

# OFFICER KARL THOMPSON



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



On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Officer Karl Thompson, along with Officers Atkins, Oliver, and Curtis; responded to a call of a suspicious male sitting on the railing of the Monroe Street Bridge with his legs over the side. The young man had cut his face several times with a razor blade, was listening to a CD on ear-phones, and was not responsive to the officers.

While the other officers distracted him, Officer Thompson worked his way around behind the subject. He got close enough to quickly grab the male and remove him from the bridge and he was taken into custody without further incident.

While waiting for medics to arrive, the 22-year-old man told Sergeant Evans that he had cut his face because voices had told him to. He said the voices had also told him to jump when a certain song came on his CD player. He stated that his intent was to do as the voices said. He had just been released from the hospital and did not feel that anyone cared if he lived or died.

It is clear that Officer Thompson's quick thinking and willingness to put aside his own personal safety saved the life of a citizen. Officer Thompson's actions should be commended for the dedication he has to our profession. Officer Thompson was awarded the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2003.

