



**RCA** Retail - Consumer  
Alliance Foundation  
*working with consumers to build stronger communities*

## PRESS RELEASE

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

### LOSS PREVENTION ASSOCIATION AWARDS NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

**Raleigh, NC** (October 25, 2021) – The Carolinas Organized Retail Crime Alliance (CORCA) recently recognized both the North Carolina and South Carolina 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year at their annual conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The 2021 North Carolina Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Officer Joel Wing, a 22-year veteran of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Officer Wing has been a Community Coordinator in the Providence Division for approximately 13 years where he works closely with SouthPark Mall and surrounding retail businesses.

Officer Wing's supervisor, Lieutenant Shawn Crooks of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, told us, "Officer Wing is well deserving of the nomination for CORCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year based on several factors. These include his knowledge of the retail stores that are within his purview, the work he conducts both in crime prevention and investigations, and the partnerships and relationships he's formed with retail stores' employees."

Officer Wing has built a strong collaboration with Brendon Cutler, Dick's Sporting Goods' Loss Prevention Manager in the Charlotte Metro area and Cutler is grateful for their partnership.

“There is not one single officer who has impacted and helped Dick’s Sporting Goods in North Carolina more than Officer Wing has over the last year. The demands on his time and attention are many but Officer Wing has time and again answered my calls, emails, and texts to help bring major offenders to justice. I cannot say enough positive things about Officer Wing as a representative of the Charlotte Mecklenburg PD, law enforcement in general, and as a person.”

Investigator Donald “Donny” Sands was named the 2021 South Carolina Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. A member of the criminal investigations division of the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office, Investigator Sands has spent 25 years working in emergency services. Currently Investigator Sands covers shoplifting in the south/central region of Spartanburg County, is assigned to the Arson Unit and is the Arson K9 handler.

Target Asset Protection Team Leader, Jacob Krawiec, from Spartanburg County nominated Investigator Sands for the award.

“Investigator Sands is always willing to help. He provides updates on any changes or statuses with ongoing cases. His efforts provided us with fencing information that was found through a cross county partnership with other law enforcement agencies. As more information is found on either end, the shared communication has improved the case closure rate and mitigated further loss sooner,” said Krawiec in his nomination.

Rodney Suggs, CORCA president, stated “CORCA is grateful for the outstanding work of Officer Wing and Investigator Sands for their efforts to raise awareness of organized retail crime and combat active crime rings through investigative work and partnerships with retailers.”

CORCA thanks both Officer Wing and Investigator Sands for their efforts to reduce retail crime and bring awareness to this growing problem. CORCA would also like to thank the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office for the time and resources they have provide to help resolve retail crime cases.

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**About CORCA:**

Officially launched in February 2016, CORCA is a partnership between law enforcement and retail loss prevention officers to combat organized retail crime in the Carolinas. It is a division of the Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation, within the North and South Carolina State Retail Associations and is supported by the retail associations along with the Carolinas Food Industry Council. CORCA was created to bridge communication between retailers and law enforcement - helping identify offenders and resolve organized retail crime cases in the Carolinas. For more information, visit <http://www.corca.org/>.

*Photos included below*



Officer Joel Wing  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

*2021 North Carolina  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year*



Investigator Donald "Donny" Sands  
Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office

*2021 South Carolina  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year*