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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2012

City of Newark's Jefferson Awards Committee Announces Its Nominees For the Jefferson Awards for Public Service

Newark, DE (February 7, 2012) – At Newark City Council's meeting on **Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**, Mayor Vance Funk, III, will present the Jefferson Awards nominees their awards. "Newark is fortunate to have so many residents who give back to their own community and give hope to others. This is truly an outstanding group of volunteers who serve our community. I am always proud the City is able to nominate many worthy volunteers," says Mayor Funk. The nominees include:

Kim Zitzner – Ms. Zitzner serves as representative and liaison between the University of Delaware and the religious communities. She often is an advocate for students who challenges them to maturely accept responsibility for their actions as a campus minister. She is always present to encourage students' own journey of faith and a willing and welcoming listener for children suffering from the challenges of life and study.

Bob Bloom – Mr. Bloom has taken a very active role in the Senior Surfers as an instructor and Board Member. His amazing depth of knowledge of all things technical is complemented by his sense of humor. His gift is presenting a wide array of topics with excitement, patience and enthusiasm. He helps seniors stay connected with their families and friends near and far. His knowledge has helped enrich the lives of over 400 members of the "Senior Surfers" computer club at the Newark Senior Center and is a treasured volunteer.

Natalie's Annual Food Drive – At ten years old Miss Ginsberg organized her fourth annual food drive in the Abbottsford neighborhood in October 2011. Along with friends Rachel Carlson, Jeffrey Carlson and Elizabeth Imhoff collected 716 pounds of food this year and collectively since 2008 have collected 3,300 pounds of food in their neighborhood. These young members of our community are excellent role models for other young people as they go door-to-door collecting food for those who are less fortunate than themselves.

K-9 Police Officer Paco – Though an unconventional choice, K-9 Officer Paco is nominated for his years of service as a patrol and narcotics K-9 for the Newark Police Department before an early retirement due to bilateral-hip dysplasia. During his career, he and his partner handled over 1,500 complaints, 400 burglar alarms, performed over 111 tracks for suspects/missing persons, searched over 700 vehicles/rooms for narcotics and performed 33 demonstrations for the public. K-9 Paco was responsible for the seizure of over 30 pounds of marijuana, 7 kilograms of cocaine, \$150,000 in drug tainted currency, two handguns and two vehicles used for narcotics transportation. Additionally, he apprehended 12 criminals at the conclusion of tracking or building searches. K-9 Paco is now retired and living with his handler and family.

Hassan Henderson-Lott – Mr. Henderson-Lott has logged over 2,000 hours of service since 2004 serving the community through a variety of organizations. He displays leadership, creativity and enthusiasm in all of his volunteer jobs at organizations including the Mt. Zion Music Ministry team, Junior Usher Board, Nursing Home Ministry, Newark Symphony Orchestra, American Cancer Society, and Newark High School's Brother and Sister's Student Union. With so many hours volunteered, Mr. Henderson-Lott has made quite an impact in the community.

Photograph and video opportunities will be available the night of the award nominations.

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