



## **BTT CEO Mike Kitchens receives Police Week Outstanding Citizen Award 2021** *Praise for Mike's Stolen Stuff Hawaii group, and pioneering crime-fighting and victim support initiatives*

*May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, Oahu, Hawaii:* BTT Inc. ('BTT') is proud to announce that CEO Michael Kitchens has been awarded the [2021 Police Week](#) Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award by the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and The 200 Club for his work in relation to Stolen Stuff Hawaii (SSH), Hawaii's largest all volunteer anti-crime group.

Michael is the creator and administrator of the popular Facebook group which he founded in 2014, after his own relatives were victimized by crime, and has played a hands-on role from the outset. Along with his team of 18 moderators, he posts and facilitates content for the group, which has grown at an average of 100 per day to more than 179,500 members (Facebook and Instagram combined) to become one of the most far-reaching anti-crime social media groups on the internet.

Through SSH, the HPD is able to share real-time information on crimes they are investigating, to advice on security and scams, through to missing people notices, with a larger, more diverse audience. The group offers not only an invaluable resource in support of the HPD's fight against crime, but also acts as a critical liaison for individuals who are reluctant to speak with police or Crimestoppers.

The HPD Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award recognizes private citizens for their contributions to law enforcement. It is one of the HPD awards given out during National Police Week, which has been held annually since 1962, in the week of 15<sup>th</sup> May, to honor and remember police officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to protect and serve their communities. Other Awards include the Police Officer of the Year, The Reserve Police Officer of the Year, and the Civilian Employee of the Year.

The 200 Club was founded to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of police officers killed in the line of duty. The organization is comprised of approximately 200 businesses and community leaders who support the HPD and the Honolulu Fire Department, especially during times of personal crisis.

The award ceremony – which included 2020 winners<sup>1</sup> – was held in-doors at the Honolulu Police Department's Alapai headquarters on May 12<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by representatives from HPD leadership and The 200 Club (adhering to social distancing requirements) – including Police Chief Susan Ballard and Interim Chief Rade Vanic, The 200 Club President John Komeiji, as well as family members of the awardees. It was recorded live in-person and broadcast across multiple social media and news sites on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

[Presenting Mike with the Award, Major J Pedro from the HPD Community Affairs Division](#) said: "It is my honor to introduce the 2021 Honolulu Police Department's Citizenship Award recipient, Mr. Michael Kitchens.

"In 2014 you created the Stolen Stuff Hawaii Facebook group, to help victims of property crimes. Since then, Stolen Stuff Hawaii has grown to more than 138,000 members. The Stolen Stuff Hawaii team has been dedicated to helping our community. When the Honolulu Police Department began

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<sup>1</sup> Due to last year's cancellation of Police Week activities, the awards for 2020 and 2021 were presented this year

posting Crimestoppers news releases and Na Maka postings, the results were amazing. Postings that received less than a dozen shares on our Facebook page, immediately began getting hundreds of shares on your page.

“You are a valuable resource to the Honolulu Police Department's fight against crime, acting as a conduit to share information with our community. Congratulations, Mr. Michael Kitchens!”

Elsewhere, 35-year Honolulu resident and political consultant Jack James remarked: “Mike Kitchens receiving HPD’s 2021 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award was an exemplary selection by Chief Ballard,” adding “Stolen Stuff Hawaii, the social media behemoth that Mike created in 2014, serves as the ‘public posse’ for victims of local crime on a 24/7/365 basis.”

James continued: “Mike brings a sense of fair-play, respect and passion to the fight against crime. He understands the daily struggles of Hawaii’s men and women in blue in protecting and serving our community and is one of their biggest champions. Mike understands that social media can be the eyes and ears for law enforcement and part of that new horizon partnership.”

Mike Kitchens, CEO of BTT, said: “I’m extremely humbled and appreciative of the recognition bestowed on me by this award. It’s a validation of everything I do on a volunteer basis, and a recognition of all the hard work that I and the team have put in to Stolen Stuff Hawaii over the past six years to make it the crime-fighting success it is today, and providing support some of our most vulnerable citizens whose lives have been devastated by lawlessness within our community.

“Stolen Stuff Hawaii also embodies my personal – and business – core values which as a USAF veteran, were ingrained early in my career: ‘Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do’; and all of its members are driven by a common passion to care for and help those in need.

“It has also served as an inspiration for my ‘Build The Track!’ campaign, and my holistic vision for Circuit Hawaii. I want to build not only a racetrack, which is a much-needed recreational facility and will help mitigate levels of illegal street racing, as well as returning much-loved motorsports to our community; but also to provide a range of facilities for education, peer-mentoring, and guidance for our youth, in addition to specialist learning and training opportunities to acquire highly sought-after STEM and other skills in innovative technical fields, such as sustainability.

Equipping at-risk-youth with life skills and a network of support will not only help reduce crime and recidivism, but by upskilling the local workforce we can help to foster regeneration and prosperity in our surrounding community – while contributing a stimulus the island’s wider economy.”

-ENDS-

Interviews with Mike Kitchens and high res images available on request. Interviews with case studies can also be arranged. Please contact Alexia Latham: alexia.latham@gmail.com.

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Mike Kitchens / Stolen Stuff Hawaii:**

Michael Kitchens is a retired USAF Combat Arms Weapons Instructor and disabled veteran who is the Founder & Primary Administrator for Stolen Stuff Hawaii, Hawaii’s largest anti-crime group of over 175,900 combined followers on Facebook & Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stolenstuffhawaii/about>;

<https://www.instagram.com/stolenstuffhawaii/?hl=en>

He is also the CEO of BTT, Inc., a private corporation dedicated to the construction of a motor racing and high-end leisure facility for the island of Oahu and the State of Hawaii.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-kitchens-4124b965/>

#### **About BTT/ Circuit Hawaii:**

BTT, Inc. (BTT) was founded in late 2018, and is building the pre-eminent, sustainable, net-negative motorsports and multi-venue innovation hub on Oahu — Circuit Hawaii — which will be LEED & WELL certified, and working in collaboration with world-leading sustainability technology organizations. It will offer fully equipped, state of the art venues and facilities for motorsports, entertainment, conferences, media, education, training, and youth mentoring.

In short, the Circuit Hawaii vision is to bring motorsports back to Oahu and make the island a world-class destination for racing enthusiasts, while adding a must-visit tourist attraction — which in turn will help to diversify Hawaii's wider economy for the long-term.

<https://www.circuithawaii.com>

#### **About the 2021 Police Week Awards:**

The National Police Week awards were founded in 1962, when President Kennedy issued the first proclamation for Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week to remember and honor law enforcement officers for their service and sacrifices. Peace Officers Memorial Day, which every year falls on May 15, specifically honors law enforcement officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Each year, during National Police Week, our nation celebrates the contributions of law enforcement from around the country, recognizing their hard work, dedication, loyalty, and commitment to keeping our communities safe. This year the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted law enforcement officers' courage and unwavering devotion to the communities that they have sworn to serve.

A number of awards are also given to private individuals, business firms, civic, organizations, and other entities 'designed to recognize the display of outstanding citizenship' in those who have gone above and beyond in contributing their support and assistance, directly or indirectly to the police force to help them carry out their duties.

<https://www.honoluluupd.org/national-police-week-2021/>

<https://www.honoluluupd.org/policy/policy-award-system/>