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*"Embracing our Heritage, Advancing our Future"*

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Douglas Police Officers Recognized by United States Attorney's Office for Work on Ridenour Case**

Douglas, AZ – On January 16, 2025, the United States Attorney's Office – District of Arizona, recognized Detective Ivan Gamez and Sergeant David Acosta for their work on the Ridenour Arson Investigation; a joint investigation with the ATF and FBI whose agents were also recognized during the ceremony.

In the notice received from the US Attorney's Office, both officers received the 2024 Civil Rights Team Award for their outstanding contributions and exemplary service:

"This award is presented annually to individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication, professionalism, and achievement in advancing justice and public safety, and who help to amplify the valor and compassion inherent in our nation's law enforcement officers."

Attorneys who were assigned to prosecute the case spoke highly of both officers' contributions to the successful conviction and ultimate sentencing of Ridenour to 36.5 years. Officers and Agents were commended on their level of professionalism and ability to work as a team throughout the course of the investigation, through the trial and ultimately the sentencing.

Chief Kraig Fullen, who attended the ceremony along with Command Staff, noted:

"Those in attendance at the ceremony heard only a couple of examples about the work that these gentlemen do, day in and day out. They, like all of our outstanding team members at the Douglas Police Department, work diligently to ensure the safety of our community by providing advocacy for crime victims and accountability for those who are responsible."

City Manager Ana Urquijo shared:

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Detective Gamez and Sergeant Acosta for receiving the Civil Rights Team Award. Their unwavering dedication to justice and public safety, particularly in the face of challenging circumstances, highlights the true spirit of service and integrity. Their efforts not only amplify the core values of our law enforcement officers but also make our community a safer and more just place for everyone."

City Mayor Jose Grijalva shared:

"I am immensely proud to commend Detective Gamez and Sergeant Acosta for their exceptional dedication and professionalism in advancing justice and public safety. Their actions exemplify the valor and compassion that define our law enforcement community. Their commitment to doing what is right strengthens the fabric of our city and inspires us all."