

FASRO Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination



Pinellas County Schools Police is honored to nominate Officer Michael Hawkins for the Florida Association of School Resource Officers (FASRO) Lifetime Achievement Award.

One of the first priorities of being a school resource officer is a strong commitment to creating a safe learning environment, something Officer Hawkins has excelled at from the beginning of his career. Officer Hawkins has been a pioneer in school safety and CPTED programs since 1984, implementing numerous safety programs and recommending physical changes to school design.

Officer Hawkins served as a school resource officer (SRO) with the City of St. Petersburg Police Department from January 1984 to April 2009 and retired from the department in 2014. But his passion would not allow him to stay retired. In August 2014, Officer Hawkins joined the Pinellas County Schools Police Department where he remains employed to this day. Officer Hawkins has committed 30 of his 37 ½-year career in law enforcement to the SRO program. Looking back over the course of the school resource officer program, Officer Hawkins has served longer than any other officer in Pinellas County and possibly the entire state of Florida.

One of the keys that Officer Hawkins has used in his tenure as an SRO is the FHA method, or Fair Honest and Attentive method. This method has worked not only in his professional life where he is a beacon for the students he protects and educates, but it has carried over into his personal life where he is a role model and mentor to many in his community.

The meaning of the Lifetime Achievement Award is to honor those who have made being an SRO a life mission and have provided quality leadership and direction when faced with the many challenges within our schools. Officer Hawkins has not only provided quality service as an SRO over the past 37 years, but he continues to do so to this day. Officer Hawkins is considered one of the most respected SROs in our area and his advice is sought after from SROs around the state. Officer Hawkins has been an amazing resource for the SRO program as he has assisted in the establishment of the SRO program in Pinellas County and is tasked on many occasions to address a wide variety of issues at our schools and schools throughout Florida.

Officer Hawkins' knowledge and demeanor have assisted in creating a safe learning environment at schools throughout the district. After the 1996 riots in St. Petersburg, Officer Hawkins held a rap session with the students at Gibbs High School to ensure that the students understood the importance of working together and having a safe learning community which led to a decrease in the anti-law enforcement sentiment at the time.

Officer Hawkins has conducted mediation sessions with students on Sundays. He has been involved with the 500 and 5000 Role Models program and he serves on the Pinellas County Urban League Task Force serving our youth. He has chaperoned youth at the annual Preventing Crime in the Black Community and National Urban League conferences.

At Gibbs High School, Officer Hawkins has served as an advisor to the Black Culture Club and provided instruction to students in drivers' education, history, psychology classes, and many other such topics. During these periods of instruction, Officer Hawkins covered subjects such as DUI, safe driving, local amendments and knowing your rights during a search and seizure. Officer Hawkins' experience and expertise have made him a much sought after public speaker and he has spoken to numerous clubs, sororities, fraternities, police gatherings, and youth programs both during and after school hours. Officer Hawkins is currently an instructor for the SRO Training Program in Pinellas County and an Active Assailant Trainer at St. Petersburg College.



Some of the highlights of Officer Hawkins' career include:

- 1985 - Created the first Gibbs High School Student Against Drunk Driving club (SADD).
- 1986 – Gibbs High School JV football coach and mentor
- 1987 - Channel 44 Life Saving Hero Award. (Saved a blind man from getting hit on U.S. Highway 19)
- 1988 – FASRO Officer of The Year Award recipient (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
- 1988-1993 – Advisor to the Gibbs High School Gospel Choir
- 1988-1990 – Region coordinator for FASRO board of directors
- 1991 – Started the youth crime watch at Gibbs High School
- 1996 –St. Petersburg Police Officer of the Year; Optimist Club Officer of the Year
- 2000-2014 – Hostage Negotiator for St. Petersburg Police Department
- 2009-2011 – Honored with a two-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 19 with a Department of Transportation banner dedicated to Officer Hawkins from Gibbs High School faculty and students

It's difficult to detail Officer Hawkins' impact on this community in just a few words. His accomplishments and contributions are so vast and span several generations of students, but

who he is can be summed up by saying that Officer Hawkins embodies what every SRO should strive to be, and he is admired by all who meet him.

Officer Hawkins shared that the proudest moments in his career are when former students, teachers, administrators, and police officers, some now SROs themselves, tell him how he made a difference in their lives when they were his students. These men and women relay how Officer Hawkins' compassion, leadership and mentoring helped shape them into the people that they are today.

Officer Hawkins' impact on the people of Pinellas County cannot be overstated nor is there a more deserving candidate for the FASRO Lifetime Achievement Award.