



MEDIA RELEASE

Officers Receive Awards for 2012 Police Incidents



Left to right: Officer Philip Doney, Officer Sandra Brown, Officer Jamie Hawkins and Sgt. Ryan Unger. (Officer Natalie Hudzinski not pictured).

During a gathering of village employees and citizens' police academy alumni, five police officers received well earned praise for their efforts in 2012. The May 23 recognition ceremony featured Officer Philip Doney, a 19 year veteran, as the recipient of the Elm Grove Police Department's Medal of Valor and Life Saving Award, for his actions at the Azana Spa and Salon shooting, of October 21, 2012, which left three people dead and several injured. Officer Doney was instrumental in rescuing injured persons from the spa along with being one of the first to enter the building to affect safe passage for those persons hiding in the building. Sgt. Ryan Unger, an 11 year veteran, and Officer Sandra Brown, a 10 year veteran, also received Letters of Commendation for their actions during the shooting for providing exterior perimeter support and safe passage for those escaping from the building, as well as for officers approaching the building.

Officer Jamie Hawkins, a 12 year veteran, also received a Letter of Commendation for his actions in arresting a felon in possession of a firearm, stemming from a traffic stop for a vehicle equipment violation. Officer Hawkins was able to develop enough probable cause to affect a search that resulted in recovering a firearm

from the vehicle that was later tied to a drive-by shooting in the City of Milwaukee. The suspect was later tied to the weapon through forensic evidence. The offender was also charged with narcotics violations and prosecuted for federal weapons offenses.

Officer Natalie Hudzinski, in her first year with Elm Grove, was also honored for her work in recovering key evidence that was later tied to a homicide from a day earlier in the City of Waukesha. Without her recovery of the abandoned items and her cooperative efforts with other officers from the City of Brookfield, a suspect that was nearby the abandoned items would not have been tied to the property. The property contained not only the homicide victim's personal property, but also proceeds from the armed robbery along with property belonging to the suspect.

Chief Gage commented that, "Successful outcomes like these do not happen due to luck. They are the product of doing things the right way on a daily basis. Good training combined with good people creates outcomes that limit further death and injury to innocent citizens and takes dangerous offenders off the street."



Chief Jim Gage and Officer Philip Doney

James P. Gage
Chief of Police
052813 1530