

MEDIA ADVISORY

Saint Paul Police Department
367 Grove Street
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John M. Harrington
CHIEF OF POLICE

February 25, 2009

Chief's Award Ceremony

On Thursday, February 26th, Chief John Harrington will host a Chief's Award Ceremony in the training auditorium on the 4th floor of the Saint Paul Police Headquarters (367 Grove Street, St. Paul) at 0930 hrs. The following individuals will be recognized and honored:

Steven Hitchcock for his role in the planning and design of the new Western District. He attended over sixty planning meetings, conducted numerous site visits to the facility prior to, during and after the construction and analyzed other police buildings throughout the region so that all details would be considered as they related to both employee and citizen functionality.

Richard Dusterhoft from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office and Deputy **Paul Meskan** from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department for their role in Operation Sunrise. Operation Sunrise targeted narcotics dealers and gang members who had been terrorizing the Frogtown area of St. Paul.

Craig Thrane from the Target Corp, **David Nygren** from the ATF, **Chris Wilton** and **Erica MacDonald** from the US Attorney's Office, and Director **Steve Lydon**, Sergeant **Joanne Springer** and Criminal Analyst **Stephanie Meyer** from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department for their involvement with Operation Last Call. This Operation investigated 65 armed robberies of neighborhood taverns. Because of their efforts, seven suspects were identified and pled guilty while one went to trial and was found guilty.

Eugene Johnson and **Mario Hernandez**, private citizens, are being recognized for their heroic actions in coming to the aid of Officer Laura Syring while she was being attacked by a suspect at Rainbow Foods.

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Susan Khalil, owner of the Super USA store for her actions during an armed robbery. Ms. Khalil was 8 months pregnant and had her young daughter with her. After being confronted by an armed suspect, a struggle ensued between Ms Khalil and the suspect. Fearing for her life and the lives of her children, she was able to grab a pistol from behind the counter and subdue the suspect by shooting her in the chest.

Midwest Children's Resource Center will be recognized for providing assistance in many high profile cases involving child exploitation, sexual abuse and pornography.

Cake and coffee will be served. Please join us in honoring these worthy recipients of the Chief's Award.