



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

08/18/2015 9:30 a.m.

Incident: Life Saving Awards

Date/Time: August 17, 2015 at 6:10pm

Details: At the Newport City Council meeting on Monday, August 17, 2015, Police Officers Steven S. Hallmark, Samuel D. Clark, and Richard G. Auburn were commended for superior performance of duty on June 5, 2015, while assigned to the Patrol Division of the Newport Police Department. These officers responded to the Yaquina Bay Bridge on a report of a subject threatening to jump. Upon his arrival, Officer Hallmark found the subject on the outside of the railing near mid-span. Officer Hallmark's relentless effort to negotiate with the subject allowed Officers Clark and Auburn to devise a plan of action to prevent the subject from jumping. The subject's efforts to take his own life by jumping off the Yaquina Bay Bridge became imminent, and his intentions clear. During the last few seconds of the subject's suicide attempt, Officers Hallmark, Clark, and Auburn were able to close on the subject and grab him. He was prevented from plunging 138 feet into the Yaquina Bay.

During the performance of their duty, the Officers committed an overt act that directly saved the life of another human being. The Newport Police Department Awards Committee found that the actions of Officers Hallmark, Clark, and Auburn met the definitions and requirements for the NPD Life Saving Medal. These Officers' diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Newport Police Department.

Mayor Sandy Roumagoux presented each officer with the NPD Life Saving Medal.

Chief Mark J. Miranda noted that someone attempting to commit suicide by jumping from the bridge is an unusual occurrence. Within the last seven months there have been two suicide attempts on the bridge. He can only recall two suicides by people jumping from the bridge over the last twelve years. Chief Miranda stated: "I'm proud of the actions of our officers. This is a situation that rarely happens, but they were ready to step up and deal with the issue at hand."

PHOTO ATTACHED

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Information Released By: Chief Mark J. Miranda , 541-574-3348