

# City of Lakewood

**Kevin Paletta, Chief of Police  
Lakewood Police Department**

October 27, 2008

445 South Allison Parkway  
Lakewood, Colorado 80226-3106  
303/987-7100 Voice  
303/987-7111 TDD  
303/987-7296 Fax

Raquel Elliott  
1795 Kendall Street  
Apartment 118  
Lakewood, CO 80214

Dear Ms. Elliott:

This letter is to thank you for the vital role you played in saving the life of a 2-year-old child and to award you with the Lakewood Police Department's Citizen Commendation.

On September 1, 2008, at about 4 p.m. our Dispatch Center received a call of a baby that had fallen into a swimming pool at 1785 Kendall Street and was not breathing. When Lakewood Police agents arrived, the baby was breathing. An investigation into the incident determined that the mother of the baby was at the pool with her four children. They were about to leave and the mother was securing one of the children into a stroller. The mother turned around and saw her 2-year-old face down in the pool.

You and Mr. McAfee pulled the lifeless body of the 2-year-old from the pool and placed her on the deck, where you began chest compressions and the Heimlich maneuver. Mr. McAfee gave the child rescue breaths and repeated the process two or three times before you took over with the same procedure. After approximately 45- to 90-seconds, the child began to cough up water and wheeze. Upon the arrival of paramedics, the child was transported to the hospital where an emergency room doctor indicated that you and Mr. McAfee had likely saved the toddler's life.

Ms. Elliott, it is my belief that your quick response prevented the tragedy of a little girl drowning that day. Therefore, on behalf of the Police Department and the citizens of Lakewood, I am proud to award you with this Citizen Commendation. I want to thank you for your alertness and willingness to become involved which resulted in the saving of a life.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paletta  
Chief of Police



To protect and serve with integrity, intelligence, and initiative  
Alternative formats of this document are available upon request

