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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Newark's Jefferson Awards for Public Service Announced**

**Newark, DE** (March 11, 2014) – At Newark City Council's meeting on Monday, March 10, Mayor Polly Sierer presented the Jefferson Awards nominees their awards. "Having received the Newark Jefferson Award last year, it is my honor to continue to recognize the actions of these amazing individuals," says Mayor Sierer. "I am honored to present awards to so many special people who make our community a better place." The nominees include:

**CHRISTOPHER KITSON**

As an Eagle Scout, Christopher worked at Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research performing renovations on an outdoor cage creating a safe environment for hundreds of injured wild birds to be rehabilitated and providing work for over 30 volunteers. Christopher also installed a privacy fence around the outside dumpsters for Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, noticeably improving the appearance of the facility for visitors. Through his work, Christopher has encouraged other volunteers to offer their time and talents to Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research. Those volunteers continue to do so today.

**MARC MARCUS**

As the Assistant Executive Director of Friendship House, Inc. and Director of the Newark Empowerment Center, Marc serves with care and compassion far beyond the requirements of his professional roles. His selfless compassion and ability to provide the homeless community a "hand-up" that focuses on specific needs of individuals has helped hundreds of people become self-sustaining and productive members of society. Marc accepts people where they are, respects their dignity, and encourages them to get to a better place. His patience, mentoring, and sound counseling never fail, and his extraordinary balance of gentle caring and tough love are greatly appreciated by all.

**HARRY MCKENRY**

Harry has served the City of Newark as a volunteer for the police department for over two decades. At 90 years old, Harry comes twice a week to review and pull any police reports that may be of interest to the media, make photocopies, and refiling the originals reports. Harry is always seeking feedback on his performance and how he can help the department more efficiently. While Harry is retiring from his volunteer service with the City on his 91st birthday, his work is greatly appreciated and he will be missed.

**ROY SIMONSON**

Former City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources Director Roy Simonson has faithfully served the citizens of Newark since 2005. During that time, Roy made significant and worthy contributions to the Public Works and Water Resources Department through his encouragement of professional and sustainable management practices, upgrading of outdated or obsolete water and wastewater facilities, and effective addressing of citizen concerns with prompt, courteous, and professional responses. While he will be missed, Roy's leadership, knowledge and skill created a working environment that continues to be efficient in carrying out assigned duties on time and with minimal inconvenience to the public.

#### **DOUGLAS TUTTLE**

Retiring Newark City Councilman Doug Tuttle has not only made contributions to the City, but also made contributions to public service statewide. Doug has worked on projects designed to improve services to Delawareans ranging from broadband access to improved public safety to more effective public service performance. As the former University of Delaware Public Safety Director, Doug played a key role in developing the University of Delaware Police Department. Additionally, he worked with the City to establish UNICITY bus service. Doug has served as a pragmatic leader and a steady voice of logic and knowledge on Newark City Council. He is considered a valuable resource by his colleagues in the Institute for Public Administration as well as by government leaders throughout Delaware.

#### **VANCE A. FUNK, III**

Vance Funk served as mayor of the City of Newark for over nine years. During that time, he helped to reinvigorate downtown Newark through his support and hands on involvement. Vance began working on ways to promote Newark as a regional destination and to bring more people downtown. He created the Taste of Newark, which benefits the restaurant community and local organizations such as the Downtown Newark Partnership and the University of Delaware's Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management program. He has supported numerous other City events including Wine & Dine Downtown, Restaurant Week, and the 250th Anniversary of Newark. His actions continue to foster growth and excitement in downtown Newark and have aided in bringing life back to downtown that spills over into the rest of the community.

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