



Letter of Award Lifesaving



To: Corporal Kevin Busch
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Lifesaving Award

Lt. Rob Boothe nominated you for the SPD Lifesaving Medal. The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed your nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. In his nomination, Lt. Boothe wrote:

"On 11/15/20, I was contacted by dispatch, who advised that the mother of a young female who had been involved in a collision had contacted dispatch and wanted the name of the officer who had responded to her daughter's collision to thank him.

Excited to be able to pass along some good news, I researched the call and found the incident. The call read as a simple collision, a vehicle versus a tree with confirmed injuries and that it was non-blocking. But the devil tends to be in the details. The collision occurred in Chattaroy and not within the city limits, the officer that was on scene is a graveyard officer and the collision occurred at 1200 hrs.

With peaked curiosity I contacted the mother of the driver, Whitney Womack. Mrs. Womack was able to fill in all of the gaps that the CAD does not provide. Womack said that her daughter had failed to take into account the ice and slush on the roads. Womack said that her daughter lost control of the vehicle and slid into a tree. She said that her neighbor had either seen her daughter driving crazy or heard the collision. Either way, he jumped into his patrol car and was on the scene, immediately. Womack described that the officer held her daughter together "both physically and emotionally". Womack said that her daughter suffered a broken spine in two places that they believed were compound fractures at the time and a 5 to 6 inches laceration on her face that cut to the bone.

The officer braced her daughter's neck and kept her from moving. The officer was able to apply a compress to her face to keep her from bleeding out as there "was blood, just everywhere". The officer was able to notify dispatch and both her and her husband of the collision. The officer continued the lifesaving efforts, as he was on scene at 1200 and Fire showed to be on scene at 1211. Womack said that the officer stayed with her daughter bracing her neck, keeping her calm and keeping the wound from bleeding out for well over a half hour until Fire could get her out of the car and onto a backboard.

Womack said that the doctors told her that her daughter was within inches of having her spinal cord severed and being paralyzed. Womack said that her first instinct would have been to get her out of the car, which could have caused paralysis, but the officer kept her from moving and kept her spine in position. Womack also said that the doctors told her that if the officer had not responded immediately her daughter most likely could have bled out and died on the road before someone found her.

Womack said that her daughter's back injury is expected to heal and that the plastic surgeons have worked on the laceration, which will leave a scar but she is alive and will walk again, thanks to the officer.

Corporal Busch is the very definition of being calm under pressure, being the one that others look to, being a leader and a mentor, being the quiet professional in the back of the room. Which is exactly why it was of no surprise that on his day off, when there was someone in distress, Corporal Kevin Busch didn't hesitate but leapt into action and answered the call because that is just who he is and what he does. It is my absolute belief that this incident and Corporal Kevin Busch's actions are consistent with the requirements of the department's lifesaving award."

Corp. Busch, I am proud to present you with the Lifesaving Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

A blue ink signature of Craig N. Meidl.

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police