



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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DAVID W. SUNDAY, JR.  
*District Attorney*

JENNIFER RUSSELL  
*First Assistant District Attorney*

ART SMITH  
*Chief County Detective*

KYLE G. KING  
*Chief Administrator*

### **Outstanding Service as a Detective/Investigator**

This certificate is hereby presented to Sgt. Jason Byers who has provided exceptional service as a criminal investigator in the apprehension and/or successful prosecution of crimes occurring within the County of York.

On July 20, 2010, Aaron Lawrence tragically overdosed from heroin delivered to him by Jennifer Busbey and Jason Wentz. Lawrence's death was preventable, as he would have survived with timely medical attention. Busbey and Wentz, however, only called 911 after he passed away despite Lawrence slowly overdosing over a period of hours from the heroin he received from and took with them.

The investigation into Lawrence's death proved to be difficult. Busbey and Wentz were not truthful with Hanover Borough Police at the scene and removed evidence to hide their involvement in Lawrence's death. An autopsy was not performed on Lawrence due to protocols in place at that time. Additionally, the laws in 2010 made prosecutions against those who delivered drugs to another that resulted in their death more difficult to prosecute.

Despite these obstacles, Sgt. Jason Byers extensively pursued an investigation into Lawrence's death. Sgt. Byers systematically interviewed witnesses and reviewed evidence, following all leads no matter how much time and attention was necessary. He obtained Lawrence's entire medical history throughout his life to ensure that a forensic pathologist could render an opinion on Lawrence's cause of death. After seven years of diligently pursuing every lead, Sgt. Byers possessed sufficient evidence to charge Busbey and Wentz with multiple charges for their role in causing Lawrence's death, including Third-Degree Murder and Drug Delivery Resulting In Death.

Sgt. Byers hard work did not end with the filing of charges. He continued to pursue leads and work with prosecutors in preparation for trial. Many long hours were spent by

Sgt. Byers with prosecutors analyzing evidence and interviewing witnesses as the cases advanced through pretrial motions and towards trial dates. In May of 2018, a jury convicted Jennifer Busbey of all counts, including Third-Degree Murder and Drug Delivery Resulting In Death. Busbey received a sentence of ten to twenty years of incarceration for these crimes. Currently, the case against Justin Wentz is pending. Justice for the death of Aaron Lawrence was only obtainable through the hard work and dedication of Sgt. Jason Byers over the many years since Lawrence's death in 2010.

As District Attorney of York County, I am honored to recognize you for the passion and dedication in which you display not only in your investigations, but to victims of crime.

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Dave Sunday

District Attorney