



Dr. Donald Stewart
Debbie McQuillen, RN
Ibtihaj Awadelkariem
Yasmin Ahmad

As the world saw businesses and lives shut down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) had to continue to respond to emergencies, traffic accidents, crimes in progress, and calls for service.

At the beginning, COVID-19 detection was only limited to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories and even local health departments didn't have the ability or technology to detect if a person was infected with the virus.



When the attempts to Quickly test the employees at the alternate locations failed, the Safety Officer Section desperately began to search the laboratories in the region to identify one that could test the police department employees at a moment's notice and in a timely manner.

The Fairfax County Occupational Health Center graciously stepped up

and offered Fairfax County Police Department employees the ability to be screened and if there was a minimal chance of COVID-19 infection, they quickly provided the police department's Infection Control Officer/Safety Officers a prescription for testing. In turn, Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories not only quickly make an appointment available for FCPD personnel, but they also expedited the result so FCPD could effectively continue the superb service they provide to the community without any gap or workforce depletion.

On many occasions, Ms. Awadelkariem or Ms. Ahmad would open their laboratory doors to our employees on holidays and their days off so we could ease employees' minds and have the ability to isolate those who were infected.

The Fairfax County Occupational Health Center & Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories provided an invaluable service to FCPD.



Their ability to quickly test and report the result was directly the reason why Fairfax County Police Department had a very successful response to the Pandemic. Therefore, we present Dr. Donald Stewart and RN Debbie McQuillen with the Fairfax County Occupational Health Center and Ms. Ibtihaj Awadelkariem and Ms. Yasmin Ahmad with the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories Community Hero Award.