

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Saint Paul Police Department
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**John M. Harrington
CHIEF OF POLICE**

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**November 16, 2009
8:30 AM**

Saint Paul Police Department Holding Chief's Award Ceremony Today

Today, at 2:00 p.m., Saint Paul Police Chief John Harrington will honor community members and representatives of several corporate, community, and law enforcement agencies with the department's Chief's Award. The honorees are being recognized for their important role in making Saint Paul a great place to live, work, and visit.

The ceremony will be held:

**November 16, 2009 (Today) at 2:00 p.m.
Saint Paul Police Department – Western District Office
389 North Hamline Avenue, Saint Paul, MN**

Honorees include:

Amy and Ryan Sportel: Amy and Ryan are Saint Paul residents and nurses, who on August 27, 2009, were in their front yard attending to their 11 day old baby when an automobile crash occurred down the street. The Sportels handed their newborn child to a neighbor and rendered aid to the 60 year old driver who was not breathing and without a pulse. The care they rendered until paramedics arrived serves as a powerful reminder of how people can use their skills and talents to build and maintain a strong and caring community.

Operation Shamrock: Operation Shamrock was an initiative of the Saint Paul Police Department, developed in response to concerns about street level drug dealing and associated problems around bus stops and other localized areas in the downtown. The three month undercover operation was an overwhelming success, resulting in criminal narcotics charges of over 100 people. The operation realized its full potential because of the participation and assistance of key partners who are being recognized today.

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Honored for their critical role in Operation Shamrock will be security staff from Saint Paul based Securian Companies and Saint Joseph's Hospital, who provided invaluable assistance with surveillance and monitoring. In addition, sworn and non-sworn staff from Metro Transit Police Department, Woodbury Police Department, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office will be honored for their investigative and intelligence gathering assistance. And importantly, prosecutors from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office will be honored for their critical role in reviewing more than 100 case files and issuing the corresponding criminal charges in a very short time toward the end of the Operation Shamrock investigation.

Media is welcomed and encouraged to attend.