



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and City Councilors

**From:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
Eddie Buffaloe, Chief of Police

**Date:** August 22, 2013

**Re:** Presentations - Police Officer Recognition/Awards

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Police Officers D.S. Sutton, M.B. Bullock, T.R. Bateman, and B.W. Miller were the first to respond to a house fire in the early morning hours of August 19, 2013. The four police officers assisted in extinguishing the fire and getting all occupants of the home to safety. The heroic acts of bravery demonstrated by these officers is deserving of recognition. The National Awards Program awards the "*Silver Star of Bravery*" for extraordinary heroism performed in the line of duty. This award distinguishes an officer whose act of courage goes above and beyond the call of duty. Therefore, the Elizabeth City Police Department would like to present a "*Silver Star of Bravery*" from the National Awards Program to recognize these officers for their outstanding efforts and acts of bravery on August 19, 2013.

Police officers are often the first responders to any critical incident or occurrence. Their initial response, before other emergency personnel can arrive, can sometimes make the difference between life and death. This was evident during the early morning hours of August 19, 2013 when Elizabeth City police officers were first to respond to a structure fire at 413 New York Avenue. Two officers on bike patrol (Officers T.R. Bateman and B.W. Miller) and two officers who were patrolling within close proximity (Officers D.S. Sutton and M.B. Bullock) were on the scene within minutes or less. Central Communications advised that the kitchen was on fire and the occupants needed to get out. All four officers entered the home and were able to safely evacuate all four occupants and get them to a safe distance away from the home until the Fire Department could arrive. Two of the four occupants were wheelchair bound. Officers used fire extinguishers from their police cars to extinguish the flames in the kitchen. Their quick response and acts of bravery in this critical situation should be recognized.

Presentations of these awards will be made during the City Council meeting on August 26, 2013.