

# Paducah police honor fallen officer’s legacy

Police chief recalls Hudson’s service, leadership, dedication

BY BEN OVERBY  
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MESSENGER.COM

The Paducah Police Department held a news conference Friday Aug. 15 to acknowledge and mourn the passing of Sgt. Ryan Hudson.

Hudson’s family, fellow officers, public officials and community members gathered at the Paducah Police Department, where Police Chief Brian Laird delivered a statement about his death — and his life and legacy. Hudson, 32, began his tenure at the department in February of 2015, Laird said.

“Ryan had an outstanding career,” Laird said. “Having started as a patrol officer, he quickly began sharing his talents as a D.A.R.E instructor in our elementary schools, as a member of our S.W.A.T. team and as a training officer. Ryan also dedicated his time to being a member of our honor guard, something he was very passionate about, often assisting with funerals for fallen officers. For the past several years, Ryan has diligently served this community as a detective, and in May of this year, he was promoted to sergeant.”

Laird said Hudson was a fast learner and a natural fit for the role of sergeant, and that his leadership capability was never more evident than in his work as a supervisor overseeing the immediate response to the Aug. 9 shooting in the 900 block of Boyd Street. Laird said Hudson helped guide fellow officers through a chaotic, stressful scene, and the shooting weighed heavily on him.

“Hudson took this tragedy deeply personal, and in the hours that followed, he began to not feel well,” Laird said. “Despite not feeling good, Ryan did not want to let his brothers and sisters down. He did his duty, and he came to work putting service above self, just as he always did. By the end of his Saturday night shift, Ryan became too ill to continue working and went home early. His condition worsened, and he was admitted to the hospital Monday morning. Despite the efforts of numerous medical professionals, Ryan passed away Tuesday evening.”

Laird said it was since determined that Hudson had an underlying cardiac condition that was triggered by the stress of



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Sgt. Ryan Hudson’s policer car is parked across from the Paducah Police Department as a memorial.



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“Ryan was a tremendous presence in our region, and there’s no doubt he is leaving a lasting impact,” Police Chief Brian Laird said. “This is a loss that will be felt forever.”

responding to the shooting. Because of that, Hudson’s passing is being classified as a line of duty death through the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program.

“We’ve been in constant contact with Ryan’s family since he was first taken to the hospital, providing assistance in

any way we could and to honor their wishes during this difficult time,” Laird said. “Many of you are already asking us, ‘How can we help?’ The department has an employee support fund that helps employees and their family through times of crisis. An account has been created specifically for



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A memorial photo shows Paducah Police Sgt. Ryan Hudson, who died on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

the Hudson family, and there are several ways to donate. That information will be shared on our social media accounts and all donations will go directly to Ryan’s wife and his children.”

Hudson’s Patrol car is parked across from the Paducah City Police Department, and Laird encouraged community members to visit the vehicle in remembrance of his life and legacy. A visitation service will be held at Paducah Tilghman High School from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 22. His funeral will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, at Heartland Church. Laird said the public may arrive beginning at 10 a.m., and the service will start at

11 a.m. Hudson’s entombment will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery and Mausoleum.

“Sharing this type of information is something that a chief never wants to do, but we know in this line of work, it’s a very real possibility,” Laird said. “It came as a shock to all of us, and this past week has been difficult for our community and our police department. Ryan was a tremendous presence in our region, and there’s no doubt he is leaving a lasting impact. This is a loss that will be felt forever. I ask that you please keep the Hudson family and our Paducah Police family in your prayers.”

## Alleged Kentucky license fraud under investigation

Whistleblower: Immigrants illegally obtained IDs by paying \$200

BY LIAM NIEMEYER |  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky’s Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear and Republican Attorney General Russell Coleman say investigators have been looking into a whistleblower’s allegations that immigrants paid temporary contract workers to illegally obtain state driver’s licenses.

Louisville TV station WDRB reported Monday a former clerk at a Kentucky driver’s licensing office said co-workers sold, for \$200 each, state driver’s licenses to immigrants who couldn’t legally obtain them because they are in the country without permission. The whistleblower, Melissa Moorman, worked at Louisville’s Nia licensing office through the staffing agency Quantam Solutions.

Moorman told the TV station she was fired when she reported the scheme to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). She filed a lawsuit against the cabinet and Quantam Solutions in April.

Beshear in a Wednesday press conference told reporters the cabinet regularly reviews driver’s licensing credential applications and had revoked 1,985 credentials for irregularities.

“KYTC immediately contacted law enforcement who are engaged in a criminal investigation, and it includes multiple offices that are both state and federal,” Beshear said. “The revoked credentials, if used, would not work at an airport, would be flagged if pulled over at a traffic stop. We are committed to getting all of the facts and holding anybody who violated the law accountable.”

Beshear said all employees involved

had been hired through a “temp agency and have been terminated.” When asked if Moorman was fired by the staffing agency Quantam

Solutions or the cabinet after reporting the scheme, Beshear said he didn’t have that

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