



PRESS RELEASE

Retail Consumer Alliance (RCA)
209 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601
Contact: Ann Edmondson (919) 832-0811

CORCA NAMES SPARTANBURG OFFICER “SC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR”

Raleigh, NC (October 10, 2023) - The Carolinas Organized Retail Crime Alliance (CORCA) awarded Investigator Ronnie Horn as the 2023 South Carolina Law Enforcement Officer of the Year at their annual conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Investigator Horn is a 36-year veteran of law enforcement and has worked the last six years with the Spartanburg Police Department Investigative Division. Since 2017, Investigator Horn has investigated more than 800 larceny and shoplifting related offenses. This number does not reflect the countless agency assistance calls and requests from private retailers. Investigator Horn maintains an internal clearance rate of 62%, while the national average hovers at 20%. What these numbers do not show is the fact that Investigator Horn is not assigned to the “property crimes” section of the Criminal Investigative Division and is still responsible for investigating homicides, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Investigator Horn is a firm believer that his efforts and those of his colleagues make the difference.

Investigator Horn was nominated by Jason Thompson, Senior AP Manager with Lowe’s Companies Inc and Brian Cassidy, Asset Protection Specialist with The Home Depot.

“I have worked with Investigator Horn on many cases that span over 15 years during my tenure,” Cassidy shared in his nomination. “Investigator Horn has shown great passion and professionalism in every case that he has worked on for me. It is not uncommon for him to send a quick text or phone call to “check in” to make sure everything is ok. He is also known to drop

by once or twice a week to do a walk through and sit down for a chat. The store employees see that and appreciate his presence.”

Thompson shared in his nomination, “When I think about what it takes from a partnership standpoint - between the retailer world and law enforcement - there is no better person for the job than Ronnie.”

Captain Metz, who previously worked alongside Investigator Horn at the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office and now at the Spartanburg Police Department, also has high praise of Investigator Horn’s work.

“Investigator Ronnie Horn is the epitome of a law enforcement professional. With over thirty-six years of service to his community, Investigator Horn’s tenacity has never waned, his resolve has never wavered, and his commitment to serve others is beyond reproach. Investigator Horn’s work ethic is demonstrated by his willingness to collaborate with other jurisdictions seeking assistance with large scale and repeated retail thefts,” Captain Metz shared. “Despite it all, Investigator Horn approaches his job with humility, optimism, and the firm belief that his efforts and those of his colleagues make a difference. It’s no wonder that regardless of the task, everyone seeks to have Ronnie Horn on their team.”

Investigator Horn began his law enforcement career in 1978 with the U.S. Air Force Security Police. In 1989, Horn began working with the Spartanburg Police Department as a Public Safety Officer performing duties of Law Enforcement and Fireman. He began working with the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office Uniform Patrol in 1995, rising to the rank of 1st Lieutenant over the Uniform Patrol Division. Horn retired from the Sheriff’s Office in November of 2016.

After retirement, Investigator Horn soon realized that the place he belonged was back with the investigations team. He was offered a position by the Spartanburg Police Department in 2017 to be part of their Investigative Division where he continues to work today.

Organized retail crime goes far beyond common shoplifting, bad checks and fake gift cards. It is the large-scale theft of retail product usually driven by a criminal enterprise employing a group of individuals who steal mass quantities of merchandise and then resell the merchandise to convert the stolen goods into cash. Organized rings are often involved in other crimes within the community, including narcotics, money laundering and human trafficking. According to the

National Retail Federation's latest National Retail Security Survey, organized retail crime was a primary driver in retail losses which reached over \$112 billion nationwide in 2022.

CORCA, a collaborative effort in the Carolinas between retailers and law enforcement to reduce organized retail crime, is managed by the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) and supported by the South Carolina Retail Association (SCRA). NCRMA and SCRA represent chain and independent retailers of all types throughout the Carolinas. Through CORCA, retailers and law enforcement have found a way to bridge communication and fight the growing problem of retail crime on a unified front.

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About CORCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Each year, the CORCA Board of Directors accepts nominations to recognize an outstanding officer, one each from North and South Carolina, who has distinguished themselves through: their assistance to the retailers in their community specifically through their retail crime work, their dedication to their community at-large both as a professional officer and as a community volunteer, and achievements, accolades or honors they have received. The Board then reviews the nominations with those criteria in mind, to recognize two law enforcement officers, one representing North Carolina and one representing South Carolina, who have distinguished themselves and are deserving to be named CORCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for their state.