

ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2015 James Q Wilson Community Policing Award

On February 23, 2015, the Orange Police Department was named the recipient of the 2015 James Q. Wilson Community Policing Award. The department is being recognized for their efforts in training officers to better serve persons with mental illness.

The award recognized Orange PD's multi-dimensional response to serving the mental health community. The Orange Police Department and community partners worked together to develop a 24-hour course to educate officers in dealing with individuals with mental illness. Orange PD co-sponsors the annual Meeting of the Minds Conference, along with the Mental Health Association of Orange County. This is the largest mental health conference in Southern California and brings together practitioners, consumers, family members and law enforcement to discuss current mental health trends and treatment options. In 2013, the Orange Police Department formed H.E.A.R.T. (Homeless, Engagement, Assistance, Resource, Team). H.E.A.R.T. uses a proactive approach in dealing with the homeless community and those with a mental illness for long term solutions. There have been many positive outcomes that have resulted from the high-level of training and the collaboration and partnerships with the mental health community.

Police departments throughout the State of California compete for this prestigious award. The Orange Police Department received the James Q. Wilson Community Policing Award for their innovative and positive work with the mental health community. The recognition is presented to the Orange Police Department by the Regional Community Policing Institute of California along with the Association of California Police Chief's, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice.