

OFFICER BOB COLLINS



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 August 4, 2008 at 1441 hours, Officer Bode and Officer Collins responded to the middle of the Monroe Street Bridge for a report of a suicidal male. Officer Rosenthal was the first officer to arrive on scene and located the male, who was on the other side of the ledge and was smoking a cigarette. Officer Rosenthal advised the other officers that the male had refused to come back to the other side of the ledge.

As Officer Rosenthal was talking with the male, he appeared very agitated and upset. Officer Rosenthal spoke to him for a couple of minutes until he aggressively turned away from the ledge toward the water/rocks below. Officer Rosenthal immediately ran to the ledge to grab hold of the male before he could jump. Officers Collins and Bode ran to the ledge to grab the male before he could pull Officer Rosenthal over the ledge with him. Officer Bishop also responded and by the time he got to the ledge, Officers Rosenthal, Bode and Collins were holding the male by his upper arms and he was again facing the ledge. It appeared that he was trying to pull away from officers and drop his body weight so he could fall away.

Officers Collins and Bishop grabbed the male by the rear waist of his shorts. Four or five officers assisted in pulling him over the ledge. Once on the ground, officers struggled to detain the male. They were eventually able to place him in handcuffs. Medics were requested to treat the male for injuries he received to his head when he was pulled over the ledge. Medics treated him and transported him to the hospital.

During the entire time of the incident, the male kept repeatedly yelling that he still wanted to jump. He stated that he has PTSD and yelled that he wanted officers to let him go so he could jump. The male later told medics that he would be back out there in a week for the same thing when he was released.

Officers Rosenthal, Bishop, Collins, and Bode, should be recognized for their heroic actions on this date. Due to their quick actions, they saved the life of a citizen in our community.

These four officers were issued the Lifesaving Bar, to be worn on their uniforms. They received their Lifesaving Medals at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2009.

