



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trooper Oaks of the Michigan State Police Marshall Post to receive award from Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Tpr. Brandon Oaks of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Marshall Post is being recognized by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) for his long-term contribution and commitment to traffic safety in Michigan.

The trooper will be honored during the Traffic Safety Awards Virtual Ceremony, via Microsoft Teams, at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The GTSAC recognizes organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding involvement in traffic safety.

Nominated for the Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Award, Trooper Oaks is commended for his knowledge and impact on statewide Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) investigations.

With more than 22 years of experience, he has extensive expertise in drug enforcement and in dealing with drug- and alcohol-impaired subjects. His skills also include criminal investigation, traffic enforcement and undercover narcotics work.

In 2011, Trooper Oaks was trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), which brought about a passion for investigating driving-while-impaired incidents. Since that time, he has become a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and instructor, as well as a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) instructor. As a result, Trooper Oaks has investigated hundreds of driving-while-impaired cases.

"The key to a successful OWI investigation is having individuals like Tpr. Brandon Oaks who have trained thousands of police officers in SFST, ARIDE, and future DRE investigators," said F/Lt. James Coleman in nominating the trooper. "To date, Trooper Oaks has trained nearly 60 new DREs in the State of Michigan."

The Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Award is named for the longest-serving secretary of state in Michigan history (1971-1995). Austin earned a national reputation as an outstanding and effective advocate for traffic safety.

The GTSAC was formed in 2002 to serve as the state's forum for identifying key traffic safety challenges and developing and implementing plans to address those issues. The commission includes representatives from the MSP and the departments of Transportation, Education, State, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Office of the Governor, the Aging and Adult Services Agency, and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. There are also three representatives from local government appointed by the governor.

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Alicia Sledge, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Steven Kiefer, Governor's Office • Carol Reagan, Department of State • Gregg Brunner, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Health and Human Services • Maj. Ryan Pennell, Department of State Police • Ashley Ellsworth, Health and Aging Services Agency • William Miller, Local Representative • Chief Ronald Wiles, Local Representative • Sheriff Michael Poulin, Local Representative

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