

Cheektowaga dispatcher Jeff Place retires with 30-years on the job

By **Jim Herr** - January 24, 2019



Dispatcher Jeff Place (L) with Senior Dispatcher Paul Hockwater on January 23, 2019. (Contributed)

CHEEKTOWAGA – Town of Cheektowaga Public Safety Dispatcher Jeff Place has retired after 30-years of service to the community.

His ceremonial ride home from the police station was held Wednesday.

The community learned of his accomplishments during broadcast over the police radio.

He received a letter of commendation in 1995 for helping in the apprehension of three bike thieves in his neighborhood. While off-duty he helped pursue the suspects on foot through several streets and help bring the men into custody.

A year later, his clear and calm instructions over the telephone allowed a Hillpine Road resident to deliver his baby.

In 1997 Mr. Place took a 911 call of a man threatening his ex-girlfriend with a shotgun. He made contact with the man and deescalated the

situation allowing the SWAT team to arrest the man without anyone getting hurt.

Seven years later in 2004, a phone call came into the communications center saying two men were inside the Walden Avenue HSBC Bank with a bomb. He gathered the suspect’s information and vehicle description and relayed that information onto responding police officers. They stopped the vehicle and arrested the men.



Dispatcher Jeff Place walks out of the police station for the final time as an employee on January 23, 2019. (Contributed)

Over his career, he was an alternative lead dispatcher and later a lead dispatcher, a CPR-AED instructor, and mentored all the new dispatchers.

“All the personnel at the Cheektowaga Police Department thank Jeff for his service to the department, and the residents of the town wish him a long healthy retirement with his family,” a dispatcher said during his radio sendoff.

In addition to his work for the town, Mr. Place has been a volunteer firefighter at Forks for 39-years.

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