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Contact: Kim Goldberg
Office: 301-738-0015 ext. 209
kgoldberg@mcccmd.com



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Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Hosts 35th Annual Public Safety Awards

Rockville, MD – The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) will host the 35th Annual Public Safety Awards on Friday, March 20. Each year this special event recognizes the extraordinary acts of courage and community service by individuals and departments from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, Police, Sheriff, Park Police, and Correction and Rehabilitation.

The event—the largest of its kind in the Washington Metropolitan Area—attracts over 1000 guests including business leaders, community members, elected officials, public safety personnel and families of the awardees. Steven A. Robins, of the law firm of Lerch, Early and Brewer, has chaired the Public Safety Awards since 2001. “It is an honor to once again be asked to chair this remarkable event,” said Robins. “This was an exceptional year for acts of valor. The men and women we are honoring have truly gone above and beyond the call of duty.”

This year there are 29 awardees associated with 10 incidents, and two recipients of community service awards. Nominations are submitted by each agency and reviewed and approved by a selection committee comprised of representatives from each agency, the Chairman of the MCCC board and several Chamber members.

“This is the one day—out of the 365 days of the year—that we can say ‘thank you’ to the men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis for our public safety,” said Dr. James Whang, Chairman of the Chamber’s Board of Directors and former President and CEO of AEPLOG.

The 2009 Public Safety Awards will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, located at 5701 Marinelli Road in Bethesda. The reception begins at 11:15 a.m., followed by the awards luncheon at noon. Tom Costello and Norah O’Donnell, both of NBC News are the program emcees. US Senator Ben Cardin, US Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett are scheduled to attend.

Names of award winners, and their award level, are embargoed until after the award ceremony. For names and details about award winners or to attend the ceremony, please contact Kim Goldberg, MCCC Director of Communications at 301-738-0015 x202 or kgoldberg@mcccmd.com.

About the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce serves its 500+ business members by providing opportunities to connect with one another and by advocating for an improved Maryland business climate. Georgette “Gigi” Godwin is the President and CEO of the Chamber. The current Chairman of the Board is Dr. James Whang, former President and CEO of defense contractor AEPLOG. For more information about the Chamber, visit

www.montgomerycountychamber.com.