



## **Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information**

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### **Central Falls Police recipient of 2017 R.I. Department of Transportation Highway Safety Agency Champion Award:**

CENTRAL FALLS – On June 14, 2017 – at a ceremony held at AMICA Insurance – the Central Falls Police Department was recognized for its excellence in traffic safety which focused on three major highway safety priorities: occupant protection, impaired driving, and speed management. For the seventh consecutive year the Central Falls Police Department has participated in the Highway Safety Award Program whereby several officers were recipients of individual awards, yet never before has the agency been recognized as the best in the Ocean State.

As a result of our agencies high visibility enforcement efforts, crashes have decreased – especially serious injury and fatal collisions. “We applaud the leadership of Colonel James Mendonca and his ability to motivate his officers to reach the highest of highway safety standards” said Gabrielle Abbate, Chief, Office of Highway Safety”. She continued by saying “We also salute the officers of the Central Falls Police Department for having the passion and heart to keep everyone who resides in or visits Central Falls, safe and injury free”. So for our continued efforts in the area of highway safety, the Central Falls Police Department was unanimously nominated and graciously received the prestigious Highway Safety Champion Agency Award.

In addition to the agencies heralded achievement, two members of the department received individual awards: Sergeant Joseph Tougas, formally the Traffic Safety Manager, is a three-time highway safety award recipient – along with being a previous overall highway safety champion – this year received the award for the category of speed

enforcement. Sergeant Tougas currently serves as the agency accreditation manager and is a certified instructor in drug recognition, standardized field sobriety, advanced roadside impairment and administering Naloxone (NARCAN).

Receiving an award for the first time – in the category of impaired driving enforcement – was Officer Brian Graves. In 2016, he was responsible for 106 arrests – 21 of which for impaired driving – along with issuing over 200 citations for various motor vehicle violations. In addition to his expertise in advanced roadside impairment, Officer Graves is a drug recognition expert.

These awards not only provide police departments with an outstanding opportunity to recognize individual officers within their respective agencies for their outstanding performance and service to the communities they serve – through varied traffic safety undertakings – they make a significant impact in reducing injuries and saving lives.

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