

City of Lakewood

Kevin Paletta, Chief of Police
Lakewood Police Department

October 27, 2008

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Lakewood, Colorado 80226-3106
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Mark Puumala
Aspen Tire and Auto
11048 West Jewell Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80232

Dear Mr. Puumala:

At about 3 p.m., on July 30, 2008, a grandmother left her 4-year-old granddaughter inside a running vehicle while she hurried into Aspen Tire and Auto on West Jewell Avenue to pay for services on the car. When she returned two or three minutes later, she found that her granddaughter had somehow accidentally rolled the power window up on her neck trapping her between the window and the frame of the car door. The child's neck was pinched causing her to be deprived of oxygen for several minutes.

Hearing the panicked cries for help, you ran outside, opened the driver's door and rolled down the rear window, which was holding the child by her neck. You immediately started CPR and continued for several minutes. At Eric Barclay's request, fellow employee Dave Slawson called 9-1-1 and was advised by dispatchers to place the child on a hard surface. The child was brought into the store and placed on the floor where Manager Frank Tamburelli joined in your attempt to resuscitate the child, who soon began breathing on her own. Paramedics responded and transported the little girl to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

I am very happy to say that the little girl is alive and well, suffering no long-term or serious injuries as a result of the events of that day. Your quick, calm, and efficient manner of reacting to this emergency undoubtedly saved the child's life and prevented a tragedy. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present you with the Lakewood Police Department - Citizen Commendation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paletta
Chief of Police



To protect and serve with integrity, intelligence, and initiative

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