



PRESS RELEASE

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Akron Officer Russell Bassett Named Optimist Officer of the Year

Akron, Ohio (June 6, 2012) – Akron Officer Russell Bassett was honored yesterday as the Optimist Club Officer of the Year at the Optimist International luncheon held at the New Era Restaurant.

In 1986, the Akron Optimist Club established an award to honor an Akron Police officer each year. The award is given "in recognition of outstanding service to the community." The creation of the award was also intended as an honor for the man it was named after, Philip G. Barnes, former Chief of Police.

“Officer Bassett is very instrumental in the apprehension of wanted fugitives,” said Akron Police Chief Jim Nice. “His supervisors regularly praise him for his diligent work in locating and apprehending wanted fugitives, and he consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis.”

Officer Bassett joined the Akron Police Department in December of 1994, and began by working the midnight shift in the patrol division. He currently is assigned to the day shift patrol division. Officer Bassett has volunteered for temporary assignment in the Juvenile, Auto Theft and Missing Persons Unit and worked with the U.S. Marshals Office Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. He was also assigned to the “Operation Spring Cleaning” initiative in 2009.

Officer Bassett is a graduate of Kenmore High School. He went on to attend the University of Akron, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Political Science, an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in Sociology.

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