

Zachery Mikalik

Dear Chief Seraphin and Deputy Chief Surlles,

My life been defined by diligence, fairness, and integrity. I approach each new challenge with an organized and steadfast determination that has led my coworkers to want to work with me, and trust that I will turn out quality results. These merits make me an ideal match for the police lieutenant opening and will bring immediate value to the police department administration.

In my role as a police sergeant, I have used the same democratic-style of leadership that has defined me throughout my life to develop relationships with coworkers and members of our community, leading to bonds built on trust and equality. I quickly distinguished myself as the type of supervisor that is reliable, fair, dependable, and willing to work as a part of team to get things done. Although I am independently motivated, I appreciate collective efforts and collaborate productively within group settings.

Community involvement has always been a priority in my life, and that ideal has carried over to my role as a police officer and sergeant. I have served as a mentor with the CU 1-to-1 school mentoring program and presented several times at Urbana grade schools to develop relationships with the children in our community. I have worked as a volunteer at two different food pantries in Urbana to better understand and serve the people who experience food-insecurity in our community. I have continued to study and engage in forward-thinking discussions about the new era of policing that is emerging in our country, and how we can enact positive change within our own department and community.

Since becoming a police officer, I have continually worked to better my coworkers, the City of Urbana, and myself. I have taken on many specialty roles such as METRO team member, field training officer, Mobile Field Force squad leader, and master firearms instructor. I helped start the Urbana Police Department's Voluntary Physical Fitness Program and organized several team-building events throughout the years to promote physical wellness and camaraderie among officers. I organized and led the department's Shop with a Cop event for several years, as well as implementing a number of community-oriented police events such as Coats for Kids and community engagements with Urbana youth. Recently, I was selected as the Assistant Range Master, which has involved taking on multiple projects and responsibilities to improve the quality and organization of the training provided to our officers. I am currently working on an ambitious project to present to the leadership team that will work to bring our control tactics program towards a more modern focus based on de-escalation, improved open hand tactics, and quality training. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you more about this, and the other ways in which I will contribute to this administration. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachery Mikalik

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A decorated officer and a reliable supervisor who works well as part of a team or as project lead. I have taken on several extra roles and responsibilities to improve things for my coworkers, the Urbana Police Department, and the citizens of Urbana. I pride myself on being open-minded and forward thinking with the right skills for police leadership in 2021 and beyond.



Experience

- 2017-present **Patrol Sergeant at Urbana Police Department**
- Supervised members of all three shifts
 - Organized and maintained schedules and training for officers
 - Implemented and organized several programs such as AEDs, Narcan distribution, and range training
 - Handled multiple citizen complaints with fairness and efficiency
- 2008-2017 **Patrol Officer at Urbana Police Department**
- Received multiple awards and positive performance reviews
 - Problem-solved criminal activity within my assigned beat
 - Organized several events to promote team-building amongst coworkers
 - Created and lead multiple community engagement events like Shop With a Cop, Cops Helping Kids, and more
- 2006-2008 **Sales Associate at Menards Champaign**
- Developed a base for customer-oriented approach to communication
 - Received several positive performance evaluations from department manager
- 2001-2009 **Infantryman in the Illinois ARMY National Guard**
- Deployed to combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom
 - Served in various roles as part of team tasked with combating terrorism using a “community-policing” style tactic
 - Received multiple awards for performance and bravery

Strengths

- Leadership
- Written Communication
- Customer Service
- Reliability
- Computer Skills

Contact Information

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Education

- 2006-2008 **Bachelors of Science in Psychology at the University of Illinois**
- Coursework included studying human behavior and abnormal psychology
 - Both helped greatly in interactions with coworkers and the community as an officer

Specialty Training & Assignments

- 2010 Basic SWAT
- 2011 Field Training Officer
- 2012 Leadership and Personal Development
- 2012 Field Force Operations
- 2016 Police Firearms Instructor
- 2017 Master Firearms Instructor
- 2017 X2 Taser Training
- 2019 Patrol Rifle Instructor

Awards and Certificates

- 2013 Commendation Award
- 2016 Two Certificates of Merit
- 2016 Life Saving Award
- 2017 Certificate of Merit