



L TO R: Officer Carmelo Vinci, Gwen Williams,
Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., and Dave Levy

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 three Essex County employees and a student from the Essex County Vocational Technical School District.

Officer Carmelo Vinci began his career with the Essex County Sheriff's Office two years ago. He is currently assigned to Superior Court Judge Robert Gardner's court where he maintains peace and decorum during many high profile criminal cases. His supervisors describe him as a 'go-to' officer who is thorough, effective and demonstrates tremendous skill in understanding the needs of court staff, jurors and the public. During his brief time with the Essex County Sheriff's Office, he has displayed great professionalism and dedication to his duties. In addition to his duties as a Sheriff's Officer, he works part-time as an exterminator. When off-duty, Officer Vinci can be seen coaching his children's pee-wee football team or at the race track behind the wheel of modified stockcars.

Gwen Williams has been with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for 16 years and currently serves as Assistant Prosecutor and Community Justice Unit Director. The mission of the Community Justice Unit is to address the quality of life issues that negatively impact the Essex County community. Ms. Williams is responsible for the creation and oversight of several innovative programs that serve the youth of Essex County, predominately those from Essex County's four urban communities. These programs provide alternatives to at-risk youth and provide them with a positive portrayal of law enforcement, which coincides with Prosecutor Paula Dow's goals as well as Governor Corzine's Crime Prevention Plan. Ms. Williams coordinates the Summer Internship Program, the World Against Violence Conference, the Fellas in Training Program and Project I Can Achieve Now (ICAN), which focuses on the development of middle school and high school aged children. Due to her leadership, the programs offered through the Essex County Prosecutor's Office provide invaluable learning experiences to the youth of Essex County. Over 1,200 youth annually participate in the outreach programs Ms. Williams developed through the Community Justice Unit.

Dave Levy began his career with the Essex County Clerk's Office in 1998, processing Trade Name Applications in the Clerk's vault. In 2000, he was transferred to the Information Center of the Passport Division, where he has received many accolades and honors for his superior customer service skills. This is a sensitive area of the office, for many people come in a rush, or without all the necessary identification and documents, and Dave goes the extra mile to assist them and expedite their passport application. His sense of community extends to his officemates, where he acts as the Clerk's liaison to the County's Heart Walk, the Annual Open House and Career Day, and can always be counted on to lend a helping hand.