



L TO R: Officer James “JJ” Howell, Jennifer Price, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Donna McKnight and Officer Kenneth Leonard

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY’S SEPTEMBER 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

Jennifer Price is employed by the Essex County Department of Health & Rehabilitation, Division of Community Health Services as a Service Coordinator. Jennifer is an integral part of the Special Child Health Services Unit. She is responsible for managing services for children from birth to three years of age who have developmental delays. These children need autism specialists or therapists for speech, occupational and physical therapy. Known for her kindness and compassion, she leads the team of professionals that transitions the child into the local school system at the age of three. In addition to her responsibilities, Jennifer served as the Division’s liaison for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and helped raise over \$1,000.

Officer Kenneth Leonard began his career with the Essex County Department of Corrections eighteen years ago. Kenneth supervises the detainees and maintains the overall safety and security in the Essex County Correctional Facility. Most recently, Leonard and a fellow officer helped save the life of a suicidal inmate. In addition, he is an active member of the Essex County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 71, where he currently serves as president and has held various executive board positions for the past 16 years.

Donna McKnight joined the Youth Services Commission, a grant-driven office, as a Fiscal Analyst in the midst of a variety of new initiatives and existing programmatic and fiscal challenges. The record keeping of the Commission had been inconsistently maintained due to staffing changes, leaving Donna in the position of learning the old systems and updating the records, in addition to familiarizing herself with local, State and Federal processes that were in a state of flux. Donna immediately sought out more of the extended and peripheral duties associated with the grants. She works in a system with many inter-related bureaucratic elements, ranging from fiscal systems to programmatic reporting procedures, often introduced by the granting agency without warning or consultation.

Officer James “JJ” Howell has been an Officer with the Essex County Sheriff’s Office, Bureau of Criminal Identification for 24 years. He is responsible for transferring all criminal records to microfilm, which is an extremely tedious and monotonous task. JJ gives 100% everyday as he transfers the records and hand-delivers the microfilm to Trenton. In 24 years, JJ has never had his microfilm rejected for flaws, which is a testament to his diligence and attention to detail. He is admired by his colleagues and supervisors and is a great role model for his colleagues.