

City of Lakewood

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

August 24, 2009

445 South Allison Parkway
Lakewood, Colorado 80226-3133
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Seth Pedersen
865 South Moore Street
Lakewood, CO 80226

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

On May 3, 2009 at about 3:30 in the afternoon, 14-year-old Seth Pedersen was the passenger in a vehicle being driven by his father, Keith Pedersen, on West Sixth Avenue near Indiana Street.

As they traveled eastbound at approximately 65-70 mph, a vehicle in front of them slowed down. Seth's father did not slow down and in fact collided with the vehicle. Seth looked at his father and could see that he was unconscious and because his foot was on the accelerator their speed was increasing.

Seth climbed into his father's seat and began applying the brakes. Their vehicle eventually collided with the concrete barrier in the median and came to a stop. Seth had the presence of mind to place the vehicle's transmission into park. He immediately turned his attention to his father, clearing his airway so that he could breathe. Seth called 9-1-1 from the vehicle to get medical assistance started to their location.

Seth's father was transported to the hospital where it was determined that he had suffered a massive heart attack while operating the vehicle. We are pleased to note that he has since recovered undoubtedly due to Seth's actions that day, which played a major role in saving his father's life. Additionally, Seth prevented the possibility of a very serious traffic accident potentially involving many other vehicles.

Seth, your actions would be highly commendable for an adult. For a 14-year-old young man to have the presence of mind to react and respond so admirably under such frightening conditions is simply remarkable. You are an inspiration to all of us and it is my distinct privilege to present you with the Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paletta
Chief of Police



To protect and serve with integrity, intelligence, and initiative

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