



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Chicago Police to Be Honored for Response to Animal Crimes *Safe Humane Chicago to Recognize 20 Officers for Service and Professionalism*

CHICAGO – Twenty members of the Chicago Police Department will be honored Thursday evening at the Safe Humane Chicago “Diamonds in the Ruff” event, which recognizes outstanding successes that have benefited animals and the community. Officers and supervisors from the Animal Crimes Team and Calumet (5th) and Harrison (11th) Districts will be in attendance to receive accolades during an award ceremony slated to begin at 7 p.m. at Salvage One in Chicago at 1840 W. Hubbard St.

Awards for service and professionalism will be bestowed for several noteworthy incidents involving Chicago Police Officers, including:

After Calumet (5th) District **Commander Patricia Walsh** met with community members about a troubled building on the 12200 S. Wentworth, officers launched an investigation and discovered seven pit bull dogs caged and living in deplorable conditions and without food or water. Officers contacted the Animal Crimes Team (ACT) and after collaborating, arrested and charged the animals’ owner, a known gang member, with 14 animal offenses.

Officers also contacted various city and inter-departmental agencies to conduct a parallel investigation, which resulted in the entire property being condemned and vacated. The offender subsequently pled guilty to one count each of cruel treatment and neglect of owner duties and was sentenced to 12 months of probation, 50 hours of community service, and no contact with companion animals.

In a separate incident, Calumet (5th) District officers made a separate arrest of two offenders who were charged with felony cannabis and with cruel treatment and neglect of owner duties of three dogs. The investigation remains ongoing as collaborative efforts between Calumet District officers and members of the Animals Crimes Team continue. Together, the training, experience, and service of all the dedicated officers involved in these investigations remedied a serious situation for Calumet District community members.

Commander Walsh will join Calumet District **Officers Susan Williams** and **Karen Brandt** to receive recognition on behalf of the Calumet District for these efforts.

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Animal Crimes Release

Several Harrison (11th) District Officers, including **Lt. Doreen Hlavaty** and **Officers Josephine Christopher, Sean Flynn, Vincent Lacny, Brian Peete, and David Salzman**, will receive recognition on behalf of the Harrison District for the following efforts. In total, Harrison District officers have effected or helped effect at least 18 arrests associated with animal crimes and ongoing prosecution of animal crimes in the community in 2012.

On February 25, 2012, an offender threw a dog over a balcony, causing the animal to have a broken leg and hip. Neighbors called police and Harrison District officers responded. Subsequent investigation led to the offender's arrest and charges for aggravated cruelty, ultimately resulting in 30 months of probation, anger management classes, and community service, in addition to fines. The offender also was charged for an outstanding drug warrant.

In a separate incident, Narcotics Division officers executed a search warrant for illegal drugs connected to a convicted felon and known gang member. Officers reported that a small-sized dog was enclosed in pungent conditions at a porch at the location where the warrant was executed. Animal Care and Control was notified and a beat car from the Harrison District responded to assist in the investigation. More than \$3,000 worth of cannabis and weapons were recovered from the location; an active arrest warrant is in place for the convicted felon and known gang member.

In 2012 alone, the Animal Crimes Team has executed 44 search warrants and effected 72 arrests – 75 percent of which involve known gang members. The Animal Crimes Team additionally has recovered eight guns and \$65,000 in cash while rescuing 92 animals. The following Department members will represent the Animal Crimes Team in receiving recognition for these efforts: **Sergeant Mark George and Officers Robert Foss, Mark Trost, Lisa Russell, Adolfo Garcia, Timothy Martin, Marcus Shepard, and Reginald Ward.**

Certificates of Appreciation will be given to Rogers Park (24th) District Chicago Police **Officers Nestor DeJesus, Chris Pillow, Steve Burzinski and Nick Tavares** in addition to Chicago Police Gang Enforcement **Officers William Hranopoulos and Timothy Granville.**

The "Diamonds in the Ruff" event is to be held at *Salvage One*, 1840 West Hubbard Street in Chicago, on Thursday, October 4, 2012, from 7:00p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Awards will be announced across an hour's time period from about 7:40 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

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