

WSATI Northern Chapter Board,

California Highway Patrol Investigator Kelly D. Lindholm is an excellent candidate for the Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI) Auto Theft Investigator of the Year 2013 Al Weatherman Award.

As a CHP officer and investigator, she has served the citizens of California for over 23 years. Through her dedication of service, she has exhibited patience, tenaciousness, and enthusiasm representative of Al Weatherman.

In October of 2005 Investigator Lindholm was assigned to the CHP Coastal Division Investigative Services Unit, focusing on vehicle theft. In 2006 she was assigned to the Monterey County auto theft task force where she worked with allied agency investigators to combat a broad spectrum of theft including commercial vehicles, agricultural equipment, and passenger vehicles. Prior to her assignment to the task force she identified a suspect responsible for several stolen vehicles in the Prunedale area of Monterey County. Her diligence and skill led to the suspect being convicted for the theft of eight stolen vehicles and eleven burglaries.

Because of her organizational skills and enthusiasm she was assigned as the co-case agent on an undercover storefront operation in Monterey County called operation "Money Train". As a result of the eleven month operation 57 stolen vehicles were recovered along with firearms and illegal drugs. In all, 52 suspects were charged with fifteen of them facing federal charges. Most recently in 2010 she was involved in the Gilroy Police Department storefront operation "Garlic Press" which made national news with over 100 hundred arrests and 86 recoveries.

Investigator Lindholm has been unrelenting in her quest to expose professional thieves in Monterey County. Recently the Monterey County District Attorney's Office requested help with an insurance fraud case. Investigator Lindholm developed a citizen informant who revealed the vehicle was taken to a scrap yard by a suspect. She organized surveillance and observed the suspect sell a cut up vehicle to a scrap yard. She was later able to locate a confidential VIN on the cut up frame after reassembling the vehicle parts. Her interview of the suspect led to a conviction and he was ordered to pay the insurance company \$27,000.00 in restitution. On another case she exhibited the open mindedness and investigative intuition to recognize a citizen's complaint of an illegal mechanic shop as a possible chop shop. As a result four stolen vehicles were recovered and the suspect was arrested.

Working to help others and educate fellow law enforcement officers is an ongoing passion for Investigator Lindholm. In 2007, she organized and implemented a VIN Officer training class in Coastal Division. The training was repeated in 2012 and has assisted in providing the VIN officers with the additional skills and resources needed to identify and recover stolen vehicles. Throughout Coastal Division she continues to be one of the prominent experts in assisting CHP and allied agencies in the identification of stolen vehicles. She recently assisted patrol officer with the report of a stolen tractor. Her follow-up investigation led to the recovery of the tractor as well as three more tractors before they could be transported to the Central Valley. The suspect was identified and was linked to two previous tractor thefts. The suspect was convicted on six counts of theft.

Investigator Lindholm has helped train and mentor four new vehicle theft investigators since 2005. Most recently, she developed and implemented AB109 training for officers and dispatchers. This has been critical given the challenges posed to law enforcement since the prison realignment.

Through her hard work, fellowship, and persevering pursuit of professional thieves, she stands out as an example of excellence in vehicle theft investigation. For these reasons I request Investigator Lindholm be nominated for the WSATI Northern Chapter Auto Theft Investigator of the Year 2013 Al Weatherman Award.

Should you have any questions please contact me through email or call me. Thank you for your consideration.

Ethan Jackson, Sergeant

CHP Coastal Division ISU