Fire Department Inaugural Employee Recognition Reception

For Immediate Release:  

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DES MOINES, IOWA – Friday, November 14, 2014 – Des Moines Fire Department held its Inaugural Employee Recognition event today to celebrate the accomplishments of two groups of individuals. Those that have completed leadership and developmental programs, and those who have obtained degrees, community awards and certifications. Mayor Frank Cownie and Fire Chief John TeKippe recognized approximately 75 members of the Department for numerous personal and professional accomplishments. Two individuals specifically recognized were Captain Percy Coleman and Lieutenant Robert Suarez. Cpt Coleman who joined the Department in 1996 as a Fire Fighter, has since performed admirably as a Medic, Lieutenant, and now as Fire Captain. In addition to responding to emergency calls, Cpt Coleman has served in the Training Division to qualify new recruits and re-certify fire fighters and officers on their skills. Today, Coleman was recognized for his graduation from the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program. The completion of this 4 year program is a reflection on his dedication and pursuit of greater leadership challenges. Cpt Coleman becomes just the 4th member of the Department to have completed the EFO Program.
Lieutenant Robert Suarez is our second distinctive individual recognized for his achievements. Lt Suarez was hired in 2002 as a Fire Fighter, then after being certified as a paramedic, he was promoted to Medic in 2002. Suarez was then sworn in as a Lieutenant in 2010, where he currently serves within the Special Operations Section. During his pursuit of this Masters of Arts in Homeland Security Studies, Suarez had his thesis approved within the area of Strategies and Preparedness with in Homeland Security. Suarez completed his residency requirements at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA, before graduating from the program in September.

All the members recognized today are a reflection of the commitment to providing the citizens of Des Moines, the best emergency services available.
Cpt Coleman

For more information contact the City of Des Moines Fire Department at (515) 612-0226.

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