



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

525 Park Street, Suite 250 St. Paul, MN 55103-2145
Phone: 651-291-1119 Website: www.mppoa.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2024

RELEASE: Official donation platform announced to benefit the families of Burnsville's fallen heroes

(Burnsville, Minn.) – Minnesota public safety organizations are partnering to gather financial donations for the families of Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Burnsville Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth. The three first responders were killed in the line of duty on Sunday, February 18, 2024, by gunfire during a standoff after a domestic call for service in Burnsville, Minnesota.

This is the official and only public donation platform verified by the City of Burnsville on behalf of the families of the fallen heroes. All proceeds will go directly to the families.

Ways to donate:

- Online through the LELS Benevolent Fund www.LELS.ORG/benevolent-fund
- Mail a check to Law Enforcement Labor Services Benevolent Fund, Attention: Burnsville Heroes, 2700 Freeway Boulevard, Suite 700, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

A flyer with these options (available for media use) can be found [here \(JPG\)](#) and [here \(PDF\)](#).

The effort is being coordinated by Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA). This was the ninth time in barely 10 months that law enforcement officers have been killed or wounded by gunfire in Minnesota or an adjoining state.

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Executive Director Jim Mortenson said, **“We must stand united as a community in support of our law enforcement officers, firefighter/paramedics, and all first responders. They put their lives on the line daily to ensure our safety and well-being, often without receiving the recognition and gratitude they genuinely deserve. We will continue supporting and honoring our law enforcement colleagues every day.”** LELS represents the rank-and-file officers and supervisors of the Burnsville Police Department.

Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) Executive Director Brian Peters said, **“We mourn alongside the Burnsville Police Department and Burnsville Fire Department, the families of the fallen officers and firefighter/paramedic, and the entire state. In this small way, we hope we can provide some support and financial peace of mind to the families during this tragic time.”** Peters continued, **“To the brave men and women who serve communities as public safety officials: Your courage, dedication, and sacrifice do not go unnoticed, and we are eternally grateful for all you do to protect and serve our community.”**

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The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association is the largest organization representing police and peace officers in Minnesota.

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) is Minnesota's largest public safety labor union (7,000+ members) specializing in the representation of law enforcement, fire, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state.

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