



**FORT WORTH
POLICE OFFICERS'
AWARD FOUNDATION**

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For immediate release

**FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICERS' AWARDS
FOUNDATION HONORS EXEMPLARY SERVICE**

Fort Worth officer Emelia Castoreno was named Officer of the Year for 2011 at a special VIP dinner on Wednesday, May 16, 2012. The dinner was hosted by the Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation and sponsored by Chesapeake Energy. It was held in Chesapeake's grand lobby.

The honor for Commander of the Year went to Lieutenant Terry Bessire.

Other personnel honored as outstanding in their area of assignment are:

North Command

Detective Randy Finch
Officer Joseph Johnson
Officer Nathan Lehman
Officer Matthew Pearce
Officer Jason Spencer
Officer Joel Zuniga

South Command

Officer Stephen Fineman
Officer Matthew Johnston
Officer George Reynolds

Specialized Units

Detective Matthew Barron
Officer Richard Benson
Officer Donald Carter
Officer Anthony Contreras
Officer Rene Del Rio

(cont.)



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Detective Shane Drake
Detective Richard Fluitt
Detective Mark Furr
Officer Ursula Gardner
Officer Steve Groppi
Officer Gary Hawley
Detective Sherry Kelly
Officer John Kerr
Officer Michael Lang
Officer Andrew Matheny
Officer Jedidiah Miller
Officer Michael Moore
Officer Sharron Neal
Detective Thomas O'Brien
Officer Michael Richey
Officer Carl Shedlock
Officer Ernesto Tamayo

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Michael Cagle
Sergeant Steven Deane
Sergeant Brent Halford
Sergeant William Hix
Sergeant Joseph Madonado
Sergeant Richard Morris
Sergeant Mark Thorne
Sergeant John White
Sergeant Kevin Woodson

Commander of the Year

Lieutenant Terry Bessire
Captain Kenneth Dean
Lieutenant Edney Eldridge
Lieutenant Ty Hadsell
Lieutenant Charles Ramirez

(cont.)



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Officer Emilia Castoreno is assigned as a Neighborhood Patrol Officer in one of the City's most challenging areas—the Woodhaven apartment community. During 2011, Castoreno was challenged with changing the perception of how Hispanic and Latino residents view police services in order to bridge the gap between the Hispanic and Latino Community and the Fort Worth Police Department, as well as to help Woodhaven area residents address crime and quality of life issues. Castoreno meets with area apartment managers monthly to foster goodwill and positive relationships.

A prime example of this Castoreno's work ethic and self motivation occurred during a series of robberies in which Hispanic/Latino victims were targeted in apartment parking lots. She immediately networked with apartment managers and the Department's Hispanic Community Liaison to educate residents about how being aware of surroundings as a measure to prevent crime. A brochure with robbery prevention tips and crime awareness bulletin were immediately prepared and distributed throughout the entire Woodhaven community. The crime wave eventually stopped, and several actors were arrested.

Castoreno can be described as an someone who takes personal responsibility for the assigned area. Not only does she handle her obligations as a neighborhood patrol officer, but she always shows initiative and takes priority calls for service in her area.

Officer Castoreno has compassion for the safety and well-being for the people she swore to protect as well as an ability to bring peace of mind in partnership with the community.

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