



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Media Contact:** Deputy Shade McMillian

**Date:** May 14, 2021

## **LCSO Deputy and Explorer Honored by Committee of 99**

The Leon County Sheriff's Office is honored to announce Deputy Paul Emmons and LCSO Explorer Jaaron McCray as winners at the annual Committee of 99 banquet. Deputy Emmons and Explorer McCray were recognized with the 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and the 2020 Officer Ernest Ponce De Leon Youth Award, respectively.

Deputy Paul Emmons, a 27-year veteran at LCSO, currently serves as the School Resource Deputy at an area High School. On Friday, October 4, 2019, high school administration received a distress call from one of their classrooms. A student was having a mental health crisis and had obtained an eight-inch knife and was holding it to his chest. School administrators and teachers, inside the classroom, were taking defensive postures at a distance from the student. Deputy Emmons, who also serves as a LCSO hostage negotiator, arrived, approached the student calmly, and through his controlled voice commands began to take control of the situation. Deputy Emmons calmed the student and the student eventually dropped the knife and fell to the ground. Deputy Emmons covered the student by kneeling between him and everyone else in the room and continued to console the student until he was emotionally stable enough to walk to the office. High School Principal, Joseph Burgess, commented, "Deputy Emmons' actions were selfless, calculated, and compassionate. He helped to save this student from possible life-threatening injury to himself and potential injury to others."

Jaaron McCray began as a Law Enforcement Explorer at the Leon County Sheriff's Office when he was a freshman in high school and has risen to the rank of Captain. During his time as Captain, Explorer McCray has assisted in keeping in constant communication with all the LCSO Explorers. Explorer McCray organized and facilitated virtual trainings during the COVID pandemic to ensure the Explorers remained in contact and always prepared. Explorer McCray has dedicated this past year to numerous volunteer functions associated with the Leon County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program, along with numerous community service hours. Explorer McCray plans to attend The Florida Public Safety Institute's Law Enforcement Academy and pursue a career with the Leon County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff.

Sheriff Walt McNeil, in attendance for the banquet, adds, "These two outstanding members of the LCSO family embody the spirit, commitment, and character it takes to lead in today's law enforcement environment. They are an asset to LCSO and our wonderful community." Several other LCSO members were also recognized during the banquet which encompassed honorees from two years of nominations. The Committee of 99 of Tallahassee/Leon County, Inc. was organized in 1981 by local Tallahassee business leaders to demonstrate to the local city and county law enforcement that the community supported their law enforcement officers.

Deputy Shade McMillian, Public Information Officer  
Office (850) 606-3342

[mcmillians@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:mcmillians@leoncountyfl.gov)

[@LeonSheriff](https://twitter.com/LeonSheriff)

[facebook.com/leonflso/](https://facebook.com/leonflso/)

Page 1 of 1

