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SHELBY PD WINS NATIONAL BEST-DRESSED AWARD

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — Based on a professionally shot photo showcasing the various uniforms worn by the Shelby Township Police Department, a national uniform association named the township the best-dressed department in the 100-officers-or-less category.

Sgt. Jeffrey Bellomo took on the project in February. The photo was shot March 11, and the North-American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors announced the winners in May.

“Sgt. Bellomo is one of our young superstars,” Police Chief Robert Shelide said. “He hand-selected the officers for the pic-

ture. He coordinated what uniforms they were going to wear.”

Nye Uniform, the local vendor that works with the Police Department, tipped off the administration to the contest.

“I’m a competitive person by nature; however, we are also aware that we have an outstanding Police Department,” Shelide said. “I knew if we got involved that we would be serious players in this competition.”

Mat Shimmell, sales manager for Nye Uniform, said Nye Uniform has won the national award four times since 2009. He said he sent the contest information to seven local police departments, but only Shelby opted to enter.

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Sgt. Jeffrey Bellomo explains the different uniforms represented in a professionally shot photo that the Shelby Township Police Department submitted to win a national best-dressed award.

Photo by Sarah Purlee

Award

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"It takes time if you want to do it right," Shimmell said. "A lot of it comes down to presentation and, as you can see by the picture, they presented it phenomenally."

Bellomo said the department lucked out with the weather, which provided a bright blue sky and the right amount of wind to unfurl the flags.

"It just couldn't have been better," Bellomo said. "I believe in looking sharp and having our officers look good for the public, so this assignment was not a hard ball to pick up and run with."

The various uniforms in the photo, he said, represent different ranks and positions in the department — tactical response team, sergeant, administrator, lieutenant, honor guard, casual police officer, K-9 officer with external vest, D.A.R.E. officer and formal police officer.

"Our department is more well-versed than other departments, and we wear a wide variety of apparel," Bellomo said.

Lt. Jeff Daniel, who oversees the five-person uniform committee formed last year, said the Police Department updated its uniform policy at the behest of Shelide.

The new policy allows officers more leeway, as well as more comfort, if they choose to finance an external vest from their clothing and cleaning stipend, Daniel said. So far, he estimated that approximately 40 percent of the department sports external vests.

"We had a lot of officers with lower back issues and maybe hip issues from the 35 pounds of equipment we carry on our waists," Daniel said. "To get it on a vest distributes some of that weight."

A framed copy of the winning photograph will be on display in a shadow box in the lobby of the Police Department, as well as a blown-up poster of a graphic set to run in *Made to Measure*, an industrywide magazine for uniform distributors.

The NAUMD has recognized best-dressed departments for the last 38 years. Judges from the fashion industry award points for



Lt. Jeff Daniel, Sgt. Jeffrey Bellomo and Police Chief Robert Shelide gather in the Shelby Township Police Department's roll-call room for a press conference about a national departmental award June 29.

Photo by Sarah Purlee

originality, meeting client objectives and overall design.

"A well-designed uniform program is distinctive, balances authoritative with approachability, while balancing the need for com-

fort and functionality for the public servants who wear it," NAUMD President Neal Waters said.

For more information, call the Police Department at (586) 731-2121.



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