

**PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

11111 South Belcher Road, Largo, Florida 33773  
Telephone (727) 547-7221 • Fax (727) 545-6505  
Luke C. Williams, Chief

April 22, 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen of the FASRO Awards Committee,

It is a privilege and an honor to have the opportunity to support School Resource Officer Michael Hawkins' nomination for the 2018-2019 FASRO Lifetime Achievement Award.

Officer Michael Hawkins is the epitome of what the lifetime achievement award embodies. Since starting his career in law enforcement in 1981, School Resource Officer Hawkins developed genuine care for students and their abilities to succeed, not only in the school setting but also in life.

SRO Hawkins faithfully served 32 and a half years at the St. Petersburg Police Department. After having served exceptionally as a patrol officer, Officer Hawkins was transferred to St. Petersburg's Youth Resources Division where he was assigned to Gibbs High School. SRO Hawkins served at Gibbs High School consecutively for the next 25 years!

He has had the unique ability to mentor multiple generations of students and enjoys a wealth of respect for his gentle, yet firm approach and outstanding communication skills. It is not uncommon for SRO Hawkins to have mentored three generations of the same family. In his final five years at St. Petersburg, SRO Hawkins served as a Robbery Detective. Throughout his years at St. Petersburg, I had the pleasure of working with and supervising Michael Hawkins as the Assistant Chief in both the Investigative Services and Uniform Services Bureaus. He is the type of employee every supervisor wishes he or she could clone.

Upon his retirement from St. Petersburg in 2014, Officer Hawkins continued his commitment to our schools and students of Pinellas County by becoming a member of the Pinellas County Schools Police Department. Now, as I serve as the Chief of Pinellas County Schools Police Department, it goes without saying, my comfort level increased significantly due to the mere presence of SRO Hawkins as a member of the team. SRO Hawkins' skills, experience, and involvement in the development of processes and his teaching ability have been instrumental in ensuring Pinellas County was in full compliance with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. He acts as an acting Sergeant in the absence of his supervisor and is a highly rated instructor in the annual School Resource Officer School.

Currently, SRO Hawkins serves as SRO at Hamilton Disston Academy where he continues to impact the lives of at-risk students in a positive fashion. From a historical perspective, SRO Hawkins has been recognized as the 1988 Florida Resource Officer of the Year Award as the top SRO in the state of Florida and the 1996 Officer of the Year Award for the St. Petersburg Police Department. He was also recognized five times as Optimist Club Officer of the Year. SRO Hawkins remains active in the community and serves on the Pinellas County Urban League Task Force and at his church where he is an ordained minister.

It is only fitting Officer Hawkins not only be considered for the FASRO Lifetime Achievement Award but that he receives the same. In closing, if I could select one person to have on my team who represents a lifetime commitment to the children and wellbeing of others, it would be Michael Hawkins. If there is one person who is most deserving of the FASRO Lifetime Achievement Award, it is Michael Hawkins. Your consideration in making this reality is very much appreciated. SRO Hawkins comes with my highest endorsement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luke Williams", written in a cursive style.

Luke C. Williams, Chief  
Pinellas County Schools Police Department