

SOUTH MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE: May 8, 2012

TO: Police & Fire Commission

FROM: Chief Ann Wellens

**SUBJECT: Police Awards
Common Council Meeting
May 15, 2012**



The week of May 13-19, 2012 has been designated as National Peace Officers Week. In conjunction with National Peace Officers Week the Police Department will be holding our annual Department Awards to recognize selected staff and citizens from the community.

On Tuesday, May 15th five officers from the Police Department and seven citizens will be presented Police Department Awards at the Common Council meeting. Mayor Zepecki has kindly allowed time at the beginning of the meeting for the Department presentation. The following officers and citizens will be receiving the following awards:

LIFE-SAVING COMMENDATION: awarded to an officer whose action directly contributed to the saving or significant prolonging of human life.

Officer Kyle Stormoen and Officer Vinohradsky: nominated by Officer Siefert

On October 10, 2011 Officer Stormoen and Officer Vinohradsky responded to a possible Chapter 51. A citizen reported a subject who appeared to be jumping into the falls at Mill Rd. Officers Stormoen and Vinohradsky located a subject sitting on the top railing of the bridge leaning into the waterfall on Mill Rd. Officer Stormoen recognized the subject from a prior Chapter 51 call (exact same location 6 months prior). Officer Stormoen engaged the subject in conversation, while Officer Vinohradsky approached the subject from behind, and pulled him off the railing to safety. Based on the subject's previous mental health history and his current state of mind – Officers Stormoen and Vinohradsky's quick thinking and actions saved his life.

MERIT AWARD: awarded for excellent arrest by any officer directly involved in the capture and arrest of a felon who was endangering the lives and/or property of the community.

Lt. Chad Milow and Officer Nathan Siefert: nominated by Lt. Cary Fischer

On October 11, 2011 Officer Siefert investigated a subject who was walking near the Police Department who appeared suspicious. This subject entered a yard enclosed by a fence that Officer Siefert knew the residence did not have teenage children. Upon making contact with the subject Officer Siefert recognized the subject as a local runaway. Officer Siefert located on this subject property that was suspicious. Through his investigation Officer Siefert determined the property was from a burglary that occurred earlier in the day. Lt. Milow assisted Officer Siefert in the investigation and obtained a confession from the subject regarding the burglary. The subject was arrested and referred to Children's Court where he was charged with the crime of burglary. Based on Officer Siefert's observations and investigation of a suspicious person a burglary was solved and property was returned to the owner. Without Officer Siefert and Lt. Milow's actions this crime may have not been cleared by arrest.

SUPERVISOR'S RECOGNITION AWARD: a supervisor may give this award, without Awards Committee approval, for outstanding work.

Officer Steve Streicher:

Lt. Jaske recommended Officer Streicher for a Supervisor's Recognition Award for his investigation of a substantial contractor fraud case (\$73,000.00).

CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD: whenever any officer believes that behavior coming to the attention personally or through a third party is deserving of recognition by the Department, an officer should indicate the circumstances of the incident in writing and should forward same to the Awards Committee. Upon Committee approval, the Chief will affix their stamp of approval.

Mr. David Acevedo & Mr. Reinaldo Acevedo:

Officer Carol Olson recommended Mr. David Acevedo and Mr. Reinaldo Acevedo for a Citizen Recognition Award for their action on November 7, 2011.

On November 7, 2011 David and Reinaldo were traveling in a vehicle on 6th Avenue when they

observed smoke coming from a residence on 6th Avenue. David immediately pulled over the vehicle and told his wife to call 911. David and Reinaldo went to the residence and began knocking on the doors in an attempt to notify the occupants of a potential fire. Because of their actions one family that was sleeping in one of the units was awakened and was able to safely exit the burning building. David and Reinaldo's actions as concerned citizens on November 7, 2011 resulted in the family safely exiting the burning residence.

Mr. Randy Brandt, Mrs. Christine Brandt & Ms. Randi Brandt:

Lt. Milow recommended the Brandt family for a Citizen Recognition Award for their action on November 11, 2011.

On November 11, 2011 the Brandt family noticed unusual activity at their neighbor's residence. They were aware their neighbors were out of town and no one should be at the residence. Mr. Brandt confronted a youth in his neighbor's yard and detained him until officers could arrive. Mrs. Brant observed a vehicle leaving the residence and reported that information to the officers. Mrs. Brant also detained several youth located inside the neighbor's residence. Through an investigation it was learned several youths had been hanging out at their neighbor's residence while the neighbors were out of town. Several youths were arrested, and either received municipal citations or were referred to Children's Court for charges.

Because the Brandt family was willing to get involved and be a good neighbor they assisted in protecting their neighbor's property. Without their assistance this crime would have possibly gone unsolved. It is wonderful when our neighbors look out for each other.

Mr. Joseph DeLong:

Officer Mick Olson recommended Mr. DeLong for a Citizen Recognition Award for his action on February 17, 2012.

On February 17, 2012 Mr. DeLong was working as a United States Postal Carrier in the City of South Milwaukee. While on his route Mr. DeLong observed three days of accumulated mail at a residence. He felt this was unusual and notified his supervisor who then contacted SMPD. Officers responded to the residence, forced entry into the residence under the community care taker role and located an elderly home owner on the floor of the residence. The owner had fallen three days earlier and was unable to get up. Because of Mr. DeLong's actions this individual was able to get help when he needed it the most.

Although the Police Department has been called to residences by mail carriers in the past, this was the first time a resident was found in duress. Mr. DeLong's actions saved the resident's life.

Mr. Jeffrey Hatzenbeller:

Captain Jill Kallay recommended Mr. Hatzenbeller for a Citizen Recognition Award for his

action on March 24, 2012.

On March 24, 2012 Mr. Hatzenbeller was driving through town when he observed several officers in a foot pursuit with a subject. After observing this action Mr. Hatzenbeller began following the subject in his vehicle monitoring where the subject was running. At one point Mr. Hatzenbeller advised Captain Kallay, who had been on foot pursuing the subject, where the subject ran and appeared to hide. Officers checked that area and subsequently found the subject hiding. The subject was then taken into custody. Because of Mr. Hatzenbeller's actions officers were able to locate and take into custody a subject who was wanted on a felony Probation & Parole warrant as well as two additional charges of burglary and theft. Without Mr. Hatzenbeller's involvement this subject may have eluded apprehension.