



**L TO R: Officer John Frucci, Kenya Couch, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Cynthia Alameda and Officer Peter Janiec**

## **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 to the residents of Essex County.

**Cynthia Alameda** began as a Youth Worker in the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center three years ago. In the short time that she has worked with the 21 young people, ages 14-18, who make up the Essex County Youth Advisory Council, she has done an outstanding job of providing a safe and nurturing environment for high-risk children who have completed Court-sanctioned detention programs operated by the Youth Services Commission, or those who have served on the Detention Center Youth Council and been released from care. She has an innate ability and affinity for working with high-risk youth, even volunteering in New York with agencies in this field. Sometimes working single-handedly, Cynthia has created quality programs, and won the trust of the participants, inspiring them to undertake many cultural activities, enriching their lives as well as giving them a taste for, and a vision of, a better life path. Some YAC members competed, and placed, in a regional Spoken Word competition and some served on a Youth Panel at a statewide YSC conference, co-sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and Administrative Office of the Courts. She has even developed some great internship opportunities for them!

**Officer Peter Janiec** joined the Essex County Department of Corrections in October 2008 and has distinguished himself through his attitude and completion of duties. He graduated from the Essex County College Police Academy this year, and is assigned to the STG (Security Threat Group) Crips, a post he has held for the past year. During his field training, one of his supervisors commented in his assessment "C.O. Janiec took initiative and showed eagerness to learn the job" ~ a sentiment echoed by several line and command-level supervisors. It is this positive, professional approach to his work that marks Officer Janiec as a future leader in the Department, as he sets a good example for his peers and those officers new to the job. He lives in Bloomfield, and spends his spare time with family and friends. We thank him for his efforts, and look forward to watching him progress in his career.

**Kenya Couch** has been a Special Child Health Service Coordinator in the Essex County Division of Community Health Services since 2004 and she immediately stood out as a person fully dedicated to improving the lives of young children. She consistently carries the highest caseload, yet relates so well to each child that every family feels they are her only case. Her sense of concern and commitment is of vital importance, since she deals with parents whose children face some learning, speech or other developmental problem and their anxiety levels are always high. Kenya supports her supervisors, lends a hand to her colleagues, is a role model for new coordinators, and serves as the Vice President of AFSCME, the Social Workers union in Essex.

**Officer John Frucci**, a well-rounded officer in the Sheriff's Office, has been with Essex County for 17 years. He gained many skills during the 7 years he was assigned to the Arson Squad in the Office of the Essex County Prosecutor, where he provided great service to our community and was the Principal Arson Investigator in the deadly Seton Hall University fire. Officer Frucci is a major asset to Field Operations, and so well respected by superiors that he is also the Office Liaison to the FBI. He is a bomb technician and arson investigator with extraordinary contacts, which has allowed the Sheriff's Office to upgrade the bomb robots with state-of-the-art cameras at no cost to County taxpayers. Fortunately, for the younger officers, he is always willing to share his knowledge and experience, assuring the continuing strength of the office.