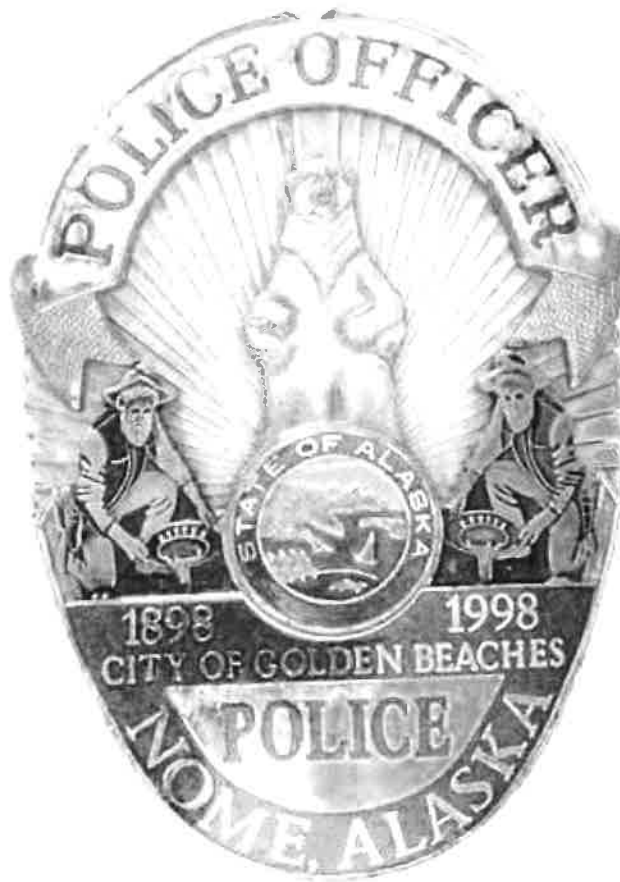


## NOME POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONAL COMMENDATION

Name of Employee Commended Sergeant Alex Le	Unit/Section Patrol
Person Making Commendation Investigator Harrison	Unit/Section Investigations

Please see attached pages for narrative of incident commending Sergeant Le.



cc: Employee Field File  
City Manager

**Details:**

This commendation is my privilege to write and commend for Sergeant Hoang "Alex" Le of the Nome Police Department patrol division. This is in reference to patrol case 21-007306.

This is based on the events of the early morning at approximately 0630 hours on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sergeant Le responded to the area of E 3<sup>rd</sup> & L Street for a report of possible gun shots and the suspect described as an Alaskan Native male wearing a Black hooded sweater and a Black baseball cap.

Sergeant Le responded without hesitation and without a backup unit to this call as the swing shift Officer had already ended his shift. Sergeant Le met with the reporting party and as he was taking the report he heard another gunshot go off near the Front Street Sea Wall area, he immediately responded.

Sergeant Le met a group of teenaged juveniles who scattered amongst contact and one individual in particular stopped and screamed "fuck the police" to Sergeant Le. Sergeant Le was able to do a field interview with one juvenile from the group and another gunshot went off. Sergeant Le continued to follow the sound of the gunshots, he was able to locate a pair of pants with shotgun shells in the front pocket during his search. Sergeant Le continued to hear more gunshots go off. With his intuition and knowledge of the community and putting together what he could of the juveniles description he went to a known residence on E 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and made contact with the suspect, identified as R.L. DOB 5-17-2005, R.L. was standing outside. R.L. matched the description given by the reporting party. There were multiple other juveniles on scene. Sergeant Le gave verbal commands for R.L. to lay on the ground flat on his stomach. R.L. faked compliance and got back off the ground and started yelling profanities at Sergeant Le. During the exchange, R.L. reached for his waistline and made verbal threats to Sergeant Le and pointed a handgun, unknowingly if loaded or not at the time, directly at Sergeant Le. Sergeant Le stood his ground and gave verbal commands for R.L. to drop the weapon; R.L. tried to load a round in the chamber by pulling the slide back. Sergeant Le while being in fear for his life did not stand down and instead wanting to protect the life of both himself and R.L. Sergeant Le did not fire his weapon. Sergeant Le and R.L. had their weapons pointed at each other, after what seemed to be a lifetime R.L. threw the weapon in a puddle in front of the residence.

Sergeant Le was then able to safely handcuff R.L. and place him into the patrol vehicle. R.L. tried to head-butt Sergeant Le during the walk to the patrol vehicle. Sergeant Le retrieved the weapon which was determined to be a real working Ruger LCP .380 Semi Auto handgun. The weapon did not have any more ammo in it.

Sergeant Le went to return R.L.'s cap to him, during this process once the door was opened R.L. forced his way out of the vehicle trying to fight Sergeant Le. Sergeant Le still alone during this fight and with other juveniles around was able to sub-due R.L. by using Oleoresin Capsicum (or pepper spray). R.L. spit in Sergeant Le's face, but Sergeant Le was able to get him back inside of the vehicle.

R.L. was then transferred to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital for medical clearance, where R.L. was violent and out of control and had to be (4) four point restrained, again with the help of Sergeant Le.

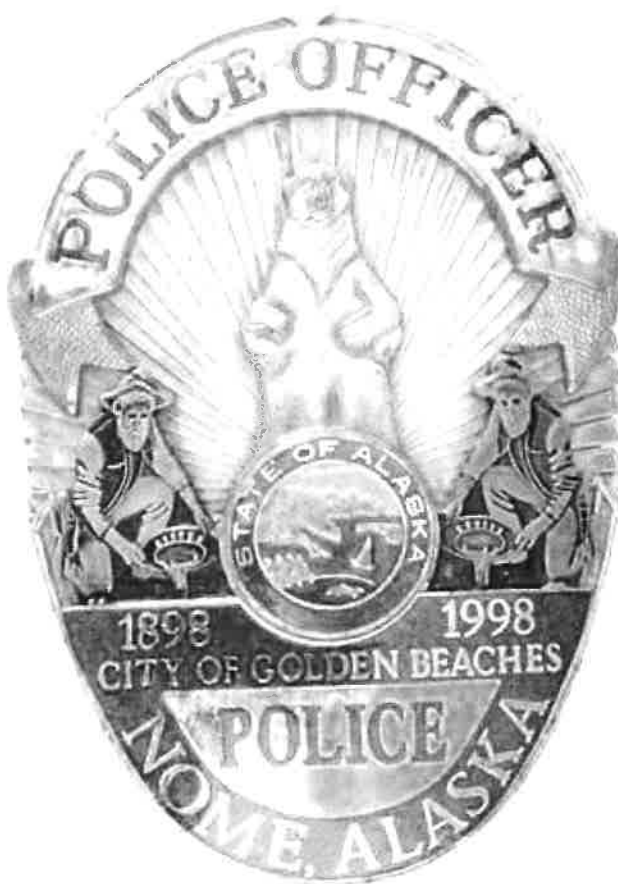
Sergeant Le contacted the local Juvenile Probation Office and worked with Dan Fishel and along with the District Attorney, John Earthman and was able to get a safe remand of R.L. in their custody. This is a hard task to accomplish due to no holding facility existing in Nome no longer. Sergeant Le then stayed multiple hours after his shift to complete the incident report before retiring his shift.

It takes a true courageous hero with an undetermined amount of restraint and strength to do what Sergeant Le did during this critical incident. It's easy for someone to 'quarter back' or try and criticize what Sergeant Le did, but the fact is that both survived and Sergeant Le completed his job and was able to remand the suspect in this case no matter the light of danger he faced being pointed directly at him.

cc: Employee Field File  
City Manager

We need more heroes like Sergeant Le serving our region of Western Alaska and I am a proud co-worker to know we have someone like him working our streets and protecting us in Nome, Alaska.

Please take this commendation with a heavy heart as we all support and thank you for your service.



Signature:

Date:

9/6/21

cc: Employee Field File  
City Manager