

City employees recognized for bravery in response to Lees Avenue townhouse fire

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News Release

Ottawa – Several City of Ottawa employees were honoured today for their heroic response to a fire that occurred on September 27 at a townhouse on Lees Avenue.

“This is an example of the exceptional employees we have working at the City of Ottawa. It is a privilege and honour to have such dedicated staff working with us,” said Mayor Jim Watson. “What they did for these families and individuals was truly exceptional and I thank them.”

A total of eleven men who work for the Public Works Department were part of a thoughtful, well-coordinated response to a fire that occurred in the middle of the night in a 14-unit townhouse, located adjacent to their facility. In addition to calling 9-1-1 and ensuring a safe evacuation of the building, they also welcomed the townhouse residents into the City facility for comfort and safety. As well, they made a trip to a nearby grocery store for food and baby needs.

“Throughout this traumatic event, these men made absolutely every possible effort to ensure the safety and comfort of the people impacted by this fire,” said Keith Egli, Chair of the Transportation Committee. “They recognized the urgency and acted swiftly and calmly. They put others needs before their own and they truly went beyond the call of duty.”

The following employees were recognized by Councillor Egli:

Richard Adams
Daniel Beckett
Cory Hardiman
Ronald Lecompte
Luigi Manoni
Mark Nichols
Jonathon Russell
Christopher Smith
Ian Talbot
Hal Wolfe
Jacques Leduc

The fire resulted in damage to eight of the units and was estimated at \$1 million. Thirty-five people were affected and were provided with alternate housing arrangements by the City.