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Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

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Commissioner Robert C. Haas and the Cambridge Police Department Honor Macy's Security Manager

June 22, 2010 –

Commissioner Robert C. Haas and the Cambridge Police Department are proud to award Peter J. Brown, Security Manager at Macy's Department Store located in the CambridgeSide Galleria, with the Allen T. McPherson Citizen Service Award.

Mr. Brown was recognized for his fearless efforts which helped Cambridge Police Lieutenant Leonard J. DiPietro and Sergeant Paul J. Sugrue apprehend a shoplifting suspect who was found to be carrying a loaded weapon.



Mr. Peter J. Brown, Commissioner Robert C. Haas & Superintendent Steven A. Williams

Along with his award, Mr. Brown was presented with a certificate recounting the event which reads:

“On a mid-October evening, Lieutenant Leonard J. DiPietro and Sergeant Paul J. Sugrue were working a detail assignment at the CambridgeSide Galleria Mall when they were asked to respond to a disturbance on the second floor. They encountered Security Manager Peter J. Brown who had stopped a young man suspected of shoplifting. When Mr. Brown instructed the individual to remove his hands from his jacket pocket, the youth acted suspiciously by putting his hands in his jacket pocket and looking around, as if for an escape route. Lieutenant DiPietro told the youth repeatedly to keep his hands visible, but the suspect did not obey this command. Lieutenant DiPietro noted that the youth was

more uncooperative than the usual shoplifting suspect, arousing his concerns. Not wishing a confrontation on the main floor of the mall where shoppers could be in harm's way, Lieutenant DiPietro and Sergeant Sugrue closely monitored the suspect and brought him to the loss prevention office on the lower level. In the loss prevention office, the suspect continued to reach his hands into his jacket pocket, despite repeated orders to stop. Lieutenant DiPietro performed a pat frisk of the suspect and felt a gun in his pocket. After alerting Sergeant Sugrue to the presence of a gun, the two officers, along with Security Manager Peter Brown, engaged in a prolonged struggle during which the suspect made several attempts to retrieve the weapon from his jacket pocket. The officers subdued the suspect and retrieved the weapon, but not until all three officers had sustained minor injuries. The gun was discovered to be a loaded .38 caliber revolver. Also discovered on the suspect were significant amounts of cash and marijuana, indicating that the defendant was engaged in the distribution of narcotics. By engaging the suspect in the loss prevention office, rather than on the main floor of the mall, the officers prevented the suspect from posing a grave threat to the public safety. Lieutenant DiPietro and Sergeant Sugrue are to be commended for their intelligent and unhesitating response to this dangerous individual, and Peter Brown must be recognized for his heroic actions in assisting the officers in this encounter.”

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For more information and additional photographs, please contact Dan Riviello at 617-349-3237 or e-mail Dan at driviello@cambridgepolice.org