



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Superintendent Honors Outstanding CPD Officers at Monthly Department Commendation Ceremony

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

The event was held at Chicago Public Safety Headquarters, 3510 S. Michigan Avenue. Among the 276 awardees honored at this month's ceremony were:

A **Department Commendation** was presented to Lieutenants **John K. Riordan** and **Michael J. Stevens**, Sergeants **Michael N. Matijevich** and **Eddie M. Yoshimura**, and Officers **Daniel Andujar**, **Frances Cifuentes**, **Robert W. Elkins**, **Mazyar Hariri**, **Wayne R. Keneipp**, and **Loendri Rodriguez**.

Officers were flagged down by citizens in the 19th District and were alerted to armed individuals fleeing from the area. Officers quickly located firearms upon the ground and developed information that the fleeing individuals matched the descriptions of offenders who had just committed a home invasion nearby. This information was relayed to additional responding officers who quickly converged on the area and observed the suspects at various locations attempting to flee. Stolen property was recovered and the offenders were positively identified as the offenders in the home invasion. Ultimately, three weapons were recovered and three offenders were each charged with one felony count of Home Invasion.

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A **Department Commendation** was presented to Lieutenant **Godfrey T. Cronin**, Detectives **William J. Meister**, **Patrick J. Ford**, and Officers **Patrick M. Fahey Jr.**, **Craig C. Brownfield**, **James R. Hladik**, **Jose M. Huerta**, **John K. Kelyana**, **Jamime Luna** and **Michael J. Marozas**.

A known gang member with a lengthy criminal history targeted a rival gang member in the vicinity of the 7900 block of S. Evans. The offender approached the intended target while armed with a handgun and fired shots that missed the intended rival gang member but struck an innocent victim while she was seated inside a real estate office nearby. The victim died from the gunshot wound at the scene and was later identified as a Chicago Public School teacher and a highly respected member of the community.

Area South Detectives gathered information that the wanted offender was staying at a Motel in Lansing, Illinois. Officers conducted an extensive surveillance of the area and observed the offender arriving in a vehicle with other gang members. Officers converged on the vehicle and placed the offender into custody. The offender was later charged with First Degree Murder. It should also be noted that while in custody the offender was also charged with a previous gang related murder.

A **Life Saving Award** was presented to Police **Officers Linda R. McShane** and **Ricardo Rivera**.

Officers McShane and Rivera responded to a traffic crash on the 200 block of W. Congress and immediately requested additional assist units when they discovered one car turned upside down and the other crashed into an expressway barrier wall. The officers learned that one driver was observed shaken and had possibly fallen into the river. The officers immediately searched for the man and located him in the water in serious danger. After requesting the Marine Unit to assist, the officers secured a floatation apparatus located on the bridge and tossed it in the direction of the struggling man. The officers secured the rope line to the bridge and shouted instructions to the panicked man, keeping him conscious and aware, enabling him to grab the life saving apparatus. With the officers communicating the man's location, C.F.D. rescue personnel arrived and sent diving teams to rescue the man from the near freezing water. The man was removed from the water and transported to Northwestern Hospital for treatment. The officers' quick actions and control of the situation resulted in a successful joint effort in saving a person's life.

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