



For immediate release:

Lamplighter Project bestowed its second annual Lamplighter Award for Moral Courage in Law Enforcement upon Shannon Spalding.

July 30, 2022 – The law enforcement whistleblower organization [Lamplighter Project](#) announced on social media that it has bestowed the *Lamplighter Award for Moral Courage in Law Enforcement* upon Chicago Police Officer Shannon Spalding. The award is given annually on [National Whistleblower Day](#) to a sworn or civilian member of law enforcement for acts of moral courage against corruption, injustice, or misconduct in the criminal justice system.

Attorney Josh Tepfer of the [Exoneration Project](#) says that it is hard to imagine a more worthy candidate than Shannon. “At great cost to herself, Officer Spalding and her partner Daniel Echeverria exposed the misconduct of former Chicago Police Sgt. Ronald Watts and his corrupt team. The ripple effect of her doing so is still be felt. To date, over 240 individuals have been exonerated for false drug crimes that happened during this era of corruption.”

[Shannon says](#) that unlike her decision to become a police officer, being a whistleblower was “a choiceless choice.” “I swore to seek justice for everyone and see that criminals were held accountable for their crimes; there was no disclaimer on my oath that says, ‘everyone except police officers.’”

The Lamplighter Project commends Shannon Spalding for her courage. The world would be a darker place without lamplighters like Shannon who not only shed light on corruption, injustice, and misconduct, but serve as shining examples to other enforcement officers around the country who bear witness to violations of their oath.

Shannon is the second Lamplighter Award recipient from Illinois. The inaugural recipient, Javier Esqueda, recently retired from Joliet Police Department after enduring more than two years of retaliation for his role in releasing video footage related to the in-custody death of Eric Lurry.



The Lamplighter Project's Board of Directors extend their collective gratitude to the many individuals who nominated officers for this year's award. All law enforcement whistleblowers who disclose matters of public concern deserve to be celebrated. Lamplighter Project is indebted to the members of its Award Subcommittee who assisted in the challenging task of selecting this year's recipient.

Lamplighter Project encourages whistleblowing activity in law enforcement by removing barriers to reporting, preventing retaliation, and elevating ethical officers. National Whistleblower Day "celebrates the people who raise their voice in the name of combatting fraud, corruption and other crimes; their courage in the face of great adversity; and the strength of their conviction and dedication to the truth."