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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 12/14/2011  
**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel, Rahm (Mayor)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Honoring Gang Investigations Unit, Area 1 Detectives,  
Narcotics Unit and 24th Police District for Operation  
Scorpion  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

# A resolution



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

Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on DECEMBER 14, 2011

**Whereas**, Following a number of narcotics-related homicides, a joint task force was created on September 10, 2010 between the Chicago Police Department; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area to apprehend the killer or killers. It was code named "Operation Scorpion"; and

**WHEREAS**, The eleven homicides that spurred the creation of this task force had occurred between August 5, 2009 and September 2, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, The Task Force began its investigation by gathering evidence regarding these homicides. Much of the evidence pointed toward one member of a particularly vicious drug cartel operating in the Chicagoland area. Later two other cartel members became suspects given their close association with the primary suspect; and

**WHEREAS**, On February 26, 2011, law enforcement officers in the Gang Investigations Unit and the Narcotics Unit conducted surveillance on these three cartel suspects. The suspects were followed to the 5800 block of North Winthrop Avenue, where they were observed entering a building; and

**WHEREAS**, Minutes later the suspects were seen fleeing the building, jumping in their car and speeding away. Task Force members entered the building and found three victims in an apartment with their throats slashed as a result of a narcotics-related robbery. The Task Force immediately called for an ambulance and one of the three victims was saved. The Task Force members following the fleeing vehicle were notified about the gruesome events in the building; and

**WHEREAS**, Two members in the Gang Investigations Unit attempted to stop and arrest the offenders near the intersection of Thorndale Avenue and Broadway Street; and

**WHEREAS**, The driver immediately opened fire on the officers with a semi-automatic handgun, striking one police officer in the right thigh and narrowly missing another police officer. The officers returned fire and struck the driver once, but all three suspects fled in their vehicle northbound on Broadway Street then westbound on Devon Avenue. The vehicle crashed near the intersection of Devon Avenue and Greenview Avenue. Task Force officers approached the now disabled vehicle, yelling for the suspects to surrender. The driver pointed his weapon at yet another officer, who in fear of his life fired at the suspect, killing him. His two accomplices attempted to flee on foot, but one suspect was captured after being tasered and the other suspect was taken into custody without incident; and

**WHEREAS**, The offenders' two semi-automatic handguns were recovered from the scene, and a subsequent search of their car revealed two butcher knives and the proceeds taken from the home; and

**WHEREAS**, As a result of Operation Scorpion, a total of twelve homicides have been solved, and the two surviving members of this drug cartel have been charged with numerous counts of First Degree Murder; Attempted First Degree Murder of a Police Officer; Home Invasion; and Armed Robbery. All of the officers involved in Operation Scorpion demonstrated extraordinary bravery as they placed themselves in harm's way in order to protect the residents of Chicago; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fourteenth day of December, 2011, do hereby honor the following units of the Chicago Police Department for their tireless efforts in combating narcotics crimes in Chicago: the Gang Investigations Unit; Area 1 Detectives; the Narcotics Unit and the 24<sup>th</sup> Police District; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to representatives of these units of the Chicago Police Department as a sign of our respect and admiration for the work they do every day to keep Chicagoans safe.



*Ral Emanuel*  
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MAYOR

*Susana A. Mendez*  
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