

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No. 4a

Date of Meeting July 26, 2011

DATE: July 19, 2011

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Police Chief Colleen Wilson and Fire Chief Randy Krause

SUBJECT: Special Order of Business – Recognition of the 2011 POSPD Officer of the Year and POSFD Firefighter of the Year.

The Port of Seattle Police Department (POSPD) and the Port of Seattle Fire Department (POSFD) are pleased to present our 2011 Police Officer of the Year, Julia Tanga, and our 2011 Firefighter of the Year, Jason Schnase, and appreciate the Port Commission’s recognition of these two excellent Port employees.

Both Officer Tanga and Captain Schnase have been selected by their peers. This award was established to recognize officers and firefighters who have demonstrated exceptional achievement, the highest standards of competence and professionalism, and shown a genuine commitment to their profession, the department, and the public we serve.

Officer Tanga’s nominations tell us that she is *“knowledgeable, self motivated, a great communicator, proficient, and is ALWAYS willing to help others.”* She consistently displays the highest level of professionalism and it is said that her *“day-to-day interactions and attitude with her coworkers and the public that make her deserving of the Officer of the Year.”* Excellence, they say, is not an act, but a habit – one that Officer Tanga has clearly developed.

Officer Tanga’s nominations describe her tireless dedication to both routine and collateral duties, her professionalism and her compassion for others. One nomination referred to her work with the peer support group and the police benevolent association, saying, *“When a member of the department, or for that matter the larger police family, is hurting or needs assistance, our agency can depend on Officer Tanga to lead the effort to organize a coordinated response.”* Because of that commitment, she has been appointed to the new position of Peer Support Team Coordinator. She will coordinate a new Board and some connections to help us re-energize this very important effort.

Always upbeat and positive, Julia has displayed a genuine commitment to her profession and to our guiding principles. That has obviously led to the respect and appreciation of her peers as reflected clearly in the vote.

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We are also pleased to announce Jason Schnase as our 2010 Firefighter of the Year. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all involved in the Firefighter of the year selection process. Nominees for Firefighter of the year were Todd Starkey, Greg Baruso and Jason Schnase. All three candidates continue to contribute a great deal to our department and we are very appreciative of all their contributions.

Jason's co-workers recognized his work ethic, loyalty and tenacity for his nomination. Captain Schnase continually volunteers for difficult assignments, most notably, his assignment to the Washington State Fire Academy where he was drill instructor/master to a class that included three of our own recruits. Jason undertook this challenge with his usual enthusiasm and thoroughness and completed it with a degree of professionalism that without a doubt impressed the administrators at the academy. He graduated a very fine group of firefighters from not only our department but many others as well. His work at the academy and here at the station exemplifies the quality of Firefighter we at the Port strive to produce. Jason is very deserving of this honor.