



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Civilian of the Year Award, 2020 **Special Chief Inspector Debbie Murray, Warwickshire Police, UK**

Debbie Murray joined Warwickshire Police as a special constable in 1984 and has witnessed many changes within policing over the years, particularly the role women play in keeping communities safe. A special constable in the UK is a volunteer but has all the powers of a regular police officers, sworn in and carrying a warrant card.

As a Special Constable she has been based at Rugby Police Station and 2 years ago was promoted to Special Chief Inspector with responsibility for North Warwickshire. She is responsible for managing and arranging the training of Warwickshire's serving Specials, currently working alongside the training department to write the new probationer training package to ensure training is current and relevant to the role that Specials perform within Warwickshire. The training of Specials is part of her portfolio as Special Chief Inspector and it is something, she is passionate about. Her drive and determination to not allow the Specials to be forgotten is one of the main reasons the Specials in Warwickshire have access to the courses that they do.

During her years of service to Warwickshire Police as a Special, Debbie Murray has carried out a variety of roles. She was trained in covert policing at a time when Warwickshire were in need of trained officers, she was one of the first Specials in the county to be authorised to drive police vehicles at the time in order for Specials to become basic drivers they had to know the pursuit policy word for word, she went on to be trained to drive the PSU van and has recently completed her fast roads training. When Warwickshire Police made 2019 their year of Well Being for the force SCI Murray stepped forward to complete the necessary training in order to become a Peer Supporter.

SCI Murray has formed a large number of networks outside of the police, she regularly meets with the local Fire and Rescue Service at Rugby to share ideas and potential cross skill sharing. She is a firm believer that Children should not be afraid of the police and as such will do as much as she can to change this perception. As a result, youth organisations also play a large part in the work she does in order to increase the face of Warwickshire Police to the community.

As part of her day job SCI Murray also works for Warwickshire Police in a civilian capacity using her skills to benefit both roles. She is always on hand for any of her officers if they need help guidance or just a shoulder to cry on, she has become a second Mum to many Special Constables that she has trained and developed. She has seen Specials she trained go on to join Warwickshire Police as regular officers and move through the ranks and has always kept their respect and thanks, for the support she gave them whilst one of her Special Constables. SCI Murray is an excellent role model for new and existing Special Constables, she is always excellently turned out and instils that same level of professionalism into the Special Constables under her care.

SCI Murray is a fierce advocate of Special Constables in Warwickshire and a huge supporter of developing them and giving them the best chance they have to be the best they can be. Without her support many Special Constables would have given up and moved on to new challenges. Whilst there is never any way she chooses females over males for roles and positions of responsibility she believes that as a female Special Chief Inspector she is in a unique position to show female Special Constables and female regular officers what is achievable as a female in modern policing.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "The IAWP is so pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues in law enforcement. These stores exemplify that with the right tools, training and opportunity, women excel in policing and keep our communities safer."

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

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