



OFFICER CHRIS DOUVILLE



OFFICER CHRIS JOHNSON

On 11/24/10, in the early morning hours, Cpl. Dave Beckley, Ofc. Steve Arredondo, Ofc. Chris Douville, Ofc. Chris Johnson and Ofc. Mario Juarez responded to the Maple Street Bridge on a report of a male walking on the roof of the chain-link tunnel on the west side of the bridge. Officers Arredondo, Douville, and Johnson contacted the male and made verbal contact. The male did not verbally respond and continued to crawl along the roof of the tunnel. When the male started to crawl head-first down the drop off side of the tunnel, Officers Johnson and Douville crawled up onto the chain-link tunnel to grab him. The male swung his legs to the west toward the drop to the ground about 100 feet below, hanging onto the fence by his hands. While on top of the enclosure, Officers Douville and Johnson each grabbed an arm and told the male to keep hold of the fence. The male let go of the fence and hung off the side of the enclosure with the officers holding onto him. Ofc. Douville was able to grab onto the backpack straps and hold the male in place with Ofc. Johnson holding on to one of the male's arms. They held the male in place as he was dangling over the side of the enclosure, over the ground below. Ofc. Arredondo held onto the feet of Officers Douville and Johnson in order to keep the weight of the male from pulling them over the enclosure with him.

Cpl. Beckley arrived on scene and Ofc. Arredondo advised him to retrieve some bolt cutters in order to cut a hole in the chain-link fencing so the male could be pulled through to safety. Cpl. Beckley and Sgt. Bart Stevens took turns cutting the hole in the fence. After a hole of sufficient size was fashioned, Ofc. Arredondo, Ofc. Juarez, and Cpl. Beckley pulled the male through the hole to safety.

According to Lexipol standards, "The Silver Star shall be awarded to department employees who have displayed courageous actions, which were above and beyond that which is normally expected of an employee." The actions of Officers Douville and Johnson rise to the level of courageous actions which are above and beyond normally expected of an employee. It should be noted that in the literal sub-zero temperatures, Officers Johnson and Douville were nearing exhaustion after holding on to the male for over eight minutes, and it appeared that they would not have been able to hold onto the male for much longer. Ofc. Arredondo displayed the quick thinking of using bolt cutters to cut through the fence, allowing Ofc. Juarez and Cpl. Beckley to pull the male through. The actions and quick thinking of all the aforementioned officers most likely saved the man's life.

It is clear that because of these officers efforts, this citizen's life was saved. Officer Douville and Officer Johnson were issued the Silver Star Bar to be worn on their uniforms and were presented with the Silver Star Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony February 16th, 2011.

