



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2012

Mount Vernon to award Medals of Valor for acts of bravery to Officer Keith Johnston and Officer Zach Wright.

MOUNT VERNON – The City of Mount Vernon will award Medals of Valor for acts of bravery to Officer Keith Johnston and Officer Zach Wright during the City Council meeting of January 18, 2012. The time and location of the City Council meeting is: 7:00 P.M. at the Police/Court Campus, 1805 Continental Pl, Mount Vernon, WA.

Officer Keith Johnston: While in the process of searching a suspect who had been handcuffed and was lying on the side of the road, Officer Johnston saved both the suspect and himself from a vehicle that was purposefully driving toward them. Officer Johnston grabbed the suspect's shirt, pulled him off the ground, and dove to safety as the vehicle drove over the very spot where the suspect had been lying. Officer Johnston's bravery, conviction, and dedication to saving a life by placing himself at risk of serious injury or death is truly an act of heroism.

Officer Zach Wright: Officer Wright and K-9 Luther were called out to assist in searching for a robbery suspect who was reported to be armed. K-9 Luther located the suspect, who attempted to flee. Luther pursued, biting the suspect's lower leg. As the suspect fell to the ground, he reached toward his waistband. Officer Wright came face to face with a suspect whose actions led him and assisting officers to believe that the individual was attempting to inflict great bodily harm on them. During this incident Officer Wright reacted with heroism, bravery, conviction, and dedication to the safety of the community at large.

Police Chief Ken Bergsma said "This Medal of Valor award has only been awarded on couple of prior occasions and Officers Johnston and Wright are truly deserving of this recognition."

For further information, contact:

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