

2021 Police Officer of the Year, Detective Christian Diaz

Detective Christian Diaz began his career with the Burbank Police Department as a Cadet in December of 2008 with ambitions of becoming a Police Officer. When he joined the Burbank Police Department, Christian had just completed the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico Virginia where he studied leadership and military tactics.

On February 26, 2010, Detective Diaz realized his goal of becoming a Police Officer. He attended the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy and graduated as the top recruit in academics. Soon after, he was assigned to the Patrol Division where he successfully completed the department's Field Training Program. He remained in the Patrol Division as a Police Officer for nine years which included working as a Field Training Officer.

Officer Diaz was promoted to Detective in 2017 and assigned to the Property Detail to investigate commercial burglaries until February 2021. During this period, Detective Diaz learned and honed a myriad of investigative techniques to include a greater use of technology. Detective Diaz' hard work and investigative skill led to 24 burglaries being solved and numerous career criminals being arrested in 2020. Detective Diaz also compiled sufficient evidence to assist other agencies with solving crimes committed throughout southern California. As a result of his exemplary performance in the Property Detail, Detective Diaz was reassigned to the Vice-Narcotics Detail in February this year.

Throughout his career, Detective Diaz has worked diligently to reduce incidents of crime that negatively impact the citizens of Burbank. He has successfully investigated many cases that have resulted in the arrests of those responsible for victimizing many of our local businesses. Due to his comprehensive investigations, he was able to recover and return property that had been stolen from victims in Burbank and surrounding communities.

Detective Diaz' achievements and accolades include the prestigious Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award and attaining the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training's "Advanced Officer" certificate. Detective Diaz was also selected as the Burbank Police Department Officer of the Year in 2021 and 2014.

Detective Diaz continued his formal education despite his challenging work schedule and busy personal life, and in February of 2019, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from California Coast University.

Detective Diaz' work ethic, professionalism and commitment embody the department's core values of Respect, Integrity, and Excellence. He is an outstanding representative of the many dedicated men and women members of the Burbank Police Department and is deserving of this nomination for City of Burbank Employee of the Year.