4111 • Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 753-3017 • fax: (585) 753-3023 • lindsaytomidy@monroecounty.gov



Department of Public Safety

STOP-DWI Program

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director

The Mark Tuohey Jr. Award is presented to an individual for outstanding commitment to the issue of traffic safety within the community with a focus on innovative program creation. This year's recipient was:

Rochester City Council Member Mitch Gruber

Traffic Safety Board Certificates of Merit are presented when a peer or coworker recognizes an individual's notable contributions in the area of traffic safety. This year's recipients were:

Officer Joice Barcellos, Brighton Police Department
Deputy Tim Murphy, Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Bradley Finn, Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Timothy Quatro, Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant James Coughlin, Gates Police Department
Officer Jeremy Millsbaugh, Rochester Police Department
Officer Aldo Dibisceglie, Rochester Police Department
Cody Donahue, Reconnect Rochester

STOP-DWI Agency Appreciation Awards for the highest percentage increase in DWI/DWAI arrests relative to agency size were presented to:

Small Agency Appreciation: Fairport Police Department
Medium Agency Appreciation: Webster Police Department
Large Agency Appreciation: Monroe County Sheriff's Office

The *Leadership Award* is presented to a leader who continuously exemplifies a superior commitment to the work of impaired driving prevention that helps motivate others. This year's recipients were:

Officer James Thuerck, Rochester Police Department
Officer Joseph Bonacci, Rochester Police Department
Officer Isaac Lenhard, Greece Police Department
Deputy Michael Bentham, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

The *Coordinator's Choice Award* for continuous innovative efforts to remove impaired people from our roadways and providing support for overall success of our STOP-DWI program was presented to:

Officer Jason Lathrop, Rochester Police Department



Department of Public Safety

STOP-DWI Program

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director

STOP-DWI Certificates of Appreciation are presented to individuals who are nominated by their peers in recognition of their commitment to impaired driving prevention. This year's recipients were:

Officer Emilie Soliday, Brighton Police Department
Officer Jon Eshleman, Gates Police Department
Officer David Lauer, Gates Police Department
Officer Curtis Miller, Gates Police Department
Officer Marc Lawrence, Ogden Police Department
Probation Officer Stephen LaSalle, Monroe County Probation
Officer Christopher Hill, College at Brockport Police
Lieutenant Dennis Schultz, College at Brockport Police
Officer Evan Bruckel, Irondequoit Police Department
Officer Louis Buduson, Irondequoit Police Department
Officer Cory Coene, Webster Police Department
Officer Ethan Parrish, Webster Police Department
Trooper Timothy Brooks, New York State Police
Trooper Justin Statt, New York State Police
Trooper John Martek, New York State Police
Trooper James Buonaugurio, New York State Police
Officer Anthony Pedicone, Rochester Police Department
Officer Nicholas Evert, Rochester Police Department
Officer Jason Horowitz, Rochester Police Department
Officer Kaitlyn Walek, Rochester Police Department
Officer Katelyn Brado, Greece Police Department
Officer Jeff Phillips, Greece Police Department
Officer David Forrester, Greece Police Department
Officer Ryan Scheg, Greece Police Department
Officer Steven Casey, Greece Police Department

The New York State STOP-DWI program was created by the state Legislature in 1981 to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in alcohol and other drug-related traffic crashes. It is funded entirely by fines paid by defendants when they drive impaired. The program is based on the philosophy that innovative local efforts are the key to solving the impaired driving problem. The Monroe County Traffic Safety Board serves the citizens of Monroe County through efforts which increase highway safety activities and improve highway conditions. They work to help build collaboration amongst all partners.



Department of Public Safety

STOP-DWI Program
Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director

Community members can make a difference by having a plan to avoid getting behind the wheel of a car when impaired and building awareness for safer driving practices. [To learn more](#) about our Traffic Safety and STOP-DWI programs, [please visit:](#) <https://www.monroecounty.gov/ts>.

-30-

For media inquiries, contact:

Lindsay Tomidy, STOP-DWI Coordinator and Traffic Safety Board Executive Secretary
585-753-3017

lindsaytomidy@monroecounty.gov

