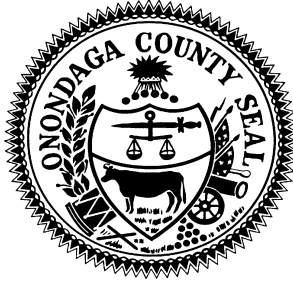


OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release: April 13, 2011

Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications Award Winners Announced

Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney and Department of Emergency Communications Commissioner William R. Bleyle are pleased to announce the 18th Annual Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 10am at the Onondaga County 911 Center, 3911 Central Avenue, Syracuse, New York. Seven Onondaga County 911 Center employees will be recognized for outstanding performance during the past year.

The annual awards ceremony is held during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (April 10-16, 2011) which was established in 1981 and is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers. It is designed to recognize the hard work and dedication performed by these employees on a daily basis as they provide a vital link to public safety services.

In recognizing the dedication of 911 Center employees, County Executive Joanie Mahoney said, "Onondaga County is grateful to the professional call taking, dispatch, support and administrative staff at our 911 Center. Our Center employees provide a critical and efficient link between the public and our first responders. We are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the service of the award winners and thank all of our 911 staff for their excellent work."

Commissioner William R. Bleyle will present the employee awards at the April 13th ceremony.

Commissioner Bleyle said, "It is an honor to present these awards to these public safety communications employees who have exemplified themselves through their excellence. It is equally an honor to take this time during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to recognize the dedicated and professional efforts of the entire staff at the 911 Center and thank them for their service to the community and our emergency responders."

The following Onondaga County 911 Center employees will receive awards for outstanding performance during 2010:

Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) Cindy Cieloch will be recognized as **Employee of the Year** for her resourcefulness, attention to detail, and knack for remembering minute details concerning

previous calls. In 2010, PSD Cieloch was twice named Employee of the Month (October and November) and received four Letters of Appreciation for her efforts that include locating a victim of a medical emergency, researching information that led to the apprehension of a robbery suspect, and participating on the design team for a countywide law enforcement records management system.

Account Clerk II Marylou Aureli and Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) Kevin Spraker will receive the **Commissioner's Administrative Award**. Clerk Aureli will be recognized for her day-to-day excellence in administering the 911 Center's personnel function for the Center's 150 employees. Ms. Aureli consistently performs her job with a positive outlook, bright smile, and a sense of humor that is appreciated by all. PSD Spraker is recognized for his work on the 911 Center's Technical Support Team and his dedication and commitment to excellence in maintaining the Center's computer-aided dispatch system and mobile data network. Mr. Spraker's efforts have left a trail of accomplishment and appreciation within the agency.

Supervisor of Dispatch Operations (SODO) Brad Bliss will receive the **Commissioner's Supervisory Award** for his service and contributions to the 911 Center. SODO Bliss began his County service in 1980 and has served as a supervisor since 1987. He's contributed to a number of critical efforts over the years and is respected by management and his peers as a consistent and reliable leader, who is fair, objective, even tempered, and demonstrates a quiet but strong and confident command presence at all times.

Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) Mark Surace will be presented the **Police Dispatcher of the Year Award**. A veteran of 24-years, PSD Surace is recognized by his peers for the pride and passion he has in his work, his ability to remain calm and professional even in the most difficult situations, and his continuous focus on the safety and well-being of first responders and the public. He serves as a mentor for his co-workers based on his knowledge of the job and his approachable nature.

Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) Timm Latham will receive the **Fire Dispatcher of the Year Award**. PSD Latham is recognized by his peers for dedicated efforts in fire dispatch and willingness to work as a team to do whatever it takes to get the job done. His calm demeanor and professionalism provide a model to be emulated by his co-workers. He is very knowledgeable of fire and emergency medical procedures and is approachable and always willing to assist his co-workers with their questions and concerns.

Public Safety Telecommunicator (PST) Nicole Geswaldo will be presented the **Telecommunicator of the Year Award**. PST Geswaldo is recognized by her peers for skill and ability to balance her role as a call taker and a New York State Police Information Network (NYSPIN) teletype operator. As a call taker, PST Geswaldo is consistently professional, courteous and informative, always ensuring that calls are properly documented and the caller receives all the information they need. As a NYSPIN operator, PST Geswaldo effectively and efficiently accomplishes her work while remaining available to assist with call taking duties when necessary.

During 2010, the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications Center received 544,986 telephone calls and made 505,320 incident dispatches for 1,050,306 communications transactions.

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