



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications

MEDIA CONTACT: Jordan Head

470-809-7735 • 404-805-2543 (cell)

Jordan.Head@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

<https://twitter.com/COSFGA>

City of South Fulton Government

South Fulton Recognizes Police Officers for Going Beyond the Call of Duty

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – January 28, 2020) – As they investigated what appeared to be a routine shoplifting case at a local department store this past October, City of South Fulton police officers Cornell Madison, Gwendolyn Moseley and Frederick Brown quickly sensed something was different.

Their instincts were spot-on. It turns out the alleged perpetrators were a homeless mother and her four children. A lack of funds to cover the cost of medical check-ups and immunizations prevented the children from attending school.

What the trio of officers did next has drawn praise from officials as high up as the South Fulton City Council, which declared Tuesday South Fulton Police Department Beyond the Badge Day in their honor.

“At the City of South Fulton, we have a connection with the community we serve,” Madison said of how the incident was managed. “We are not here to just take people to jail. We are here to resolve problems.”

As they answered the shoplifting call at a local Wal-Mart, Cornell and his fellow officers learned the family attempted to steal more than \$250 worth of items. Through further investigation, they discovered the family had been homeless for some time and couldn’t afford medical care.

“We did not think it was worth them going to jail,” Cornell said. “We worked with Wal-Mart to allow the family to keep the items and drop the shoplifting charges.”

Officers then took the family to Big Daddy’s, a nearby restaurant, to feed them. Restaurant owner Marcus Sager paid for their meals and a weeklong stay at a local motel.

“We took the family to a doctor’s office to address their health issues,” Cornell said. “I contacted a friend, whose wife is a dentist, and secured dental care for the family.”

The family’s medical and dental expenses totaled more than \$20,000, according to Cornell. But, through the generosity of others, the family received the much-needed care for free. In addition, several South Fulton officers came together to raise money for the family.

“During a time when many people are losing trust in law enforcement communities across the country, I'm elated to amplify and honor the spirit of altruism in the City of South Fulton's Police Department,” said Councilman Mark Baker, who sponsored the proclamation honoring the officers. “The actions shown by these officers demonstrate the importance of understanding and sharing a common unity with the community you serve. They went beyond the badge and their good deeds became infectious, living up to the title of South Fulton's finest.”

Police Chief Keith Meadows echoed those feelings as he praised the officers for their compassion on the job.

“I am so proud that our officers exercised prudent judgement while carrying out their duties,” Meadows said. “We will never arrest our way out of the problems when confronting our city.

“Investing in people and relationships will carry us through difficult times,” he continued. “Deeds like this help to restore faith and legitimacy in the future of law enforcement.”

###