

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Council

FROM: Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Citizen Recognition Awards

DATE: November 26, 2013

BACKGROUND

One of the things I did after coming to Cannon Falls was the implementation of a recognition program within the Police Department to formalize the process of recognizing both department employees and those that provide assistance to the department. I am proud of the actions of the officers and citizens previously recognized and I am very pleased to again be coming before the City Council to recognize both an officer and a citizen.

I invited Eufemio Cedillo and Officer Joseph Berg to the City Council meeting to receive this recognition.

Eufemio Cedillo, July 20 2013 Citizen Recognition Award

On 07-30-2012 at approximately 3:16 pm Officer Mike Ayres was dispatched to a report of a child drowning near the 3rd Street Bridge. As Officer Ayres approached the area he observed two males waving for him near the sewer bridge. The males who stated their dad had jumped in the water to help a child who was in distress. At that time Officer Ayres was under the impression that the father who jumped in the water was the father of the child who was in distress. The males who took off running down the shoreline and Officer Ayres followed them down to the bank of the river. At this time, Officer Ayres observed an older male who was all wet. The younger males stated this was their father who had jumped in.

Officer Ayres tried speaking to the father, but there was a language barrier. One of the younger males translated and advised they were not related to the child who was drowning. They did not know who the child was that was drowning and their father had jumped into the water and assisted the child and put him in a raft of an unknown individuals. They stated the raft was floating down the river and they came over to help while the child was struggling in the water.

While exiting the woods and updating dispatch that no persons were still in the water.

When coming from the wooded area in the 300 block of Dakota Street, Officer Ayres observed a group of individuals walking out of the Riverside Terrace area and they stated that the child was put into their raft.

Officer Ayres checked on the child and had the Cannon Falls Ambulance come to his location. Officer Ayres thanked the individuals of the raft and let them on their way. The child did not appear to have any labored breathing, but appeared to be shaken up from the incident that had occurred. When the Cannon Falls Ambulance Staff arrived they started to check out the child. The child's father was contacted and advised of the incident with his son. The father advised the family would be enroute to the hospital and that he would like him transported there for further care.

Officer Ayres spoke briefly spoke with the child about what had occurred. The child stated that he was with approximately fifteen (15) other people in which four (4) of them were adults. The child stated he was on a personal tube which was not rented but rather someone else had provided to him and was not wearing a life preserver. He stated he began to get separated from the party he was with. When he was going through the rapids, he got hung up on some trees which had separated him from tube. He tried to grab onto the trees to hold him out of the water but the water current kept pushing him. He stated that this is when a man (Cedillo), began floating down the river after he had jumped in from where he was fishing and assisted in holding his head above the water. A raft approached them the river and the man put him into the raft. He stated that the persons on the raft had given him a life jacket until they could get to shore, where they located Officer Ayres on the street.

The Cannon Falls Ambulance transported the child to the Mayo Clinic Health Systems of Cannon Falls. When I arrived at the Hospital, staff was getting vitals and conducting patient care. Hospital staff advised everything was looking good and the child appeared in good spirits and in good health.

Because of the immediate and selfless actions by Eufemio Cedillo, who jumped into the river to save a drowning child, that child is here today. The Cannon Falls Police Department is honored to present Eufemio Cedillo with its Citizen Recognition Award

Joe Berg Letter of Recognition

On March 18, 2013, at approximately 11:28 am Officer Joseph Berg responded to assist the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office with a suicidal male. Officer Berg knew that weapons were present at the residence and took a position that provided not only cover but concealment. The male had advised family he had a loaded gun and wanted to use it. Officer Berg attempted to make contact with the male at both the home and cell phone numbers, but no one answered. Officer Berg then used the public address speaker of the squad to attempt to make contact with the male. Dispatch advised they had spoken with the male who did not believe it was Officer Berg because he could not see any officers.

Officer Berg moved his squad car from the position of cover and concealment and parked it in full view of the residence. Officer Berg leaving the squad car, Officer Berg moved to a position of cover. The male once knowing that Officer Berg was there was able to be convinced to leave the residence by a negotiator who was able to reach him by phone. The male exited the residence without any weapons. Officer Berg quickly approached him and took him into custody and transferred him to the ambulance for treatment.

Officer Berg demonstrated his ability to consider alternatives to the situation and recognize appropriate action to take. It is for those actions that the Cannon Falls Police Department recognized you and for which I am proud to present you with a Letter of Commendation. A copy of the letter will be placed into your Cannon Falls personal file.