



# Chicago Police Department

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## Superintendent Honors Outstanding CPD Officers at Monthly Departmental Commendation Ceremony

CHICAGO- Interim Superintendent John Escalante presented awards today to outstanding officers at the Superintendent's Monthly Departmental Commendation Ceremony. The event serves to recognize officers who have distinguished themselves and the Chicago Police Department by their exemplary behavior and praiseworthy deeds.

The event was held at Chicago Public Safety Headquarters, 3510 S. Michigan Avenue. Among the awardees honored at this month's ceremony were:

**A Department Commendation** was presented to Officers **Constanti Dimas, Kevin Diblasi, Brian P. Burg, Marco M. Torres** and **Andres Zepeda**.

Officers assigned to Englewood (007<sup>th</sup>) District responded to a domestic disturbance call and arrived to encounter a female victim exhibiting obvious facial injuries. Officers immediately summoned medical assistance and with her to determine the situation. The victim related that the male offender was in a bedroom of the residence and that he was in possession of a handgun which was hidden under a mattress. Officers cautiously entered and discovered the offender lying on the mattress in question. Officers immediately announced their office at which point the offender got up and attacked the Officers. After a brief struggle, the Officers skillfully handcuffed the offender and recovered the loaded handgun underneath the bed. The offender was then transported to the Englewood Station for processing while some Officers remained with victim to provide further assistance. No longer fearful, the victim then explained to officers that the altercation began after she informed the offender that she was pregnant. The offender became enraged and threatened the victim with a handgun and punched her in the face. The offender was ultimately charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon, Aggravated Battery of a Pregnant Woman, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault and Home Invasion.

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January 2016 Monthly Commendation

**A Traffic Stop of the Month Award** was presented to Officers **Alphonsus O'Connor, Adrian Vivanco** and **James Vizzini**.

Officers assigned to the Narcotics Division were conducting an investigation in the Harrison District when they observed a blue Jeep Liberty commit a traffic violation. Officers activated their emergency equipment and curbed the vehicle to investigate. While approaching the vehicle, Officers observed the driver make suspicious movements and also detected the strong odor of cannabis emanating from the vehicle. Officers questioned the driver who voluntarily admitted he was in possession of narcotics. The driver was taken into custody and a subsequent custodial search of his vehicle led to the discovery of a cache of narcotics and currency secreted in one of the vehicle's airbag compartments. With the assistance of CPD Canine Unit Officers and Officers from the Asset Forfeiture Unit, more than \$32,000 in U.S. currency was seized, in addition to the vehicle. The offender was charged with Possession of Controlled Substances.

**A Traffic Stop of the Month Award** was presented to Officers **Juan J. Perez, Walter Shepler, Rony Carroll** and **Gregory Wood**.

Officers assigned to Grand Crossing District Tactical Team observed a vehicle with a broken brake light and conducted a traffic stop. Upon approach, the officers observed a screwdriver sticking out of the ignition slot. Officers immediately recognized this to be indicative of a possible stolen vehicle. Before the Officers could investigate further, the driver sped off. The Officers reentered their squad car and followed to maintain visual contact with the vehicle while requesting assistance. Once assisting units arrived, the offender abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. After a brief foot pursuit, Officers were able to take the offender into custody. A subsequent search of the offender revealed him to be in possession of two additional fully loaded magazines and loose ammunition. Further investigation revealed the offender was on parole for aggravated discharge of a firearm. Additionally, the offender had an active parole violation warrant and was wearing a court ordered electronic monitoring ankle bracelet. The investigation also revealed the car the offender was driving was indeed stolen. The offender was arrested and charged accordingly.

**A Department Commendation** was presented to Sergeant's **Yolanda Irvin, Murphy Rayl** and Police Officer's **Brian D. Gaffney, David Solski, Teres Reed-Johnson, William Gianniotis, Brian J. Thomas** and **Jaeho Jung**.

A Sergeant assigned to Grand Crossing District observed an argument on the street between two individuals. The Sergeant stopped to investigate and discovered that one of the parties was possibly armed with a handgun. The Sergeant detained the male subject and called for an assist unit at which time a red vehicle sped away from the scene at a high rate of speed. Assisting Officers were able to locate and curb the female driver of the vehicle whereupon they learned that the male subject being detained had entered into her vehicle at an intersection, threatened her with a handgun, and ordered her to drive to another location where she witnessed him conceal the weapon in the gutter of a garage. The female victim was able to lead Officers back to the garage and the handgun was recovered. The offender was subsequently placed in custody and charged with Kidnapping and Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

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