



HR0489

LRB095 12363 GRL 37215 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Chicago Police Department Lieutenant Joseph Gorman on receiving a 2007 TOP COPS Award; and

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WHEREAS, The TOP COPS Awards Ceremony was created about 14 years ago by the National Association of Police Organizations; the ceremony recognizes law enforcement officers for their selfless acts of bravery and courage; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Police Department's Narcotics and Gangs Investigation Section (NAGIS) launched an investigation due to the increase of homicides attributed to the New Breed and Vice Lords street gangs; gang violence and retaliation between the two gangs began to escalate in 2006 when both gangs attempted to increase territory to sell narcotics; under the supervision of Lieutenant Joseph Gorman of the Gang Intelligence Unit, twenty-five police officers, detectives, and sergeants were assigned to this investigation, spanning three 24-hour shifts; and

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WHEREAS, On September 18, 2006, electronic surveillance orders were signed for phones belonging to high ranking members of the New Breed street gang; the phone surveillance allowed

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1 officers to determine the M.O. of several homicides and
2 drive-by shootings linked to this violent gang conflict; on
3 October 27, a member of the New Breed street gang was murdered
4 while walking a ten year old girl to school; Gang Intelligence
5 prepared for the retaliation they anticipated was imminent; and

6 WHEREAS, Intercepted conversations on October 30, 2006
7 revealed that the New Breeds were planning a calculated hit;
8 NAGIS teams assigned to watch a stolen vehicle being used by
9 the gang observed three offenders get into the car, armed with
10 firearms; police surveillance revealed that two gang leaders
11 had ordered a hit through a cell phone conversation;
12 consequently, Lieutenant Gorman assembled his teams in covert
13 and unmarked vehicles and prepared to follow the stolen car;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Recognizing that the hit was to be executed in a
16 residential area near a school where children would soon be
17 dismissed, Lieutenant Gorman ordered his units to move in and
18 surround the stolen vehicle to avoid a potentially fatal and
19 disastrous pursuit; he and Sgt. James Sanchez exited their
20 vehicle and approached the suspect's vehicle, surrounding it
21 from both sides; as the rear passenger raised an AK47 type
22 rifle, Gorman immediately responded by firing at the offender;
23 he then observed the driver reaching into the waistband of his
24 pants, and ordered him to show his hands; when he failed to

1 comply, Gorman fired several times at the driver; he also
2 observed that the rear passenger had not released the AK47; Lt.
3 Gorman then fired his remaining rounds and stepped back to
4 reload; assisting officers moved forward, and after more shots
5 were exchanged, the gunfire ceased; and

6 WHEREAS, Thanks to the actions of Lieutenant Gorman and his
7 team, innocent citizens were protected from highly volatile and
8 violent criminals; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Chicago Police Department Lieutenant Joseph
12 Gorman on receiving a 2007 TOP COPS Award and wish him
13 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Lieutenant Joseph Gorman as a symbol of our esteem
17 and respect.