

2009 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



TOM BELL

**Tom was selected as the Employee of the 2nd Quarter for 2009.
He was later awarded the 2009 Employee of the Year award at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony.**

Tom Bell joined the Evidence team three years ago. His 20 + years of service in the US Air Force as well as his warehousing and fleet experience have proven invaluable to the unit. Tom has sustained superior performance of his assigned duties and has become expert in evidence vehicle management, computer disposal and facility planning.

The responsibility of evidence vehicle storage was assigned to the Evidence Unit in February 2007. Tom demonstrated interest and desire to tackle what initially seemed an insurmountable task. He made several trips to the vehicle storage location, conducting needs assessments and developing a comprehensive plan to clean up and revamp evidence vehicle storage management and disposal. Tom conducted a complete inventory, researched several data sources for case disposition, and logged every vehicle into the BEAST system. He coordinated and scheduled the "State Street Clean Up Project," eliminating 40 cubic tons of trash. Tom is credited for bringing evidence vehicle storage up to standards and authored the SPD Evidence policy specific to evidence vehicle storage, management and disposition. Tom accomplished this difficult assignment in six months time and is our lead trainer of "State Street" vehicle management.

Our auction proceeds have increased by thousands of dollars due to Tom's diligence in finding a way to erase digital media and storage devices. Tom researched and purchased software that wipes these various devices clean. Not long ago, we literally threw hundreds of abandoned or unclaimed computers, laptops, IPODs, and cell phones in the trash. Tom's efforts have enabled our unit to auction these items thus increasing our budget designated to purchase facility improvements and technological upgrades.

He brings years of experience and education to every challenge facing the SPD/SCSO Evidence Facility today. The last few years have been action packed with our task to find a new Evidence Facility. Tom actively participated in the exploration of the old Costco building on 3rd Ave and worked extensively on planning for new facility construction at Normandie. Our City is moving in a new direction that involves a lease or purchase of existing warehouse space. Tom has developed detailed floor plans that include space allocations for existing evidence inventory as well as projected growth. In every aspect, Tom has communicated the needs of the Evidence function and has applied a professional and analytical approach to ensure law enforcement agencies receive a "Best in Class" evidence function.

Spokane Police Department is privileged to have such a dependable, energetic and dedicated employee.