

OFFICER MELL TAYLOR

On October 2, 2009, several calls were received of a possible suicide attempt on the Monroe Street Bridge. Sergeant Kevin King and Officer Yeshua Matthew arrived on scene within one minute of the calls being entered. They immediately located the subject sitting in the middle of the bridge on the west railing with both legs on the outside of the rail. Sgt. J.D. Anderson arrived moments later and blocked S/B traffic from the bridge.



As Sgt. Anderson walked up to the location of the subject, he observed Sergeant King talking to the subject. Officer Mell Taylor then arrived on scene. The subject was not responding verbally but did make eye contact with Sergeant King. While Sergeant King continued to maintain the citizen's attention focused to the northeast, Officer Taylor and Sgt. Anderson moved off to the south. They climbed over the wall and onto the walkway. Officer Taylor and Sgt. Anderson approached the citizen without his knowledge due to Sergeant King's continued communication with him.

Officer Taylor suddenly grabbed the subject in a bear hug and pulled him safely from the ledge. Due to Sergeant King's skilled communication with the subject, Officer Taylor was able to move up tactically and use his superior physical strength to pull the subject to safety before he even knew what was happening. Both officers deserve a lifesaving award for their combined efforts in saving this citizen's life.

Officer Taylor received the Lifesaving Bar, to be worn on his uniform. He will also be presented with the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2010.



The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances.