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SUBJECT: *Recognition: Life Saving Award – Officer Matthew Wychor, Officer Cory Borkenhagen, Officer James Ohnstad and Sergeant Toby Krone

RECOMMENDATION: It is respectfully requested that the Mayor and Council recognize Chief David Ebinger for the purpose of awarding Police Department Life Saving Awards to Officer Matthew Wychor, Officer Cory Borkenhagen, Officer James Ohnstad, and Sergeant Toby Krone.

BACKGROUND: On Thursday, November 5, 2009, at about 0049 hours, the above-listed officers responded to a residential house fire at 1207 20th Street North, the Lyle and Norma Erickson residence. When the Erickson's awoke during the fire, they attempted to make their escape from the house. Norma exited the home and the front door closed and locked behind her with Lyle still inside. These officers arrived, attempted to force the door open and discovered that Lyle had collapsed against the door, allowing the door to only be opened a few inches. Officers proceeded to continue to struggle to move Lyle away from the doorway in effort to enter and get him extracted. In doing so, these officers were exposed to heavy smoke inhalation. Ultimately, their perseverance and courage in the face of personal danger, allowed them to successfully pull Lyle from the residence alive, but in critical condition.

KEY ISSUES: It is proper to recognize exemplary employee performance in compliance with City and/or Police Department Policy.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: Moorhead Police Department Administrative Policy #25 provides for bestowing this award on members who are deemed to qualify after a review of the incident by an established Awards Board.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: There is no financial cost to the City of Moorhead.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS: Such recognitions are within the purview of the Mayor and Council.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michael J. Redlinger
City Manager



Department/Response Person: Police

Attachments: Memorandum - Awards Committee

