



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2011

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BURNSVILLE RECOGNIZED FOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

City is winner of League of Minnesota Cities 'City of Excellence' Award

Whether directing traffic or crowds at a City-wide event, or providing support to Burnsville Paramedic/Firefighters during an apartment fire, Burnsville residents have the unique opportunity to work side-by-side with their local Police Officers and Firefighters. Through a volunteer program known as the Mobile Volunteer Network (MVN), engaged Burnsville residents and their skills are connected with public safety officials and their multitude of needs throughout the community.

In recognition of the City's volunteer network, the League of Minnesota Cities awarded Burnsville a "City of Excellence" award at their annual conference in mid-June. Burnsville was the recipient of one of only four "City of Excellence" awards given out in 2011.

Burnsville was the single winner of this year's topical award category – "Effective Use of Volunteers." According to the award criteria, Burnsville was awarded for reaching out to citizens and getting them involved in a variety of ways. Through the commitment and dedication of City staff members and motivated volunteers, this "mobile network" is able to assist the City during a number of events and incidents each year.

"Burnsville Police and Fire rely on this group during emergencies and at special events throughout the City," said Burnsville Community Services Specialist Amber Jacobson. "The group also offers a tremendous cost savings to the City by reducing overtime costs that would be required by safety personnel during an emergency."

Burnsville's MVN is made up of over 50 residents who are trained in areas such as traffic and crowd control, first aid, missing person/object search, radio communications, media relations, psychological first aid and sky warn.

Each "City of Excellence" winner received a cash prize of \$1,000, a commemorative plaque and special recognition at the 2011 LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace.

Burnsville's Mobile Volunteer Network program is funded primarily by the Citizen Corps Grant Program through the State of Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department. The City has received grant dollars since 2003 for staffing, supplies and equipment to assist with the program.

For more information or to join MVN visit www.burnsville.org/volunteer or contact Jacobson at 952-895-4575.



Cutline: Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, City staff and members of the Burnsville Police and Fire Departments pose with members of Burnsville’s Mobile Volunteer Network during the June 21 Council Meeting.

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