

OFFICER DANNY LESSER



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



On January 10, 2008, Senior Police Officer Daniel Lesser was off duty, and attending his daughter's soccer practice at the indoor soccer center, located at 5900 N. Market. Suncrest resident Dan Jones, whose daughter is on the same team as Ofc. Lesser's daughter, was also attending the practice. At approximately 1815 hours, Theresa Duddy came back into the training facility and told Ofc. Lesser and Dan Jones that she believed her father was having a heart attack. Ofc. Lesser, along with Dan Jones responded immediately to the parking lot where they found Mr. Duddy sitting in the driver's seat of his car, unresponsive. They moved Mr. Duddy out of the car, resting him on the ground. Ofc. Lesser checked his vital signs. Finding that he had no pulse and was not breathing, he decided to start CPR.

Ofc. Lesser quickly directed another onlooker to call 911 and then directed Dan Jones to start rescue breathing on Mr. Duddy. While completing chest compressions, Ofc. Lesser directed another person to dial Police Radio. Once this was completed, the phone was held to Ofc. Lesser's ear while he talked to the radio supervisor, explaining the situation and requesting medics expedite their response. Ofc. Lesser and Dan Jones continued CPR for more than five minutes until the first medic units arrived. Mr. Duddy, a retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, was released with no significant effects from the heart attack he had suffered.

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer also recommended Officer Lesser for this SPD Lifesaving Award. He advised that Firefighter/Paramedics from Engines 15 and 18 worked together with Ofc. Lesser to aggressively treat the patient on scene for nearly 40 minutes. The SFD is very grateful to Ofc. Lesser for his dedication and service while assisting this citizen and especially appreciate his competence in CPR.

It is clear that Officer Lesser's actions saved the life of this victim. Along with this document, Officer Lesser was issued the Lifesaving bar, to be worn on his uniform. He will also be awarded the Lifesaving medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2009.

