



SAINT PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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SAINT PAUL POLICE CHIEF PRESENTS CITIZEN AWARDS

Saint Paul Police Chief Thomas Smith today presented 18 people with the Chief's Citizen Award for their assistance to the Saint Paul Police Department. From helping track down an attempted kidnapping suspect to providing key evidence in a robbery investigation, Smith said these 18 people helped save lives, catch criminals and keep the city safe.

"Some of these individuals performed truly heroic actions," Smith said. "But what's really important is that all of them were willing to get involved. The Saint Paul Police Department thanks them for their help and commends them for their courage."

Below are the names of the people who received the Chief's Citizen Award and a brief synopsis of their stories.

Javon Thurmond and Russell Madison - *On July 5, 2010, Thurmond and Madison witnessed a possible abduction when a man approached a fifteen-year-old girl near Case and Payne. The suspect had exited his vehicle but left it running with his lights off. He grabbed the girl around the waist and tried to push her into his car. The girl screamed and was able to push the suspect away. Thurmond and Madison intervened and told the suspect to leave the girl alone. Once the suspect realized he was being watched, he sped away. Thurmond and Madison jumped into their vehicle and followed the suspect and called 911. They followed the suspect until police pulled the suspect over and arrested him for Attempted Kidnapping.*

Devante Peck - *On February 20, 2010, Peck's uncle was stabbed in the arm and his artery was severed. He was losing so much blood that he began to lose consciousness. Recognizing that he was bleeding out, Mr. Peck rendered aid to him by applying pressure to the wound with his bare hands to slow the bleeding until medics arrived. Medics stated that if not for Mr. Peck, the victim would have bled to death.*

Namu Nemah and Nicole Orfei - *In December 2009, there were several armed robberies in the area of the State Capitol and Rice Street. Police were able to determine where the suspect lived. Nemah, an apartment manager, provided valuable information on the suspect's comings and goings. He also provided valuable technical assistance. His office assistant Nicole Orfei also provided investigators with important information that greatly assisted in the identification of the suspect. Saint Paul Police were given unlimited access to the office and were able to hold intelligence meetings and monitor the camera at any time. Their cooperation and efforts were instrumental in charging the suspect for robbery and assault before he could commit any more crimes*

PRIDE – PROFESSIONALISM – PARTNERSHIP

William Chessier Jr. - On March 2, 2010, while working at Paul's Lounge, Chessier had contact with a person who was distraught about some personal issues. Another patron in the bar got upset with this individual when he continued on about his life and his troubles. This patron told him to just go kill himself if he was so upset. The troubled man got up to leave. Chessier recognized that he was distressed and vulnerable. He followed him out of the bar and called 911 when he saw him climbing over a fence on the bridge over I-94. St. Paul Police and State troopers arrived on scene but Chessier made a key connection with the man. During the forty minutes it took to convince him to get off the ledge, Chessier never left his side.

Michael Barrett, Bryan Hamilton, Brett Nyman, Wells Farnham, Terry Pretzloff and Josh Suchy - On September 8, 2009, these University of St. Thomas security officers assisted Saint Paul Police officers on a call of a suicidal man possibly on the bank of the Mississippi River, near the Lake Street Bridge. They began checking the trails along the bluffs and banks of the river. They then discovered the individual near Summit Avenue. He was semi-conscious but was able to say that he had overdosed using various medications. Medics were immediately called, but the officers soon realized that the victim's condition was critical. They then formed a human chain, passing the 170 lb male up the rough and unstable cliffs so he could be quickly transported to the hospital.

Amy Laskowske and Stephanie Price - On October 5, 2009, Laskowske and Price were jogging on a path in Como Park when they saw an unresponsive man on the ground. They both immediately began CPR and had others call 911. They continued to render aid until the medics arrived and took over. They were able to detect a heartbeat and transferred him to Regions Hospital where, unfortunately, he later died.

David Gottschalk - On January 21, 2009, a fire occurred at Rudies Coffee House on W. 7th St. Gottschalk, a Ramsey County Investigator, assisted Sgt. John Riley with the arson investigation. Over the course of time, his persistence paid off when an acquaintance of the prime suspect finally provided key information. The tip led Gottschalk to a Wal-Mart that had security tapes of the suspect purchasing a gas can and a cardboard shipping box. Both items' UPC codes matched the gas can found in the coffee shop and the box that contained some items that the suspect had given the owner the day before the fire. In May 2009, the suspect was charged with two counts of first-degree arson.

Huy Pham, Clark Westby and Cleve Nolan - On October 17, 2009, the three came across a man threatening to jump from the High Bridge. He was crying and stated he was trying to get up the courage to jump. These men all talked to the man and tried to convince him not to jump. Officer Sean Burton arrived and motioned to them to keep the individual distracted while he approached him. Officer Burton was able to grab his arm and pull him to safety.