



# PRESS RELEASE

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## WINTER PARK POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CITY OF WINTER PARK

401 Park Avenue South

Winter Park, Florida

32789-4386



**WINTER PARK, Fla. an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner (November 25, 2008)** – The Winter Park Police Department (WPPD) is proud to announce that Officer Dick Bosworth was recently awarded the Central Florida Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) 2008 Officer of the Year award. He received the award after demonstrating many characteristics that provide a positive role model for fellow Central Florida police officers. Officer Bosworth has executed the focus of the CIT program, effectively intervening in situations dealing with mentally ill individuals, and has continued to serve as a positive role model within the field. He is an active participant in the CIT program, and frequently volunteers to assist with SWAT Team and Hostage Team training programs.

Officer Bosworth has been serving Winter Park residents and visitors for almost 10 years and is currently assigned to the Special Operations Division as a traffic officer. Retired from the U.S. Army, he also serves as the agency breath test certifier and a traffic homicide investigator. According to WPPD Lt. Randy K. Durkee, “Officer Bosworth places the highest emphasis on developing these officers in understanding the challenges encountered when dealing with these consumers.”

CIT training represents a new approach for dealing with mentally ill individuals who come to the attention of law enforcement. Instead of confronting and arresting a person who shows signs of emotional distress, CIT team members are trained to deal with the situation and direct the person into treatment instead of jail. Success of the program depends on the willingness of officers to participate in an intensive training program which provides information on signs and symptoms of mental illnesses; medication and treatment; suicide assessment and prevention; mental health issues in children and among the elderly; alcohol and drug assessments and issues; and de-escalation techniques.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park Police Department, please visit the city's official Web site at [www.cityofwinterpark.org](http://www.cityofwinterpark.org).

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