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Florida Police Chiefs Association Announces Outstanding Command Officer of the Year

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) announced Punta Gorda Police Department Captain Jason Ciaschini as the Outstanding Command Officer of the Year, on Tuesday, January 12th, at the FPCA 2021 Mid-Winter Conference.

FPCA President and Satellite Beach PD Chief Jeff Pearson said, "Captain Ciaschini embodies the highest ideals of our law enforcement profession. It is my honor and privilege to announce Captain Jason Ciaschini as the Outstanding Command Officer of the Year."

As commander of Support Services Division, Captain Ciaschini oversees the Administrative Services Section, the Communications Section, Evidence and Property, budget, and vehicle fleet for the Punta Gorda PD. Nominated by Chief Pamela Davis, Captain Jason Ciaschini served as Interim Chief for that Department in 2017, providing new leadership during a period of low morale and low productivity. Chief Davis credits Captain Ciaschini's strong support and professionalism as keys to her successful transition when she was named Chief in January, 2018.

With Captain Ciaschini's leadership, the Punta Gorda PD revamped its entire recruitment, testing, hiring, and promotional processes, resulting in the hiring of 15 sworn police officers and 10 civilian employees over the past two years. Captain Ciaschini was also the project manager for the new body-worn camera program, and conducted a successful pilot program that led to a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance covering 50 percent of the camera system's cost. Upon a request from Chief Davis to reconfigure and enhance training beyond state requirements and increase training hours by at least 50 percent, Captain Ciaschini successfully increased training hours by 90 percent in 2019.

More recently, Captain Ciaschini sought funding for the 911 center to implement PowerPhone. This dispatch system establishes advanced call taking protocols and prompts call takers and dispatchers to ask additional detailed questions. Captain Ciaschini obtained a \$65,000.00 grant from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to purchase the program, which is now in implementation due to Captain Ciaschini's leadership.

About the Florida Police Chiefs Association

The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) is the nation's pre-eminent law enforcement professional association, speaking for more than 900 of Florida's top law enforcement executives, and providing guidance and leadership for the future of law enforcement and our communities. The FPCA serves municipal, airport, college and university, and tribal police departments, as well as private businesses and security firms and federal, state and county law enforcement agencies across every region of the state. For more information about the FPCA, please visit www.fpca.com.

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