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On behalf of the Dalton Police Department, I would like to recognize SRO Officer Bart Chandler as the Dalton Police Department Officer of the Year. Officer Chandler is currently assigned to Dalton High School as the School Resource Officer. Bart's performance file is filled with commendations, praises, and compliments from citizens and fellow officers.

On February 28, 2018, SRO Chandler received a call from school staff in reference to a possible "Active Shooter" at Dalton High School. SRO Chandler was instrumental in relaying the information over the radio to alert department personnel. While responding to the incident location, SRO Chandler effectively directed responding officers to the threat quickly, enabling it to be contained within a classroom. Once on scene, SRO Chandler made contact with what was now a barricaded subject. SRO Chandler did an excellent job speaking with the barricaded subject and negotiating the safe surrender of the subject. Because of his quick and professional action a threat in a target rich environment was contained before there were any injuries and a satisfactory outcome was achieved.

Without Officer Chandler's relationship with the people he works with, negotiations with the barricaded subject wouldn't have been successful. Because of Officer Chandler's understanding voice and listening ear, the barricaded subject gave up peacefully without any injury to him, the students, staff, or the officers on scene. Officer Chandler is a natural leader and took control of a dangerous situation and ended it peacefully.

Because of his actions and his continued track record of excellent performance, Officer Chandler was selected by a vote of his peers as the 2018 Dalton Police Department Officer of the Year.

Thank you,

Chief Cliff Cason