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FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION AWARDS MORE THAN \$24,000 TO MARYLAND FIRST RESPONDERS

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate lifesaving equipment grants valued at \$24,923 awarded to the Annapolis Police Department and Riverdale Park Police Department during a **10:30 a.m.** dedication event on **Thursday, October 10** at Firehouse Subs, located at **2317 Forest Drive Annapolis, MD 21401**.

“Far too often we hear stories of first responders using old and outdated equipment that is not serviceable,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation’s Events and Outreach Coordinator, Nancy Palmer. “We want them to have the best tools and technology needed to save lives.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Oct. 10 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Annapolis Police Department** received two ballistic protective vests valued at \$4,006. The awarded vests will protect officers the line of duty during hostile emergency situations.
- **Riverdale Park Police Department** was awarded \$20,917 to fund the purchase of 20 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories. This equipment will help ensure the organization is prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest.

Event attendees include representatives from each receiving department, Firehouse Subs area representative Dan Lowe, Firehouse Subs franchisees Dennis Atlas, Darrin Atlas, Farooq Zahid, and Hamayoun Javed, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Events and Outreach Coordinator, Nancy Palmer.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled

to Mississippi where they fed first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, lifesaving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$46 million to hometown heroes in 49 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including over \$716,000 in Maryland.

To raise money for the Foundation, Firehouse Subs restaurants participate in a number of fundraising efforts. Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon pickle buckets and sells them to guests for \$3. In honor of October being First Responders Month, the Foundation's goal is to raise \$1,000,000 through \$1, \$5, and \$25 medallion donations available in each restaurant. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to "round up" their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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