

Delaware State Police Announce 2019 Trooper and Civilian Employee of the Year

Dover- At a ceremony held on Monday, March 2, 2020, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police, Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr., announced the winners of the annual Trooper of the Year and Civilian of the Year awards.

To help recognize the significance of the ceremony several distinguished guests were also in attendance to offer congratulatory remarks. They included **Governor John C. Carney Jr., Chief Deputy Attorney General Alexander Mackler, and Acting Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security Kimberly Chandler.**

Trooper of the Year

Each year the Delaware State Police Executive Staff selects one Trooper for the Trooper of the Year Award. To be nominated, a Trooper must exceed performance standards and be recognized by his or her peers, as one who epitomizes the ***Core Values of the Division***, which are ***Honor, Integrity, Courage, Loyalty, Attitude, Discipline and Service.***

This year, eleven Troopers were nominated, and out of those worthy nominees, the Executive Staff selected **Cpl/1 Jean, as the 2019 Trooper of the Year**, for his outstanding efforts and contributions to the Division and the citizens of the State of Delaware. Cpl/1 Jean is assigned to the Troop 3 Criminal Investigations Unit.

Cpl/1 Jean's investigative knowledge and work ethic has contributed to the successful prosecution of multiple criminal cases. He works tirelessly in an effort to make Delaware a safer state to live and travel in. He works very well with

other investigative units, and other departments both at the local and federal level. When commenting on his achievements, in true form he attributed his success to his fellow Troopers.

Cpl/1 Jean was also presented with the Randall Armistead Trooper of the Year Award on behalf of the Delaware State Troopers Association. Presenting the award was **President of the DSTA, Lt. Thomas Brackin.**

Trooper of the Year Nominees

- Senior Corporal Jalal Kelsey – Division of Gaming Enforcement
- Master Corporal John Messick – Intelligence Section
- Trooper First Class George Justice – Troop 1
- Corporal/1 Sean Rodrigues – Troop 2 Patrol
- Corporal Michael Macauley – Troop 2 CIU
- Corporal/1 Jean – Troop 3
- Senior Corporal Robert Cowden – Troop 4
- Trooper First Class William Schuele – Troop 5
- Corporal Michael Adkins – Troop 6
- Corporal/1 John Wilson – Troop 7
- Corporal Stephen Douglas – Troop 9

Civilian of the Year

Each year the Delaware State Police Executive Staff also selects one civilian employee, for the Civilian of the Year Award. Civilian employees who are nominated for this award display outstanding performance and meet the following criteria:

1. Exceptional service as identified by the employee's performance evaluations
2. A consistent record of such service through their years of employment
3. Recognition by their peers for outstanding character and integrity.

This year, eight Delaware State Police civilian employees were nominated for the award, and the Executive Staff of the Delaware State Police selected **Victim Services Specialist; Corrie Schmitt, as the 2019 Civilian of the Year.**



2019 Civilian of the Year

Corrie Schmitt

Corrie has been with the Victim Service's Unit since 2007 and is known to consistently go above and beyond. In 2019 she was asked to take on a larger area of jurisdiction which included much more responsibility, 2 additional Troops and 6 additional municipal departments. The typical caseload for a Victim Specialist can range from 40-50 cases a month. Corrie began handling almost double that amount averaging, approximately 80 cases per month. In two different months, she handled 100 cases. She didn't just handle them, she treated each individual victim with care and compassion, making sure that she provided the appropriate resources and assisted them through their experience in the Criminal Justice system.

Civilian of the Year Nominees

- Joe Mulford – Headquarters Communications
- Katie Pena – Headquarters Communications
- Lawrence Parker – Communications RECOM
- Nicole Rovira – Communications RECOM
- Ryan welch – Communications KENTCOM

- Brandi Ober – Communications SUSCOM
- Corrie Schmitt – Victim Services
- Richard Daniels – Troop 9

In addition to the Trooper and Civilian of the Year, the following Troopers were also presented with the following awards:

Exceptional Performance:

Cpl. Randel Abrenica, Cpl. Corey Bastianelli, Cpl. Michael Brent, S./Cpl. Todd Buchert, Trooper Jermaine Cannon, S./Cpl. James Dempsey, Cpl. Jenny Gleim, Trooper Hasan Halis, S./Cpl. Bridget Harris, Cpl. Michael Harrison, TFC George Justice, TFC Kathleen Koff, M./Cpl. Craig Lewis, Cpl. Rosendo Luna-Lopez, Cpl. Logan Pavlik, Cpl. Sean Rodrigues, Mrs. Corrie Schmitt, Trooper William Schuele, M./Cpl. Ed Sebastianelli, Trooper Zachery Sherwood, Patrolman Brandon Smith (Laurel PD).

Lifesaving Award:

Cpl. Jason Aviola, TFC Casey Breidigan, Officer Chelsea Chillias (DNREC), Officer Joshua Churchill (P&P), Cpl. Everett Eschbach, M./Cpl. Justin Galloway, Cpl. Christopher Garcia, Trooper Patrick Gaskin, Trooper Trevor Greenwalt, TFC Eric Gumbs, TFC Jennifer Hastings, Cpl. Donald Hickman, Trooper Dean Johnson, PFC Ashley Little (Laurel PD), S./Cpl. Matthew Long, Cpl. Rosendo Luna-Lopez, Cpl. Robert Mitchell, Trooper Cody Moyer, Cpl. Sean Murray, Cpl/1 Christopher Nicholson, Officer Thomas Passwaters (DNREC), Trooper Kyle Perry, Officer Jamier Powell (Camden PD), Agent Frank Robinson (DOJ), Cpl. John Scaramazza, Trooper William Schuele, TFC Matthew Skidmore, TFC Jordan Smith, Cpl. Robert Spanier, Cpl. Zachary Spudis, Trooper Anthony Stimac, Cpl. William Wallace.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Michael Austin

Released:030320 1400

-End-

State Police Conducting Death Investigation- Selbyville

Selbyville– The Delaware State Police are currently conducting a death investigation after skeletal remains were located in a wooded area off of Polybranch Road.

On March 2, 2020 at approximately 6:12 p.m., Troopers responded to Polybranch Road just north of Roxana Road, Selbyville, after an individual discovered human remains in a wooded area. Detectives responded to the wooded area and confirmed them to be human skeletal remains.

The remains have been turned over to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science where an autopsy will be performed to determine the identification and cause and manner of death.

The case continues to remain under investigation and there is

no concern for public safety at this time. If anyone has information in reference to this case, they are asked to contact, Troop 4, Major Crimes Unit, Detective K. Archer at 302-856-5850. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 030320 0957

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Middletown Man Charged with 5th Offense DUI and Vehicular Assault- Bear

Bear – The Delaware State Police have charged 50 year old Franklin T. Wilson of Middletown with his 5th DUI, in connection with a motor vehicle crash involving injuries that occurred at approximately 11:57 p.m., Saturday, February 29, 2020 on SR 1 in the area of DE Rt. 72, Bear.

The investigation determined that Wilson was driving a 2004 Ford F-150 that was traveling at an apparent high rate of speed on southbound on SR 1, north of DE Rt. 72 in the center lane. Wilson's vehicle rear ended a 2017 Nissan Rogue, that was also traveling southbound on SR 1 in the center lane. After the collision both vehicles became disabled in the roadway, at which time Wilson fled the scene on foot. Wilson was located by Troopers a short time later in the 2100 block of Bear-Corbit Rd. and taken into custody without incident. The two occupants of the Nissan, a 23 year old Middletown man and a 23 year old Philadelphia woman, were transported to the Christiana Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Further investigation determined that Wilson was driving under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash and a subsequent computer check revealed that he had 4 prior DUI convictions.

Wilson was transported to Troop 2 and charged with the following:

- 5th Offense DUI

- Vehicular Assault 2nd Degree (2 counts)
- Leaving the Scene of an Injury Crash
- Failure to Provide Information at a Crash Scene
- Driving Suspended
- Reckless Driving
- Unsafe Speed
- Inattentive Driving
- Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Wilson was arraigned in Justice of the Peace Court #11 and released after posting \$8,475.00 secured bail.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash – Georgetown

Georgetown – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit, at the request of the Georgetown Police Department, is investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that occurred at approximately 9:08 p.m., Saturday, February 29, 2020 on US 113 in the area of Arrow Safety Rd., Georgetown.

The initial investigation has determined that a 2014 Chevy Captiva, driven by a 75 year old Millsboro man, was traveling southbound on US 113 in the right lane, approximately .2 miles north of Arrow Safety Rd. A 2013 Hyundai Elantra, driven by a 29 year old E. Orange, NJ man, was southbound on US 113 in the left lane, trailing slightly behind the Chevy. A 21 year old male pedestrian was attempting to cross the southbound lanes of US 113 in an easterly direction and proceeded directly into the path of the Chevy at which time he was struck. The pedestrian was then projected into the left lane of US 113 at which time he was struck by the Hyundai. Both vehicles came to a controlled stop and remained on scene. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased on scene.

The investigation determined that the pedestrian was wearing all dark clothing, not utilizing a crosswalk and not carrying a light. Impairment is undetermined at this time. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

Both drivers were properly restrained and were not injured as a result of the crash. Neither speed nor impairment are contributing factors on their behalves.

Southbound US 113 was closed for approximately 3 hours while

the scene was investigated and cleared.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. K. Argo of the Troop 7 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-644-5020.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Released:030120 0815

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Homeless Sex Offender Notification

Dover– The following subjects are not wanted. This is a Homeless Sex Offender Public Notification. If you have information that the listed subjects are occupying a residence, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

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Released: 022920 1142

-End-

Troopers Investigating Armed

Robbery – Bear

Bear – The Delaware State Police are investigating the armed robbery of a Bear area Domino's Pizza that occurred Thursday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:20 p.m., Thursday, February 27, 2020, at the Domino's Pizza located at 797 Pulaski Hwy., Bear. A male suspect with his face concealed and in possession of a handgun, approached an employee at the sales counter and demanded money. The employee complied with the demand and turned over an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspect who then fled in an unknown direction. The employee was not injured as a result of the incident.

The suspect was described as a male, 6'1" tall, wearing dark clothing to include a fabric covering his face and in possession of a handgun.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective T. Dukes of the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8412.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Michael Austin

Released:022920 0645

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Search Warrant Leads to Discovery of Multiple Weapons and Drugs- Lincoln

Lincoln— The Delaware State Police have arrested **Richard L. White**, 35, of Lincoln and **Lee Lewis Sr.**, 51, of Millsboro, following an investigation into the distribution of illegal drugs.

The Delaware State Police Sussex Drug Unit (SDU) has received a number of citizen complaints regarding the illegal drug distribution occurring on Virginia Pine Road, Lincoln, DE. Through investigations it was learned that Richard White and Lee Lewis were involved in this illegal drug distribution occurring at a residence located in the 8000 block of Virginia Pine Road. With the assistance of the Governor's Task Force (GTF), Special Operations Response Team (SORT), Troop 4 Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) and Troop 5 and Troop 7 patrol units, SDU concluded a two week investigation.

On February 28, 2020 a search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence on Virginia Pine Road. As a result the following evidence was seized:

- Two handguns
- Two 12 gauge shotguns
- A 12 gauge shotgun with obliterated serial number
- Various ammunition including 9mm rounds, 380 rounds and 12 gauge shotgun shells
- Over \$4400 in suspected drug proceeds
- Approximately .27 grams of crack cocaine
- Various drug paraphernalia

Both White and Lewis were taken into custody without incident and transported back to Troop 7 where they were charged with the following:

Richard White:

- Possession of Weapon with Obliterated Serial Number
- Possession Deadly Weapon by Person Prohibited Who Also Possesses Controlled Substance (3 counts)
- Possession Drug Paraphernalia (2 counts)
- Criminal Nuisance

White was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court and released on his own recognizance.

Lee Lewis:

- Possession Firearm by Person Prohibited (2 counts)

Lewis was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court and committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$20,000 Cash Only bond.

Four other adults were also present in the residence during the search warrant and were charged with misdemeanor offenses and released.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 022820 1442

-End-

Troopers Investigating Armed Robbery/Shots Fired-Lincoln

Lincoln- The Delaware State Police are investigating an armed robbery in which shots were reported to have been fired and the suspect stole the victim's vehicle.

The incident occurred on February 27, 2020 at approximately 12:18 a.m., when Troopers responded to the area of Virginia Pine Lane and Johnson Road, Lincoln in reference to a robbery with shots fired. Upon arrival, Troopers met with a 30-year-old female who advised that while she and her 43-year-old boyfriend were driving a 36-year old male home, she was flagged down by a subject. The female stopped the vehicle when the suspect immediately pulled out a handgun and pointed it at her boyfriend. The suspect proceeded to demand money and then fired rounds, while ordering the three victims out of the vehicle. The three victims were able to exit the vehicle unharmed. The suspect proceeded to flee the area in the victim's blue 2017 Kia Optima.

The suspect was described as a black male, 5'08" to 5'09" tall, with a thick trimmed beard, and armed with a handgun.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Troop 4, Major Crimes Unit, Detective K. Archer at 302-856-5850. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 022720 1034

-End-

Delaware State Police 2020 Honorary Commander Ceremony

Dover – On Monday, February 25, 2020, the Delaware State Police held a ceremony to welcome the newly selected Honorary Commanders for 2020. This prestigious event led by our Superintendent, Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr. took place at the Delaware State Police Museum located at 1425 North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE. Colonel McQueen spoke at the event and helped recognize the importance of the ceremony.

Delaware State Police Headquarters Administrative Staff

partnered with Dawne Nickerson-Banez: (not photographed)

Ms. Dawne Nickerson-Banez has been the Chief of Community Engagement at Dover Air Force Base since April 2016. She serves as the liaison between the civilian community and the base community by planning, organizing, coordinating, and conducting documentation, command information, community engagement, and media operations activities. She is a trusted advisor to Wing leadership and project officer. Dawne hosts the Dover AFB Honorary Commander program with 40 participants. The 436th Airlift Wing is a combined C-5 and C-17 base focused on rapid, global airlift by providing worldwide movement of high priority personnel and cargo. Dover AFB is home to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, the Department of Defense's largest aerial port, and the Air Mobility Command Museum.

Troop 1: Captain John Laird partnered with State Representative Krista Griffith:



Ms. Krista Griffith is State Representative for the 12th District of Delaware, which includes neighborhoods in Hockessin, Greenville and North Wilmington. Currently Krista

serves on the following House committees: Telecommunications, Internet & Technology (chair); Judiciary (vice chair); Natural Resources (vice chair); Economic Development, Banking & Insurance; Energy; and Veterans Affairs. Additionally, she serves on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, a state agency created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Troop 2 (Patrol): Captain Jeffery Whitmarsh partnered with Lee Mikles:



Mr. Lee Mikles is the co-owner of OMG Hospitality and operates four "Grain" restaurants in Delaware and Pennsylvania. His flagship restaurant is Grain No. 1 on Main Street in Newark. A little over a year after starting his first restaurant, Grain H2O opened its doors on the harbor in the Summit Marina in Troop 2's area. Lee is a published author and participates in various boards serving Delaware Residents. His company's motto is "Award Winning Restaurants that Build Communities."

Troop 2 (CIU): Captain Melissa Hukill partnered with Steve Masterson (pictured with Lt. Robert Jones):



Mr. Steve Masterson is a retired Non-Commissioned Officer, who proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. Prior to launching Waste Masters, Steve held senior leadership positions at Loomis Fargo & Co., and USA Waste. Steve has led the company in championing many veteran-based causes as a way to thank our nation's bravest. Last month, Waste Masters presented its Hometown Hero Award for 2017 to the Delaware State Police Mounted Patrol. Established in 2012, the Delaware State Police Mounted Patrol began with only three members and has served as a key outreach unit to communities and provided security at some of the most popular events in Delaware.

Troop 3: Captain Rodney Layfield partnered with Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald:



Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald is the superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District. Dr. Fitzgerald began his career in education in Maryland in 1978 as a Social Studies and English teacher. After 13 years in the classroom, Dr. Fitzgerald moved to Delaware becoming Caesar Rodney High School's assistant principal until 1998, then principal until 2007 when he was selected as superintendent. Dr. Fitzgerald has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Delaware, teaching courses in Leadership and Secondary School Administration. In 2018, he was selected as the National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents and 2019 was selected as the National Association of Educational Office Professional's Administrator of the Year. Dr. Fitzgerald has served or serves on a number of Boards including: The United Way of Delaware, the Friends of the Delaware Archives, the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS).

Troop 4: Captain William Crotty partnered with Bishop Roland Mifflin:



Bishop Roland Mifflin first worked in his former church as a Deacon and an anointed singer. He was later ordained a Minister, an Elder and a local Pastor of The Bible Church of Christ, Inc. in Dagsboro, Delaware. After twenty-one years of dedicated service to the Lord in ministry, God called him to pastor a church, Power & Love Outreach Ministries, Inc. also located in Dagsboro. In 2009, Bishop Mifflin graduated with a Master's Degree in Biblical Studies from Enlightened Bible Institute in Millsboro, Delaware. In March 2017, the Lord led him to move the church in a different direction and the church he originally established was renamed The Church of a New Beginning, Inc. Bishop Mifflin has a heart for the young people and he is looking forward to building a vision that will minister to the needs of the young and old in the community.

Troop 5: Captain Alice Brumbley partnered with Evelyn Wilson:



Mrs. Evelyn Wilson is a pioneer in community leadership whose personal mission is to exhibit methods to help families unite as a cohesive unit, while also providing a support system on which families can rely. She worked for 25 years in home health care, 6 years in adult foster care, and 5 years as residential youth/after school staff at People's Place. For 14 years, Mrs. Wilson served as the volunteer Youth Program Coordinator for Coverdale Crossroads community while simultaneously serving as president of the Coverdale Crossroads Civic Association for 12 years. In addition, she has been an active member for First State Community Action Agency Executive Board of Directors for 8 years. In 2017, she founded and became president of Just a Hand up Community Navigation Association, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Just a Hand Up serves Sussex and Kent Counties. Their mission is to strengthen the communities, while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential, and improve their quality of life.

Troop 6: Captain Jennifer Griffin partnered with Jason Veasey (pictured with Lt. Andrew Hudak):



Mr. Jason Veasey and his wife are 2nd generation owners of Pax Incorporated True Hardware in Prices Corner, Wilmington. Pax True Value Hardware has been there for all of Wilmington's dreamers, DIYers, and problem solvers. They focus on assisting customers with all the tools of the trade for remodels and repairs, as well as the knowledge to help make any project possible. Their niche is that they treat every customer like a part of the family. Mr. Veasey has been a consistent advocate for the Delaware law enforcement community for over a decade.

Troop 7: Captain Darren Short partnered with Leah Brown:



Ms. Leah Brown divides her time as the Director of the Philadelphia Arms Townhomes Inc in Ellendale, Delaware and works part-time as a Nurse for Christiana Care. She teaches self-management workshops for the Division of Public Health; mentors high school and college students and also volunteers for various organizations. Leah graduated in 2014 from Delaware Technical Community College and became a Licensed Practical Nurse continuing on and in 2017, she graduated from Delaware State University with a degree in Public Health where she received the prestigious Presidential Leadership Award. In May 2019, she graduated from Delaware State University with a Master's degree in Public Administration and in the Spring of 2020, she will be attending Wilmington University to pursue a degree in the Doctor of Social Science and Preventative Science Program. It is her passion and life's mission to serve and afford others the opportunities she was given.

Troop 9: Captain Daniel Hall partnered with Thomas Poehlmann:



Mr. Thomas Poehlmann is a highly respected educational leader with 25 years of experience working with young people: in the classroom, and later as a middle and high school administrator. Today, he's a member of the senior leadership team in Delaware's fastest-growing school system. In 2018, Tom was asked to take on the challenge of establishing the first Office of Safety, Security, and Operations for the Appoquinimink School District. Last year, he successfully secured a grant to introduce an anonymous reporting app, "Stop It!" to his home district. Priorities for 2020 and beyond include expansion of the District's security force with the installation of School Constables and/or School Resource Officers on every campus and continued growth in prevention and response capabilities across the District.

Both the Delaware State Police Troop Commanders and the newly selected Honorary Commanders are looking forward to their mutually beneficial partnerships and working alongside each other throughout the state this coming year.

Our Superintendent, Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr. and the men and women of the Delaware State Police express our gratitude

and thank all of the amazing and talented Honorary Commanders for their participation in this highly honored program. This well-regarded community program brings police and civic leaders together to enhance the partnership with the communities we serve.

Congratulations on your selections and thank you for your commitment to serve others.

Thank you to Gene Shaner for being there for us and taking the best photos!

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Released: 022620 1342

-End-

***Update #2 – Victim's Name**

Released* Shooting Investigation-Dover

Dover- The Delaware State Police are releasing the name of the victim who was involved in the shooting incident on February 25, 2020, in the area of the Premier Village Apartments, Dover, as 18-year-old **Shiheem Durham**, of Dover, DE.

This incident continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Homicide Unit.

If anyone has information regarding this incident, they are asked to please contact Detective D. Grassi at 302-365-8441 . Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

[*Update* Troopers Investigating Shots Fired Incident-Dover](#)

[Troopers Investigating Shots Fired Incident -Dover](#)

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 022620 1303

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