



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

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City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond honors The Ronnie Thames Foundation

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond honored The Ronnie Thames Foundation on Monday, June 6 for its work in educating families about fire safety and for its partnership with the Save-A-Life Blitz campaign in the City of Atlanta.

Since 2015 the foundation has partnered with Councilmember Bond's Save-A-Life Blitz community campaign, and members of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department in canvassing neighborhoods to test and install free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in homes throughout Atlanta. Volunteers also distribute hand held fire extinguishers and fire safety educational materials in an effort to save lives.

For 2016 (January to April), Bond along with the Ronnie Thames Foundation and city firefighters have held seven Blitzes in seven different neighborhoods in the city. A total of 350 homes were reached.

The volunteers installed and/or provided 1,140 fire alarms and small hand held extinguishers to homeowners. The 350 homes conservatively represent \$17.5 M in property value alone (using a conservative \$50,000 per property). That number doesn't include the priceless items such as personal belongings or memories, sense of security, peace of mind and lives.

"I first became familiar with The Ronnie Thames Foundation about a year ago through their tremendous work in our community. They provide revolutionary hand-held mini fire extinguishers that are unique, because they are reusable and come in the form of an aerosol bottle," Bond said.

“We are pleased to honor them for their work, not only in our community, but also across the country,” he said.

Foundation president Pam Bosek said the organization is pleased to be a part of the Save-A-Life Blitz campaign and other efforts to educate residents about fire safety.

“Thank you to the City of Atlanta for embracing our passion. Fire changes lives. Sometimes it claims lives. But it is our mission to change that.”

The Ronnie Thames Foundation was founded by Ron and Teresa Thames in honor of their son Ronnie, a former firefighter who died in 2004. Shortly before his death, Ronnie and his father developed the small extinguisher that is used in many households today. It’s the same extinguisher that is distributed free of charge during the Save-A-Life Blitz canvassing.

“When I started this small business I started in my garage. I had one employee and he was my son Ronnie. He was five years old. I started it with an idea of safety,” Thames said. “Now, with the foundation established in his honor, it’s not about having a small business. It’s grown to also be a tribute to him.”