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Burnsville to Honor Fallen Heroes on February 18
City Council Proclaims February 18 Public Safety Memorial Day, Honors Fallen Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth

(BURNSVILLE, MN – FEBRUARY 5, 2025) – On February 4, the Burnsville City Council proclaimed February 18 as Public Safety Memorial Day in Burnsville, recognizing the ultimate sacrifice paid in the line of duty by Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth on February 18, 2024. The three heroes were killed while protecting seven children during a domestic situation.

“Our community continues to heal from the loss of Paul, Matt and Adam.” said Police Chief Tanya Schwartz. “By recognizing their ultimate sacrifice and honoring their memories we hope to build upon the healing process. Burnsville will not forget these brave men, their courage, selflessness and dedication to our community.”

Three wreathes will be placed at City Hall for 24 hours beginning on February 18 and city buildings will be lit in blue and red on the evenings of February 17 and 18 so the community can come and show their respects to the fallen and support the police and fire departments.

“We thank our community for their unwavering support of our public safety teams,” said Fire Chief Jungmann. “Our community has shared in our grief and they have lifted our spirits throughout this difficult time. We are grateful for the support they have shown since that tragic day.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, community support and the support of partner public safety agencies was critical to Burnsville as it navigated forward.

“Our public safety partners from across the state stepped up with remarkable dedication. We are grateful for their skill and compassion in serving our residents.” said Chief Schwartz. “The public safety

community stands united in the knowledge that we never walk alone, a truth that was especially evident a year ago. We truly appreciate the unwavering support of our public safety partners for our teams and our community. Together, we are stronger and more resilient.”

In addition to Burnsville’s Public Safety Memorial Day on February 18, members of Burnsville’s police and fire department, their families and loved ones plan on attending national memorial services later this spring. The Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police Foundation (FOP) has organized a special fundraiser to help cover costs for Burnsville public safety team members and their families. More information can be found at www.mnfop.com.

“Honoring the fallen is a privilege both within our local community and our larger national community,” said Kevin Rofidal from the MN FOP Foundation. “Attending memorial services is critical for the healing process of everyone touched by this tragedy. Getting a sense of shared support and closure is an essential part of the process. We are happy to do our part to ensure those who want to attend national memorials can do so without worry.”

The City Council meeting normally held on February 18 has been rescheduled to February 25. All Burnsville city facilities will be open normal business hours on February 18. Overflow parking is available across the street in the ice center parking lot, if needed.

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