



COUNTY OF ALBANY  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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April 8, 2011

Dear Chief Steven Krokoff,

I am pleased to inform you that the Albany Police Department has been selected to receive the 2011 Spirit of Justice: Unsung Hero Award. This award is given to individuals or organizations who, through actions, have demonstrated a commitment to victims of crime. There were many deserving of recognition for their work with victims and families, but it was the examples of advocacy and service at every level of your department that determined your selection.

The examples provided here will never be reported by the press. These facts are not contained in charging documents, arrest reports, or supporting depositions but are just as important to the success of our cases.

In the Matter of People [REDACTED] Detective Joe Iwaneic exhibited exemplary poise and sensitivity in the context of a devastating child sexual abuse case. From his first moment in the case, when he found himself in a medical examination room with a child victim, through to the conviction at trial, his recognition of the gravity of these events and the effects on the victim guided him. His ability to balance investigative techniques with his easy and comforting demeanor enabled the victim to share her story. It also encouraged the victim's sister to disclose the abuse she too had suffered which proved invaluable at trial. The defendant, having been found guilty on all charges, is now serving a 25 year prison term.

In the Matter of People v. Anthony Jackson, PO Joe Chromczak and PO Mike Comisso, worked on a Robbery case of a young woman with developmental disabilities. The Officers demonstrated patience and compassion and worked with her to fully understand what occurred. The victim, having established a comfort level with the officers, contacted them when the suspect returned and was arrested. Despite the poor result in the grand jury, the officers continued to actively care and check on her.

In the Matter of People v Jessica Paradiso, the defendant, a home health aid, had stolen an elderly victim's money and wedding ring. Detective Bob Wise not only worked tirelessly to bring the defendant to justice but also continued to provide up to the minute information about the case to the victim and the family. Detective Wise's dogged efforts ultimately resulted in the reuniting of the victim and the ring.

In the Matter of People v Raysomon Jackson, Detective Alfred Martin demonstrated that commitment to victims and witnesses of crime does not stop after the work day nor should be impeded by bureaucracy. Having witnessed a brutal murder of Ruel Torak, the witness feared for her life and refused to cooperate in the prosecution. Seeking to bring justice and peace to Mr. Torak's family, Detective Martin established a relationship with the witness eventually earning her trust. Detective Martin's commitment to victims and witnesses resulted in the defendant's conviction.

In speaking with Crime Victim Specialists in the Office of the District Attorney, they recounted hundreds of instances where members of the Albany Police Department have demonstrated exemplary care and service to victims of crime. The men and women of the Albany Police Department have earned the honor and distinction of the 2011 Spirit of Justice Award: Unsung Hero Award.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. David Soares", written over a horizontal line.

P. David Soares

District Attorney