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NEWS RELEASE

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TODAY AT 6 P.M.: HOUSING AUTHORITY HONORS OFFICERS FOR PERFORMANCE, HEROIC DEEDS

Couple to receive awards in incident that left one injured; suspect later found guilty

OAKLAND, CA—Three Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) officers, including a married couple involved in an incident that left one officer injured and a suspect wounded, will receive awards at the Authority's Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday evening.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) Board of Commissioners meeting will take place today, Monday, March 22, at 6 p.m. at 1619 Harrison St.

Officer Malcolm Williams, a 23-year veteran, will receive the Officer of the Year award for "sustained performance and outstanding service within the department's operating philosophy of community policing," OHA Police Chief Carel Duplessis said. Williams developed an alternate dispute resolution service for OHA residents, which has resulted in fewer disturbance-related calls for service and less conflict.

Officers Luther and Aida Dupree were both nominated for awards stemming from an incident in September. On Sept. 22, both officers responded to a call about a suspicious person in a car. Aida Dupree arrived first and questioned the suspect, Raymond Marshall. When Aida Dupree began to handcuff Marshall, a struggle took place. Marshall got into a car, which turned out to be stolen, and backed into Aida Dupree, running her over. Luther Dupree arrived in time to see his partner—and wife—being run over. As Luther Dupree went to Aida Dupree's aid, Marshall backed the car toward Luther Dupree. Luther Dupree fired his weapon, injuring Marshall and stopping the car's progress.

"Officer Luther Dupree's actions were consistent with the best practices of law enforcement," Chief Duplessis said. "If it were not for his quick actions, the suspect could have continued his assault, seriously injured him and/or his fellow officer, who was vulnerable and lying on the ground." Marshall was arrested and later convicted on two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, including one count resulting in great bodily injury, and possession of a stolen vehicle. Aida Dupree will receive a Blue Star medal for the serious injuries sustained during the episode. Luther Dupree will receive the Medal of Valor for his actions on that night. Aida Dupree's injuries were serious; she is continuing to recuperate and plans to return to full duty soon.

"These officers' actions represent the highest degree of professionalism, a commitment to Authority staff and residents, and service with great honor," Duplessis said. "I am honored to be among such great heroes in law enforcement."