



For immediate release:

Lamplighter Project bestowed its third annual Lamplighter Award for Moral Courage in Law Enforcement upon Angela Sands.

August 23, 2023 – The law enforcement whistleblower organization [Lamplighter Project](#) announced that it has bestowed the *Lamplighter Award for Moral Courage in Law Enforcement* upon former Lincoln, Nebraska Police Sergeant Angela Sands. The award is given annually to a sworn or civilian member of law enforcement for acts of moral courage against corruption, injustice, or misconduct in the criminal justice system.

Angela Sands, who was named Nebraska’s Officer of the Year in 2016, “brought to public light an appalling history (and current culture) of sexual misconduct, including harassment and rape, at the Lincoln (Nebraska) Police Department (LPD)... Sands made the courageous decision to circumvent the chief of police and meet privately with the city’s mayor about LPD’s sexual misconduct issues... inspiring other officers (both past and present) to come forward and tell their stories of having suffered sexual misconduct.” Angela was subsequently terminated by the Lincoln Police Department in December of 2021, a fate which has befallen several other LPD officers who dared to speak up about harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

The world would be a darker place without lamplighters like Angela who stand as a shining example for law enforcement officers around the country that bear witness to corruption, injustice, and misconduct. The Lamplighter Project commends Angela for her courage.

All law enforcement whistleblowers who disclose matters of public concern deserve to be celebrated by their agencies and our nation. Until this vision is realized, Lamplighter Project will continue to honor these heroes. Angela is one of just three officers to have received the Lamplighter Award for Moral Courage in Law Enforcement. The inaugural recipient, Javier Esqueda, blew the whistle on the in-custody death of Eric Lurry in Joliet, Illinois. Last year’s award winner, Shannon Spalding, exposed corrupt conduct by Chicago Police Sgt. Ronald Watts. In the aftermath of Shannon’s disclosure, more than two hundred convictions tied to Watts have been thrown out in court.

Lamplighter Project encourages whistleblowing activity in law enforcement by removing barriers to reporting, preventing retaliation, and elevating ethical officers.