

# MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Gurnee Police and Fire Departments to Honor Heroes with Life Saving Awards

**Gurnee** – In a demonstration of exceptional courage and quick thinking, the Gurnee Police and Fire Departments are set to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of three individuals and one police officer during the upcoming Gurnee Village Board Meeting on Monday.

On November 1st, 2023, at approximately 7:45 a.m., an urgent situation unfolded at the intersection of Route 132 and Lawson Blvd in Gurnee, IL. Responding to a minor two-vehicle traffic crash involving a Chrysler Minivan and a BMW X3, Gurnee officers were alerted to the presence of injuries en route to the scene. The incident escalated when the female BMW driver, assessing the damage outside her vehicle, became trapped between the two cars after being struck by a third vehicle, resulting in severe injuries.

Upon arrival, first responders were met with three extraordinary individuals on their way to work who, demonstrating remarkable composure and medical expertise, swiftly assessed the gravity of the situation. Collaborating seamlessly, they applied tourniquets to control the injured woman's bleeding, ensuring her stability until officers and paramedics arrived.

The Village of Gurnee Police and Fire Departments will recognize the following individuals for their life-saving efforts:

- Lisa Rivera
- Nicholas Lunsford
- William Eichholtz

Also being recognized at the Gurnee Village Board meeting is Officer Cassandra Canadzic, who will be presented with the Life Saving Award for her actions on November 9, 2023.

At 10:56 p.m., Officer Canadzic's patrol vehicle was rear-ended by a suspected DUI driver. Despite the severity of the collision, Officer Canadzic immediately called for help. After calling for backup and exiting her vehicle, she rushed to check on the occupants of the other vehicle, which had caught fire due to the collision.

Despite the flames intensifying, Officer Canadzic managed to rescue an unresponsive female from the burning vehicle, coordinating efforts with a bystander to unbuckle the seatbelt and carry the driver to

safety. With swift actions, she ensured the well-being of the passengers and cautioned others to stay clear of the escalating danger.

A video of Officer Canadzic's life saving efforts can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtGekujAxzk>

The Gurnee Police Department, the Gurnee Fire Department, and the entire Village of Gurnee extend an invitation to the public to join them at the Gurnee Village Board Meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM, to witness and celebrate these exceptional acts of bravery.