



L TO R: Jerry Chapusette, Officer Marilynn Torres, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Captain Khaliah Jones and Detective Vincent Fortunato

## ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY'S JULY TEAMWORK AWARD PROGRAM

**Newark, NJ** – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards to four Essex County employees. Teamwork Awards recognize employees for their hard work, dedication and willingness to provide quality service

**Jerry Chapusette**, a recent graduate of St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, is employed by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs as an Expeditor at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo. Jerry is an integral part of the Zoo's success. Dressed as 'Myrtle the Turtle,' the Zoo's mascot, he greets visitors at the front gates and throughout the zoo, and attends every birthday party—sometimes three or four per day. He goes above and beyond everyday to ensure that all visitors feel welcome and to create wonderful memories for the children. Jerry will attend William Paterson University in the fall in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

**Detective Vincent Fortunato** began his career with the Essex County Sheriff's Office sixteen years ago. Officer Fortunato is currently assigned to the K-9 Squad and handles two German shepherds named "Kennedy" and "Ava." Fortunato and "Kennedy" detected two handguns, a MAC 10 and a 9mm that were hidden in a car for the East Orange Police Department. Working with "Ava," he detected the point of origin of an arson fire in a multi-dwelling Ironbound residence in 2007. In addition, Fortunato is also a K-9 Trainer and he does in-house and other agency recertifications. He consistently displays exemplary professionalism and always goes above and beyond to care for the canines in the unit.

**Officer Marilynn Torres** began her career with the Essex County Department of Corrections three years ago after graduating from the Essex County Police Academy. She is responsible for custody on the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift at the Essex County Correctional Facility. Officer Torres witnessed a female inmate with a bed sheet tied around her neck while she conducted her daily cell checks and is credited with preventing the inmate from committing suicide. She immediately requested assistance, secured the area, and cared for the inmate until the medical department arrived.

**Captain Khaliah Jones** is the Acting Supervisor with the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Youth Services Division at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center. She began her career 12 years ago as an officer and worked her way up through the ranks. Captain Jones supervises a staff of Juvenile Detention Officers and Sergeants and is responsible for the complete operation and security of the detention facility. She maintains a good rapport with both the residents and her colleagues as she makes sure everyone follows the facility's policies and procedures. In addition, Captain Jones is the coordinator for the Honor Guard Unit, which attends various parades and funerals.