



# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

## *2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award*



*Detective  
Michael McNeeley*



*Detective  
Brian Middaugh*



*Detective  
Anthony Sauto*

**Det. Michael McNeeley  
Det. Brian Middaugh  
Det. Anthony Sauto**

**Cleveland Division of Police**

*While trying to make a neighborhood safe from gang violence, three detectives put their lives at risk to bring a fugitive to justice.*

On July 21, 2014, detectives Michael McNeeley, Brian Middaugh and Anthony Sauto, who were assigned to the Gang Impact Unit, set out to patrol a neighborhood in response to a series of violent crimes that were believed to be caused by a gang. The three had reason to believe that a violent fugitive being sought for a nearby shooting was linked to gang activity, so they decided to watch his home. After a while, the detectives saw the suspect and another man leave the home, and they confronted the pair, who turned out to be armed. Sauto disarmed and captured one of them, but the other man brandished a handgun and took off. Detectives McNeeley and Middaugh chased the suspect and defended themselves by firing several shots during the pursuit. The suspect, who was wounded, was captured and charged.