

CITATION

On September 24, 2013 while responding to a call for service, Officer Rene Fernandez observed smoke coming from an apartment building at the Virginia Oaks Apartment complex. Upon seeing this, he immediately diverted from his assigned call, and checked out on what had now been identified as a “Fully Involved Fire”.

Officer Fernandez approached the building and learned there were still occupants in the upstairs apartment. Upon receiving this information, Officer Fernandez ran to the apartment and attempted to alert the residents inside.

After no response, Officer Fernandez then forced entry into the apartment where he observed two small children sitting on the couch crying. As Officer Fernandez made contact with the children, the mother, who had been in the shower, came running into the room. At that point, Officer Fernandez grabbed both children and led the family out of the burning apartment.

In light of the bravery and courage of Officer Fernandez, and his willingness to place the lives of others above his own, Temeka Smith and her two daughters Amia and Amora Willis survived the fire without injury.

The swift and decisive action of Officer Fernandez brings great credit upon himself, the McKinney Police Department, and The City of McKinney.