

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office



January 20, 2026

Deputy/Detective of the Year – 2025
Detective Nathan Gex
Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office – Narcotics Section

I am submitting this memorandum to formally recognize Detective Nathan Gex for his exceptional courage, judgment, and professionalism during a critical life-threatening incident in 2025, as well as his leadership role in a major multi-jurisdictional narcotics investigation conducted during the same year. Detective Gex's actions exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement service.

In late May 2025, while returning from an official investigative assignment in another parish, Detective Gex encountered an active and volatile law enforcement situation in a neighboring jurisdiction involving an armed felony suspect. Detective Gex observed the suspect pointing a handgun at a uniformed officer who was forced to take cover behind a patrol vehicle.

Recognizing the immediate threat to the officer's life, Detective Gex acted without hesitation. He repositioned himself to divert the suspect's attention away from the officer, deliberately placing himself at personal risk to reduce the danger to others. Demonstrating exceptional situational awareness and tactical discipline, Detective Gex positioned himself to engage the suspect while maintaining cover and control.

Detective Gex initiated calm and deliberate communication, effectively assuming a negotiator role under rapidly evolving and high-risk conditions. During the encounter, the suspect became increasingly unstable and made verbal threats of self-harm while continuing to brandish the firearm. Detective Gex maintained composure and used de-escalation techniques to slow the situation and prevent the use of deadly force.

After approximately ninety minutes of sustained negotiation and coordination with responding officers, the suspect surrendered peacefully and was taken into custody without injury to any officers or civilians. Detective Gex's decisive actions and commitment to preserving life were instrumental in the safe resolution of an incident that could have otherwise resulted in serious injury or loss of life.

In addition to this life-saving incident, Detective Gex distinguished himself through investigative leadership during a major multi-jurisdictional narcotics investigation later in 2025. In October, Detective Gex worked closely with Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office DEA Task Force Officer Darren Kelly during an investigation targeting a high-level cocaine trafficking operation transporting multi-kilogram quantities of narcotics from Texas into Louisiana. While initial intelligence identified the trafficking activity, Detective Gex recognized the broader scope of the organization and elevated the investigation.

Through coordinated enforcement actions with the Drug Enforcement Administration, investigators intercepted the trafficker during a narcotics transaction. Detective Gex secured and executed a search warrant that resulted in the seizure of the following:

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- 15,439 grams of cocaine
- 765 grams of fentanyl pills (blue M30 tablets)
- 3,395 grams of methamphetamine
- 7,822 grams of marijuana
- One firearm
- Approximately \$84,071.00 in U.S. currency

Following the arrest, Detective Gex continued to lead investigative efforts by coordinating with federal prosecutors, DEA agents, and law enforcement partners across state lines. Intelligence developed through his work led directly to joint operations in the Houston, Texas area, resulting in the arrest of the trafficker's suppliers and the seizure of additional narcotics, including **11 kilograms of cocaine** and approximately **49 pounds (22,500 grams) of methamphetamine**, along with multiple firearms. These actions dismantled a critical supply source responsible for fueling narcotics distribution into Louisiana.

Detective Nathan Gex's performance throughout 2025 reflects exceptional courage, leadership, and dedication to public safety. His actions directly preserved life during a critical incident and disrupted a major interstate narcotics trafficking network, making him exceptionally deserving of recognition as **Deputy/Detective of the Year for 2025**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Captain Shane M. Klein".

Captain Shane Klein
Commander, Narcotics Division
Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office