



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MIKE CRNOBRNA NAMED GRAND MARSHAL FOR FIRE TRUCK PARADE**

*Public Safety and City Service Innovator to lead annual community event*

His public service to Burnsville began in 1973 when the city operated a combined Public Safety Department. Mike Crnobrna served as both a firefighter and police officer under that arrangement which led to decades of dedicated public service to the city. In recognition to that service and contributions to improving community life, Crnobrna has been named 2006 Grand Marshal for the Burnsville Fire Muster Fire Truck Parade.

“Burnsville is a safer, better prepared city today due to the work of Mike Crnobrna,” commented Burnsville Fire Chief Steve Harklerode. “Much of his career was dedicated to developing skills in others, and there is no doubt that his innovation made a big difference for this city and community. It is time to bring him front and center to give him the credit he never asked for, but so justly deserves.”

Crnobrna (pronounced SIR-no-burr-nah) was the driving force in bringing advanced technology such as firefighter protection devices and computers to the fire department in the early 1980's before they were considered commonplace. He introduced confined-space training, the use of positive pressure ventilation and was instrumental in creating a partnership with Apple Valley, Eagan and Lakeville in the development of the ABLE Fire Training Facility. He served the department as Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, Fire Training Officer and Fire Captain.

His service in the Fire Department began in 1981, when the city reorganized the Public Safety department into separate Police and Fire Departments. Crnobrna was named the city's first “Police Officer of the Year” in 1980 and served as a Police Field Training Officer and Patrol Evidence Officer. A significant accomplishment for Crnobrna during this time was the support he provided to the Community Action Council with the development of their domestic abuse program and the Lewis House.

In 1990, Crnobrna left the Fire Department and became the Personnel Manager and then the Organizational Development Coordinator for the entire City of Burnsville, a position he held until retirement in 2003. Innovation was once again a trademark of his service as Crnobrna implemented programs such as process improvement teams, labor management committees, and a work place learning skills training program for all employees. His efforts were focused on improving the culture of the city organization and ultimately the delivery of services to citizens and business customers.

“Naming Mike as the Grand Marshal is yet another way that those in the fire service can show our appreciation for his contributions,” commented Harklerode. “Further, he took great pride in documenting the history of the city on film and video from behind the scenes while he worked here, now it’s time to bring him front and center and recognize his important role in our heritage as a city and community.”

The Fire Truck Parade will be held during the Fire Muster Celebration which continues through Sunday, September 10. The parade is set for Saturday, September 9 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a route running from 134<sup>th</sup> Street and Civic Center Parkway and traveling east to Park wood Drive, north on Park wood to 130<sup>th</sup> Street, and west on 130<sup>th</sup> to Nicollet Avenue. A map of the parade route and additional information about the festival is available at [www.burnsvillefiremuster.com](http://www.burnsvillefiremuster.com) on the internet.

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Mike Crnobrna pictured in the mid 1980's.