



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By Palmisano, Payne, Wonsley, Rainville, Vetaw, Warren, Osman
Shaffer, Stevenson, Chavez, Chughtai, Whiting, and Chowdhury

HONORING JAMES NOVAK FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

- Whereas: Inspector James Novak served the City of Minneapolis and its residents for over 34 years in the Minneapolis Police Department; and
- Whereas: Inspector James Novak honorably served our nation in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Sergeant; and
- Whereas: Inspector Novak has demonstrated a strong commitment to professional development, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Organizational Management and Communication; and
- Whereas: In his time serving the Minneapolis Police Department, Inspector Novak was awarded two Medals of Valor, six Medals of Commendation, three Department Award of Merits, and many other officer, unit, and special division awards; and
- Whereas: As a Police Officer, Novak served with distinction across multiple assignments, including patrol duties in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Precincts, was a Field Training Officer and an investigator in the Public Housing Unit; and
- Whereas: As a Sergeant, Novak continued his exemplary service through assignments in the 4th Precinct across all three shifts, as a Property Crimes Investigator, as Director of the Police Athletic League mentoring and developing youth, as a Free speech Liaison for the Republican National Convention, as a Crisis Negotiator on the Native American Law Enforcement Summit planning committee, and as a Mentor in the sergeant mentorship program; and
- Whereas: As a Lieutenant, Novak excelled in leadership roles in the 1st Precinct, overseeing night shifts, foot patrol operations, and the Juvenile Investigations Division; and
- Whereas: As a Commander, Novak demonstrated exceptional leadership while overseeing both the Violent Crimes Investigative Division and the Special Crimes Investigations Division, managed the hiring of several civilian investigators to supplement the work of our depleted sworn investigators, and was the head of MPD's U-Visa program; and
- Whereas: As an Inspector, Novak provided strong leadership over the 5th Precinct and was instrumental in restoring safety and stability to the Uptown neighborhood; and
- Whereas: Inspector Novak played a critical role in rebuilding the Minneapolis Police Department following the civil unrest of May 2020, contributed to community accountability and engagement through service as a panel member of the Police Conduct Review Panel, served as a mentor to many officers, always brought positivity and motivation, consistently upheld the department's mission, and prioritized officer wellness; and
- Whereas: Inspector Novak, affectionately known as "Snacks" to his fellow officers, always knew the good places to eat, is well-loved and respected by his colleagues, and has been a stalwart supporter of their health, commitment, and development; and
- Whereas: Inspector Novak values family, recognizes the sacrifices that the families of officers make, and always supported their participation in community and forward-facing events; and
- Whereas: Above all else, Inspector James Novak loves his wife Amy, his three children, and two grandchildren; and
- Whereas: He looks forward to spending more time with his family in retirement, being able to relax, and maybe even travel to catch a few college baseball games;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby commend Inspector James Novak for his exceptional service and steadfast dedication to the City of Minneapolis. We express our profound gratitude and admiration for his many accomplishments and significant impact on the Minneapolis Police Department. The City extends its heartfelt thanks and best wishes for continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Passed this the Twenty-Third Day of April 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk