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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 11/16/2011
Sponsor(s): Emanuel, Rahm (Mayor)
Type: Resolution
Title: Honor Police Officer Dennis M. Graber, Engine Company 46
and Truck 17 for heroic efforts
Committee(s) Assignment:

A resolution



adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*

Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Whereas, While on routine patrol in the Calumet Heights neighborhood on the early evening of September 19, 2011, 4th District Police Officer Dennis M. Graber (Star # 7649) of the Chicago Police Department was startled to see smoke billowing out of the roof of an apartment building at 9218 South Manistee Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Officer Graber pulled over, and learned from a neighbor that two people were possibly trapped inside the building; and

WHEREAS, Quickly exiting his vehicle, Officer Graber gained entry to the building and shouted out to see if there was anyone present. He heard a man's voice coming from upstairs, asking for help; and

WHEREAS, With a complete lack of concern for his own safety, and without an oxygen supply or protective gear, Police Officer Graber made his way through the smoke-filled halls up to the second floor; and

WHEREAS, On the second floor, Police Officer Graber encountered a man who told the officer he needed help with his eighty-seven year old mother, who was still inside her apartment. Police Officer Graber entered the apartment, found the elderly woman and carefully helped her down the stairs and outside to safety; and

WHEREAS, Engine Company 46 and Truck 17 of the Chicago Fire Department then arrived on the scene. Engine Company 46 personnel faced the daunting task of moving personnel and hose lines into the building, given the narrow interior stairway and tiny opening to the attic, where the fire had started; and

WHEREAS, Attacking the fire without hesitation, firefighters fought to contain the blaze to the attic and prevent the spread of the fire to the structure to the south of the building; and

WHEREAS, Engine Company 46 also conducted three searches of the building to make sure everyone was accounted for; and

WHEREAS, Meanwhile, Truck 17 personnel announced over fire ground radios that a potential hazardous condition existed. Two chimneys appeared to be collapsing and could easily kill or seriously injure fellow firefighters unaware of this danger; and

WHEREAS, After almost three hours of intense effort, the Fire Department responders successfully extinguished the blaze. The conditions they faced were so severe that two firefighters were injured and taken to Advocate Trinity Hospital suffering from dehydration and exhaustion; and

WHEREAS, Due to the excellent teamwork of Engine Company 46 and Truck 17, much of the building where the fire originated was saved and nearby structures were protected from major fire damage; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants, two people's lives were saved. The actions of these brave individuals are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Fire Department; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this sixteenth day of November, 2011, do hereby honor Police Officer Dennis M. Graber of the 4th District for his valiant rescue of a victim on the verge of succumbing to a fire, and we also honor the following members of Engine Company 46: Lieutenant Robert Murphy, Firefighter/Paramedic Thomas Colwell, Firefighter Jose Rinconeno, Engineer/EMT Thomas Pepper, Firefighter/EMT Steve Conrath and the following members of Truck 17: Firefighter/EMT William Fennessey, Lieutenant/EMT John Tumpich, Firefighter/EMT Jeffrey Martin, Firefighter/EMT Keith Miller, and Firefighter/EMT Carl Sabin of the Chicago Fire Department, for their bravery and commitment to duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to these members of the City of Chicago Police Department and Fire Department, and placed on permanent record in their personnel files, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.

Ral Emanuel

MAYOR



Susana A. Mendoza

CITY CLERK