



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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For Immediate Release
May 6, 2011

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HIGHEST HONORS BESTOWED UPON CPD'S BRAVEST AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

CHICAGO – Interim Police Superintendent Terry Hillard presented awards today to outstanding Officers at the Chicago Police Department's 50th Annual Police Recognition Ceremony. The annual event pays tribute to Officers who have distinguished themselves and the Chicago Police Department by heroic deeds during the past year. The ceremony included a Memorial Roll that honored all Chicago Police Officers who died in the past year.

The event was held in the International Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, with news anchor Jim Williams serving as the event's master of ceremonies.

The annual ceremony began in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy, with the encouragement of his brother Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, established the first National Police Month. Ceremonies were held throughout the country by several police departments, including the Chicago Police Department.

The main feature of the afternoon was the presentation of the Department's highest award, the **Police Medal**, presented to Officers whose accomplishments are so outstanding as to justify special recognition.

The **Police Medal** was presented to **Officer Steven Archer** of the 25th District and **Officer Darren Wright** of the 3rd District. Both officers also received the Award of Valor.

Off duty Police **Officer Steven Archer** was driving home when he observed a male offender pointing a shot gun at pedestrian and passing vehicles. Concerned for the public's safety, Officer Archer took immediate police action. After announcing his office, he ordered the offender to drop his weapon. The offender turned and took aim at Officer Archer, with the shotgun. Fearing for his life Officer Archer fired his weapon. The offender fled the scene, running to a mini van which was

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parked nearby with two occupants in it. As the van fled the scene, Officer Archer followed the vehicle until it stopped and the offender fled the vehicle. This offender and the two other occupants of the vehicle were all apprehended. For the exceptional bravery, dedication and diligence to serve and protect, ladies and gentlemen, the Superintendent's Award of Valor is present to Officer Steven Archer.

On his way home, off-duty **Officer Darren Wright** had just finished his tour of duty when he observed a male subject run past him carrying a gun in his hand. Unknown to the officer, the offender had just shot a teenager on the street. Officer Wright turned his vehicle around to follow the offender and without regards to his personal safety, ordered the offender to drop his weapon. The offender refused, pointed his weapon at Officer Wright, and then ran through the alley. The offender then jumped over a fence and turned towards Officer Wright, who announced his office and fired at the subject. The offender fell to the ground and subsequently expired from his wounds. Officer Wright's immediate actions and bravery are great illustrations of selflessness and personal courage.

The Superintendent's Award of Valor was also presented to:

Officer Brandon Murphy of the 7th District, **Sergeant Federico Andaverde** of the 3rd District, **Sergeant Lawrence Stec** and **Officers John Elstner, Jorge Martinez Jr., Scott McKenna** and **Daniel O'Toole** of the Narcotics Section, **Detective Kevin Mullane** and **Detective Noreen Strzalka** of the Area 3 Detective Division, **Officer Matthew Borkowski** of the 11th District, **Officers James Sivicek** and **Bryan Hoffman** of the Mobile Strike Force, **Officer Dean Coltri** of the 7th District, **Officer John Granat** of the 11th District, **Officers Marc Debose** and **Gregory Sobieraj** of the Area 5 Gang Team, **Officers Christopher Morris** and **Thomas Kielbasa** of the 20th District, **Officers Jason Landrum** and **John Kennedy** of the 6th District, **Sergeant James Buhrke** of the Education and Training Division, **Officer Louis Liguori** of the 25th District, **Officers Michael Lybrook**, and **Andrew Staszal** of the 16th District, **Officer David Garza** of the Mobile Strike Force, **Officer Kyle Mingari** of the 15th District, **Officer Tizoc Amaro** of the 10th District, **Officers Richard Soto, Daniel Sammon** and **Douglas Dalton** of the 9th District, **Officer Joseph Foley** of the Area 4 Gang Team, **Officer Richard Toolis** of the 12th District, **Officer Ivan Lopez** of the 8th District and **Officer Israel Roa** of Area 1 Gang Team, **Officer Jorge Martinez Jr.** of the Narcotics Section, **Officers Conway Garlington, Christopher Davis, Officer Yazmina Vaval** of the 3rd District, **Officer Jose Rojas** of the Mobile Strike Force, **Officer Reynaldo Serrato Jr.** of the 10th District, **Officer Roman Zawada** of the 7th district, **Officer Paul Woods** of the Traffic Section, **Officer Ruben De Avila, Officer Lazaro Altamirano** of the Narcotics Section, **Officer Sergio Corona** of the Area 5 Gang Team, **Officer Kenneth Weller** of the 11th District, **Sergeant Rick Nigro** of the 17th District, **Officers Paul Parks** and **Ryan Leclair** of the Gang Enforcement Section, **Sergeant Jason Kaczynski** of the Gang Enforcement Section and **Police Officer Kimberly Thorp** of the Targeted Response Unit, **Officer Gary Olson** of the Area One Gang Team, **Officer Matthew Lopez** of the 7th District, **Sergeant Francisco Luera** and **Officers Kimbal Suen** and **Andrew Gorlewski** of the 9th District, **Officers Arnoldo Rendon** and **Luis Loaiza** of the 10th District, and **Officers Janelle Hamilton** of the 6th District and **Richard Rodriguez** of the 3rd District.

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Assigned to a violence suppression mission, Police **Officer Brandon Murphy** was on patrol when he observed two suspicious persons in the area. As he approached the suspects, they fled the scene. During the foot chase one of the offenders produced a weapon and fired at Officer Murphy. Fearing for his life, the officer returned fire which caused the offender to surrender. It was later determined that the offender was wanted for a homicide, which he was subsequently charged with. Due to this officer's courage under extreme pressure, a violent offender was taken into custody and charged accordingly.

In January 2010, Police **Officer Jason Landrum** and Police **Officer John Kennedy** were on patrol when they stopped a vehicle for a minor traffic violation. When the officers approached the vehicle, one offender attempted to flee. Both officers tried to contain him and during the struggle, the officers observed the offender to be in possession of a handgun. The offender tried, unsuccessfully to disarm the officers. In fear for his life officer Landrum discharged his weapon striking the offender in the abdomen. The offender was placed in custody, rendered aid and his gun was recovered. Due to the officers' courage and tenacity, a violent offender was taken off the streets.

Sergeant Federico Andaverde and Police **Officers Jorge Martinez Jr., John Elstner, Daniel O'Toole** were notified that a subject was delivering a large supply of ecstasy in the parking lot of a well known drug store. Upon entering the lot, the offender observed them and sped his vehicle in the direction of one of the police vehicles. A collision was avoided, and Officer Martinez exited the vehicle and was able to reach the driver's side door while announcing his office. The offender placed his vehicle in reverse in an attempt to flee, running over Officer Martinez's foot. The offender continued driving in reverse at a high rate of speed with total disregard for anyone. Despite his injured foot, Officer Martinez continued the pursuit on foot with Officer O'Toole. As Sergeant Andaverde and Officer Elstner entered the parking lot, the offender used his vehicle to slam into them, causing injuries to both. The injured officers attempted to stop the fleeing offender, at which time the offender placed his vehicle in drive and attempted to strike Officer Martinez and O'Toole. Instead, the offender drove into the other officer's vehicle door as the officer was exiting. Fearing for their lives, Officers Martinez and O'Toole and Sergeant Andaverde discharged their weapons, fatally striking the offender and causing the vehicle to stop. All of the officers demonstrated outstanding bravery, fortitude, and dedication to duty during this display of courage.

Detective Kevin Mullane and Detective Noreen Strzalka observed the driver of an SUV point a handgun out the window and fire several shots into a large crowd that was exiting a night club, striking one subject in the chest. The offenders attempted to flee, but soon realized that they were being followed, at which time the passenger in the offender's vehicle leaned out the window and fired several shots at the Detectives. The Offender's vehicle entered onto the Expressway and the passenger again leaned out the window and fired two additional shots at the Detectives. The Offender's vehicle exited the expressway and abruptly stopped. The passenger exited the vehicle and waited on the corner in an attempt to ambush the pursuing Detectives. The Detectives approached the corner and observed the offender running towards their vehicle while pointing a

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handgun at them and then firing two additional shots. The Detectives returned fire. The offender began to flee and the Detectives exited their vehicle and gave chase, subsequently apprehending the offender and recovering the offender's loaded weapon. With little regard for their own safety, Detectives Mullane and Strzalka were able to apprehend a dangerous individual and charge him accordingly.

Police **Officer Matthew Borkowski** and his partner were flagged down by a man who was just shot by occupants of a mini-van. When the van attempted to evade the police, their vehicle crashed into a pole. The driver bolted from the van holding a handgun. **Officer Borkowski**, seeing this, ordered him to stop and drop his weapon, but instead the offender raised his weapon at the officer. Fearing for his life, **Officer Borkowski** fired at the offender. Fearless, the offender continued to run and as he emerged from the alley, ran directly at **Officer James Sivicek** and **Officer Bryan Hoffman** with his weapon pointed at them. Both officers discharged their weapons, striking the offender and causing him to drop his weapon. The additional occupants who fled on foot were also subsequently apprehended.

A gunman walked into a business and announced a hold-up. The store owner fled the store and flagged down the police. **Officer Dean Coltri** immediately responded to the scene and attempted to stop the subject, who fled on foot. During the pursuit, **Officer John Granat** observed the offender running but the offender stopped and pointed his handgun at him. The officer, fearing for his life, fired three shots at the offender. Officer Coltri observed these actions and fired his weapon, fatally wounding the offender. Both officers demonstrated courageous actions in keeping with the highest traditions of the Chicago Police Department.

Officers of the Gang Enforcement Section received information that a high ranking gang member was transporting a large quantity of narcotics. Armed with this information, **Officer Marc Debose** and **Officer Gregory Sobieraj** located the subject's vehicle. When the officers approached the offender, he aimed the vehicle directly at them. The officers in fear for their lives fired several shots at the offender in an attempt to stop the threat. When the vehicle came to rest, officers recovered 278 bags of crack cocaine and the offender was charged with attempted murder of a police officer. Due to their outstanding bravery and personal courage, a dangerous offender was removed from the streets.

In August 2009, **Sergeant James Buhrke** observed a vehicle commit a minor traffic violation. As Sergeant Buhrke conducted the traffic stop, the driver leapt out holding a pistol. The sergeant immediately ordered the offender to drop the weapon, but the offender refused, pointing his handgun at the sergeant. Fearing for his life, Sergeant Buhrke fired his weapon. Undeterred, the offender again pointed his weapon at the sergeant. The sergeant fired again, this time striking the offender in the chest. The offender dropped his weapon and ran. The offender was later apprehended in Indiana with an untreated gunshot wound to his chest, and was charged with Aggravated Assault to a Police Officer and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon. Due to Sergeant Buhrke's outstanding act of bravery and personal courage, a dangerous felon was removed from our streets.

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While on patrol in the Jefferson Park District, **Officer Louis Liguori**, **Officer Michael Lybrook**, and **Officer Andrew Staszal** responded to a "man with a gun" call. The caller stated she had asked her tenant to turn down his loud music and he, in turn, produced a handgun and threatened her. The officers located the offender in a bedroom, sitting on the bed with his hand on a revolver. The officers identified themselves as Police Officers and gave continuous verbal commands not to move and to drop his weapon. The offender ignored the commands and proceeded to point the handgun at the officers. Fearing for their lives, the officers fired their weapons, striking the offender. The subject subsequently succumbed to his wounds. These officers displayed unwavering bravery in a critical moment of danger.

In November 2009, **Officer Christopher Morris** and **Officer Thomas Kielbasa** responded to a call of a "man with a knife." Upon arrival, the officers heard yelling behind the locked front door. The officers relocated to the rear of the building. Upon entering the rear door, the officers encountered a male and female who stated a man was holding their daughter hostage at knifepoint. When the officers located the offender, he charged at them with the knife. Fearing for their lives, the officers discharged their weapons, striking the offender. The offender fell to the ground only to rise again a few moments later and charge the officers for a second time. The officers fired again and the offender subsequently died from his wounds. Due to the officers' actions, a family was saved from a vicious offender.

In July 2009, **Officer David Garza** and his partner had knowledge of an increase in violent crime in the Ogden District. While on patrol in the area of concern, they observed a group of gang members running through a backyard. Officer Garza announced his office, ordered the subjects to stop and they refused to comply. Subsequently, a foot pursuit ensued leading Officer Garza to follow one of the offenders, alone, into an alley. The offender suddenly turned and pointed a handgun in the direction of the other officer. Officer Garza, in fear for the life of his partner, fired, striking the offender, fatally wounding him. It was later determined that the said offender earlier that day, had committed a Home Invasion. Due to the Officer's courage and quick response a dangerous threat was neutralized.

In June 2009, **Officer Kyle Mingari** and his partner received a tip that narcotics would be delivered to a fast food parking lot by a subject driving a maroon van. When the suspect pulled into the lot, the officers approached and announced their office. The offender immediately attempted to flee, and Officer Mingari pursued the vehicle on foot, ordering the driver to stop. Realizing he was trapped and could not escape, the driver put the van in drive and drove head on toward the officer. Fearing for his life, Officer Mingari fired several shots at the driver, causing the van to crash into a squad car behind him. The offender sustained a wound to his shoulder and was in possession of a large quantity of heroin. The offender was taken into custody and charged accordingly. Due to Officer's Mingari's bravery, dedication to duty and swift actions, a very dangerous convicted felon was removed from the streets.

While on patrol **Officer Tizoc Amaro** and his partner attempted to curb a vehicle that was just involved in an Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking. As they approached the offender's vehicle, the suspect put the vehicle in reverse and accelerated to a high rate of speed, striking their marked

squad car. Officer Amaro, in fear of his and his partner's life, fired his weapon, striking one of the offenders several times. The other offenders immediately exited the vehicle and fled on foot. **Officer Kenneth Weller** and his partner encountered a second offender, who displayed a handgun and pointed it the direction of the officers. Multiple verbal commands were given by Officer Weller, but the offender refused to drop his weapon. Officer Weller fired, striking the offender, terminating the threat. Assisting officers apprehended a third offender after a foot pursuit. Due to the coordinated effort by both officers, and a high degree of bravery and courage, three dangerous felons were removed from the street.

In June 2009, **Police Officers Richard Soto, Daniel Sammon and Douglas Dalton** responded to a call of shots fired and began to search the area, which also included an apartment complex near the scene. The officers were advised to check the attic crawlspace and they observed a subject lying between the rafters facing them. The officers yelled verbal commands for the offender to come out. However, the offender stated "I ain't coming out; if you come up here, I'll kill you!" The offender then raised and pointed a handgun directly at the officers, causing them to fire their weapons. The offender succumbed to his wounds and no longer posed a threat. This tactical response and courageous police action resulted in a violent gunman being apprehended.

A robbery of a jewelry store occurred in the downtown area. **Officer Joseph Foley** and his partner observed the suspect's vehicle driving in traffic. With help from **Officer Richard Toolis** and his partner, the officers stopped the vehicle. Officers Foley and Toolis approached the vehicle on foot and Officer Foley was able to reach in through the open window but the driver pulled back and suddenly turned his vehicle and accelerated, striking both officers. Fearing for their lives, Officer Foley and Officer Toolis fired their weapons at the offender, striking him in the chest. The offender still attempted to drive away but was placed into custody and taken for treatment at a local hospital. The offender was subsequently charged with Attempted Murder and is currently awaiting trial. Both officers were treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

Members of the Area 1 Gang Enforcement Unit observed a suspicious vehicle in an alley and attempted to stop it. As the officers approached the vehicle, the driver was observed reaching under his seat and then sped away. As the offender tried to make a right turn, a tire came off the vehicle, and the offender exited the vehicle and fled on foot. **Officer Ivan Lopez and Officer Israel Roa** pursued the offender and observed him holding a handgun as he fled. Verbal commands were given to the offender to drop his weapon, but the offender swung the gun around pointing it in the direction of the officers. Fearing for their lives, the officers fired their weapons striking the offender. Officer Lopez quickly removed the handgun from the offender's hand and placed him into custody.

While at a family gathering **Officer Jorge Martinez Jr.** was informed that there was a male offender, in possession of two large knives, arguing with his brother in the front of the residence. Officer Martinez Jr. responded immediately to intervene. Officer Martinez Jr. ordered the offender to drop the knives. When the offender attempted to stab his brother with the knives, in fear for his brother's life, Officer Martinez Jr. fired his weapon at the offender. The offender succumbed to his wounds. Officer Martinez Jr. displayed outstanding bravery and relentless dedication while off duty.

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In December of 2009, Grand Crossing (3rd District) **Officer Conway Garlington** responded to a domestic disturbance. Officer Garlington met with the victim who, informed Officer Garlington that an offender, armed with a hand gun was inside her residence. Accompanied by **Officer Christopher Davis** and **Officer Yazmina Vaval** Officer Garlington relocated to the victim's apartment. Officer Garlington ordered the offender to open the door. After shouting several obscenities the offender opened the door and fired several shots at Officers Garlington, Davis and Vaval. Officer Garlington returned fire which caused the offender to retreat back into the apartment. The S.W.A.T team responded to the scene and after a lengthy negotiation the offender surrendered and was placed into custody.

The Mobile Strike Force was deployed in an area with a high incidence of Gang violence. During the course of routine police activities **Officer Jose Rojas** and **Officer Reynaldo Serrato Jr.** observed a white mini van traveling at a high rate of speed. When the vehicle was stopped the officers ordered the offender to raise his hands. When the offender raised his hands the officers observed that the he was in possession of a hand gun. Officer Rojas ordered the offender to drop his weapon. The offender did not comply. Fearing for their lives Officer Rojas and Officer Serrato fired their weapons. The offender was struck and taken into custody after surrendering.

In June of 2009, Police **Officer Roman Zawada** and his partner were on patrol when they observed a male subject place a large dark object into his waistband. The officers approached the subject and attempted to conduct a field interview at which time the subject fled on foot. The officers gave chase which led them into a gangway. The subject then turned towards the officers and pulled a handgun from his waistband and pointed the weapon at the Officer Zawada . Fearing for his life, Officer Zawada discharged his weapon, striking the offender. The offender was taken into custody and charged accordingly.

In August of 2009, **Officer Ruben De Avila** observed a male subject aggressively panhandling on the street. Officer De Avila approached the male at which time he pulled a knife and threatened the officer. Officer De Avila immediately drew his weapon, but could not fire due to his concerns for the citizens in the area. The subject then fled on foot still wielding the knife. Officer De Avila gave chase and was assisted by **Officer Paul Woods** and was able to discharge OC spray with minimal effect on the offender. The subject then grabbed an elderly citizen and placed the knife to the citizen's neck while threatening to kill him. The officers were able to distract the offender which gave them the opportunity to save the victim. Officer Paul Woods discharged his weapon striking the offender who succumbed to his wounds.

In July of 2009, **Officer Lazaro Altamirano** was working on a narcotics operation which consisted of purchasing a kilo of cocaine. Officer Altamirano's assignment was to videotape the operation from a covert location. When law enforcement units attempted to place the offender in custody, he exited his vehicle and fled on foot. Officer Altamirano gave chase, at which time the offender drew

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a weapon from his waistband and pointed it at the officer. Fearing for his life, Officer Altamirano discharged his weapon, striking the offender. When placed into a situation of life and death Officer Altamirano demonstrated a great degree of personal courage coupled with an outstanding act of bravery and selflessness.

Officers responded to a man with a gun call. Upon their arrival they were informed that the subject was armed and threatened to shoot the police if they tried to arrest him. The officers observed the offender, approached him and announced their office. The offender then displayed a weapon and began to waving it in the air, pointing it at the officers. **Officer Sergio Corona** in fear of his life fired his weapon striking the offender once in the leg. Thanks to Officer Corona's quick response, bravery and professionalism. A disastrous situation was averted and the offender was charged with two counts of felony aggravated assault to a police officer.

Sergeant Rick Nigro monitored a flash message given of an armed robbery that had just occurred in the area. The Sergeant immediately began touring the area for the offender and observed an individual matching the description. The Sergeant attempted to stop and question the offender, who ignored the Sergeant's commands. The offender fled and was observed removing a handgun from his waistband then points the weapon at the Sergeant. Sergeant Nigro fired his weapon at the offender while still in pursuit. Assisting units responded and the offender was apprehended and taken into custody. Sergeant Nigro never wavered in his pursuit, and due to his courage, an armed offender was removed from the streets of Chicago.

Officers Paul Parks and Ryan Leclair arrived to a domestic disturbance. As the officers were about to exit their vehicle, they heard gunshots. Two males were observed running, one limping and one holding a gun, from a vacant lot in front of the officers marked vehicle. The officers immediately exited their vehicle and ordered the subject to stop and drop his weapon. The offender turned in the direction of the officers and began firing several shots at them. The officers took cover and an exchange of gunfire erupted as the offender continued to fire at officers. The offender then fled through a courtyard when the officers followed on foot. The offender again shoots at Officer Parks as the officer returns fire. Officer Leclair again orders the offender to drop his weapon. The offender then places his weapon on the ground and Officer Leclair walks towards the offender. The offender quickly picks up the weapon and points it at Officer Leclair. The officer, in fear for his life, discharges his weapon at the offender. Assist units arrived and the offender was placed into custody. The officers displayed personal courage and selflessness.

On July 7, 2010, **Sergeant Jason Kaczynski and Police Officer Kimberly Thorp** responded when Police Officer Thor Soderberg was fatally wounded by his own weapon when it was taken by a lone offender in the parking lot at the headquarters for the Targeted Response Unit and the Area 1 Gang Enforcement Unit. After killing the officer, the offender shot at a citizen, then robbed the victim. Hearing the shots outside, an officer went to investigate when the offender shot several times at the officer. When Officer Thorp went to investigate the gunshots, she was met by gunfire as she exited the doorway. Taking cover, the offender continued to fire toward the doorway. Officer Thorp fired her weapon as the offender continued to advance the pinned down officer. Sergeant Kaczynski arrived and was informed of the situation. Sergeant Kaczynski and

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Officer Thorp fearing for the pinned down officer's life, decided to engage the offender. With this tactical disadvantage in mind, Officer Thorp, at great risk to her own safety, helped open the door so Sergeant Kaczynski could exit the building to advance outside and engage the offender. The offender turned, raised his weapon and shot at Sergeant Kaczynski at which time the Sergeant fired his weapon striking the offender in the chest. The offender fell to the ground and dropped his weapon. Both the Sergeant and the officer were assigned to administrative duty on convalescent duty status and were not wearing body armor. They engaged an armed assailant with no regard for their personal safety in order to protect fellow officers from further injury.

On December 16, 2009, **Officer Gary Olson** and assisting officers were on patrol when they encountered a male subject acting suspicious in an area known for gang violence and narcotic sales. The officers drove up to meet the subject in order to conduct an interview. As the officers exited their vehicle, the subject quickly grabbed his waistband and fled on foot. Officer Olson immediately pursued the offender on foot while another officer followed in the vehicle. During the foot pursuit, Officer Olson ordered the offender to stop. The offender refused to obey as Officer Olson continued the chase. During this time, the officer observed the offender remove from his waistband a small black revolver and with one motion, turned and raised the gun in Officer Olson's direction. The officer quickly recognized this threat to his own safety and discharged his weapon at the offender. The offender continued to flee and was observed tossing the weapon over a fence. The offender fell to the ground and was placed in custody with the assistance of other officers. A fully loaded revolver with six live rounds was recovered and a custodial search found him to be in possession of crack-cocaine, heroin and cannabis. Due to Officer Olson's keen observation, attention to duty a felon was removed off the streets.

Officer Matthew Lopez and assisting officers responded to a call of a "Person with a gun." The caller reported several men armed with guns on the second floor of a two flat building. Upon arrival the officers observed an offender running out the back of the building and another armed offender on the stairs. Officer Lopez and his partner pursued the offender who fled to the second floor and pointed an AK47 Assault rifle at them. Face- to -face with the offender, Officer Lopez announced his office, and ordered him to drop the weapon. The offender refused to comply and Officer Lopez discharged his weapon striking the offender who succumbed to his wounds. It was learned that the offender was a violent member of a street gang, who was not only in possession of an AK47, but a shotgun and three semiautomatic pistols. Due to the actions of the officer a potentially devastating situation was averted.

Sergeant Francisco Luera and **Officers Kimbal Suen** and **Andrew Gorlewski** responded to a domestic disturbance where the offender produced a 12" hunting knife to his own throat. The Sergeant deployed his taser but it had no effect on the offender, who pulled the prongs from his body and grabbed his wife using her as a hostage. The Sergeant attempted to use his taser a second time, but once again it did not affect the offender. However, it did distract him long enough for the officers to free his wife. The offender once again raised the 12" hunting knife when Officer Suen fired his weapon striking the offender in the chest, ceasing the threat to everyone present.

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Officers were working their day off in the district on a gang mission, "Operation Safe Summer" due to ongoing conflict between two well known street gangs. Over a period of three months there were several reports of gang violence, shots fired and gang disturbances in the area. During the evening hours, several known gang members were observed congregating in the hot area. **Police Officers Arnoldo Rendon** and **Luis Loaiza** responded and conducted a street investigation. As assisting officers were responding, several gunshots were heard on the next block. Gang members were observed at the end of the alley when two additional rounds of gunfire were heard. Assisting officers observed officer Loaiza take cover to shield himself from gunfire. The offender took flight as the officer gave chase on foot, ordering the offender to drop his weapon on several occasions. The offender fired several shots at both Officers Rendon and Loaiza as Officer Rendon returned fire. The offender discarded his weapon and continued to flee. The offender was subsequently apprehended, placed into custody and weapon was recovered. The officers responded courageously and without regard to their own personal safety to a volatile situation to preserve the well being of citizens.

In December 2009, Police **Officer Richard Rodriguez**, while on patrol, observed a vehicle commit a minor traffic violation. Officer Rodriguez stopped the vehicle and asked the driver to exit. **Officer Janelle Hamilton** arrived to assist. While conducting a protective pat down of the offender, Officer Rodriguez discovered a handgun in the offender's pocket and attempted to place him into custody. The offender began to resist and eventually broke free and fled, with officers immediately giving chase. Officer Rodriguez rounded a corner and abruptly was faced with the offender pointing a .45 caliber pistol at him, When Officer Rodriguez fired his weapon at the offender, he began to run again, turning to point his weapon at Officer Hamilton. Officer Hamilton fired and struck the offender, who was placed into custody and charged accordingly. These officers displayed true dedication to duty and courage.

After receiving no response to their requests, officers used force to make entry when executing a search warrant. **Sergeant Lawrence Stec** and Police **Officers Jorge Martinez, Jr., Scott McKenna**, and **Daniel O'Toole** observed a closed door, which Officer McKenna kicked open. Suddenly, gunshots burst from inside the room, and Officer McKenna was shot in the right leg and Officer O'Toole was shot in the left ankle. Officers Martinez Jr. and O'Toole returned fire. The shooting ceased, and officers were able to talk the offender into surrendering. In addition to the award of valor, Officers O'Toole and McKenna were also awarded the Blue Star Award.

The **Police Blue Star Award**, given to officers seriously, critically, or fatally injured as a result of an attack by an assailant in the direct performance of duty was presented to **Officer Thor Soderberg**, previously assigned to the Education and Training Division; **Evidence Technician Michael Flisk**, previously assigned to the Evidence Technician Team – South Unit; **Probationary Officer Thomas E. Wortham, IV**, previously assigned to the 7th District; and **Police Officer Michael Bailey**, previously assigned to the 1st District.

On July 7, 2010, **Officer Thor Soderberg** was returning to his personal vehicle at the end of his shift when the officer and an offender became engaged in a struggle inside a Police Facility parking lot. During the struggle, the offender gained control of Officer Soderberg's weapon and

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fatally shot him. His heroism and bravery on that fateful day should never be forgotten and his commitment to keeping the residents of Chicago safe will be honored. In addition to the Blue Star Award, Officer Soderberg also was awarded the Award of Valor. The posthumous awards were accepted on his behalf by his mother and sister.

On November 26, 2010, **Evidence Technician Michael Flisk** responded to a call to process a garage burglary and was met by the victim who related that his garage had been burglarized, his vehicle had been ransacked, and the vehicle stereo equipment had been stolen. Evidence Tech Flisk conducted a search of the surrounding area and located a garbage can containing numerous items taken from the victim's vehicle. Evidence Tech Flisk was able to digitally capture all of the crime scene's probative evidence. After processing the vehicle, he discovered several fingerprints that could aid in identifying a suspect. The offender, who was on parole, overheard the conversation and realized that if he was identified, he would be sent back to prison. Evidence Tech Flisk was in the process of photographing the vehicle when he heard footsteps and a gun shot. He subsequently realized the victim had been shot and attempted to help him when the offender turned in his direction and shot him. Evidence Tech Flisk suffered a fatal wound. Evidence Technician Flisk exhibited devotion to duty through his technical knowledge of crime and scene processing. He also demonstrated personal courage and selflessness by attempting to assist the victim. In addition to the Blue Star Award, Officer Flisk also was awarded the Award of Valor. The posthumous awards were accepted on his behalf by his wife.

On May 20, 2010, **Probationary Officer Thomas Wortham, IV** was at his parent's house showing them pictures depicting his attendance at the National Police Convention in Washington D.C. As he was leaving the home, four offenders approached him and announced a robbery with weapons displayed. Officer Wortham's father observed the offenders approach his son and retrieved his service weapon, after which he yelled at them to disperse. One of the offenders reacted by firing a shot in his direction. Subsequently, Officer Wortham announced his office, drew his weapon, and fired at the offenders wounding one of them. A second offender then produced a weapon and shot Officer Wortham causing a fatal wound. Officer Wortham's father, who witnessed the event, immediately went to the aid of his fatally wounded son, and exchanged gunfire with the offenders. The remaining three offenders fled but were eventually apprehended and charged with 1st degree murder. Officer Wortham's work ethic and dedication to the community and his country served as examples to everyone in the Chicago Police Department. In addition to the Blue Star Award, Officer Wortham also was awarded the Award of Valor. The posthumous awards were accepted on his behalf by his parents.

On July 18, 2010, **Police Officer Michael Bailey**, a twenty-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, was less than a month away from his 63rd birthday and subsequent retirement. At 6:00 am, Officer Bailey arrived at his home after finishing his tour of duty. Officer Bailey was still wearing his police uniform when offenders approached him in a possible robbery attempt. Officer Bailey confronted the offender at which time gunfire was exchanged. Officer Bailey was able to fire his weapon eight times in a valiant effort to subdue his attackers. Witnesses heard the gunfire and Officer Bailey was found fatally wounded. Officer Bailey was a retired veteran of the United States Air Force and was a life long public servant. His dedication to his country is a testament to

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all of the members of the Chicago Police Department. In addition to the Blue Star Award, Officer Bailey also was awarded the Award of Valor. The posthumous awards were accepted on his behalf by his son and daughter.

The **Blue Shield Award** was presented to **Officer David Sharp** of the Mobile Strike Force, **Sergeant Matthew Lipman** of the Education and Training Division, and **Officer Martin Tully** of the Targeted Response Unit. The award is presented to officers who, as a result of accidental cause, have been seriously or critically wounded or injured in the performance of duties.

Police **Officer David Sharp** and his partner monitored a call in which firearms were discarded from a vehicle. While en route to assist responding units, the offender's vehicle crashed into their squad car at a high rate of speed. Officer Sharp was severely injured, shattering his arm in multiple places and briefly losing consciousness. Other responding units placed the offender into custody while Officer Sharp was transported to the hospital by his fellow officers. It was learned at the hospital that Officer Sharp had also suffered a heart attack as a result of the impact.

While on patrol in the 6th District, **Sergeant Matthew Lipman** was stopped at a red light when a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed struck Sergeant Lipman's vehicle from behind, pushing his squad car under a CTA bus. Sergeant Lipman suffered injuries to his left bicep and right shoulder requiring a number of surgeries and a total of 19 months of rehabilitation and physical therapy. Despite the severity of his injuries and the length of his rehabilitation, Sergeant Lipman has returned to duty in a limited capacity, demonstrating a dedication to duty and devotion to the Chicago Police Department.

In November 2009, Police **Officer Martin Tully** observed a vehicle commit a traffic violation and attempted to stop the vehicle. The offender exited the vehicle and fled on foot with Officer Tully and responding officers giving chase. During the pursuit, Officer Tully jumped over a fence; not knowing that on the other side was a low-lying yard with a 15 foot drop. Officer Tully experienced sharp pain in his leg but continued to give chase, eventually taking the subject into custody. At the hospital, Officer Tully was treated for a knee sprain and was kept for observation due to an elevated heart rate. It was later determined that Officer Tully had suffered a heart attack as a result of this incident.

The **Blue Star Award** was presented to **Officer Patrick Bernico** of the 9th District and **Officer James Lopez** of Detached Services.

Police **Officers Patrick Bernico** and **James Lopez** responded to a call of a man with a knife at a bank. When Officer Bernico arrived on scene he recognized the offender based upon the description given and approached in his vehicle. The offender ran up to the squad car and stabbed Officer Bernico in his left arm through the open squad car window. Officer Lopez arrived on scene and again the offender ran up to the vehicle, this time stabbing Officer Lopez through the window. Officer Lopez exited his vehicle and the offender stabbed him again in the right arm. Despite both having suffered stab wounds, Officers Bernico and Lopez were able to disarm the offender and place him into custody.

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The **Thomas Wortham IV Military and Community Service Award**, given to a Chicago Police Officer who is a current or former member of any branch of the United States Armed Services who has made significant contributions to the Department and the community, was presented to Police **Officer Phillip Flannagan** of the 21st District.

Officer Phillip Flannagan is an active Captain and has served 18 years in the Army National Guard, 108th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, Medical Unit as a Logistics Officer. Officer Flannagan is assigned to the Public Housing Squad in the 21st District's Dearborn Homes. In recent years, this housing has been the scene of gang wars, public violence, and tainted drugs that caused many accidental overdoses and deaths. Officer Flannagan volunteered to work this area on a daily basis and through his efforts and those of other officers, the Dearborn Homes are now safe. Officer Flannagan displays refinement, character, and objectivity when interacting with citizens and fellow officers. He is willing to share any military training during roll-call trainings and work with the children at a local grammar school as a mentor. He provides community involvement through the Ancient Free & Accepted Mason Organization where he has implemented scholarship award money to high school students and college freshmen with exceptional grade point averages. Officer Flannagan was recently a part of the joint exercise with the Summit Fire Department that simulated a passenger train derailment.

The **Williams Power Command Leadership Award**, an award bestowed upon police supervisors who exhibit remarkable integrity and outstanding leadership qualities, was presented to retired **Deputy Chief James M. Keating**.

The **Richard J. Daley Police Medal of Honor** is presented annually to a citizen for outstanding dedication to the citizens of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department. This year, the Daley Medal was presented to **Mrs. Cassidy Alexander**.

NOTE: The units and ranks for award recipients, where listed, may not necessarily reflect their current rank or unit of assignment.

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