

## **2020 AWARDS CEREMONY**

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### **CHIEF'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

#### **Wellness Coordinator Lauren Briggs**

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Early in the history of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety, the Police Athletic League (PAL) initiated a simple gym to work with Lakewood youth interested in training for boxing and related sports. The facility was also used by police agents for training and conditioning. Through the years, the gym grew and was equipped with fitness apparatus obtained through seizures and donations from health clubs. It has been updated and maintained by members of the PAL Board from then until now.

Approximately two years ago, the determination was made by the board that the police employee gym, was in serious need of renovations. And it became readily apparent that changes needed to be made down to the infrastructure of the facility. The PAL Board sought the advice of Occupational and Wellness Coordinator Lauren Briggs to discuss ways to improve the equipment, care, and functionality of the facility.

Ms. Briggs accepted the challenge and coordinated with a team of experts to evaluate the work to be done starting with the design of a new floorplan for improved safety. Next, she drafted documents required to purchase new flooring and to remodel the facility. And finally, Lauren coordinated all the work with the city construction crews and private contractors. Without her cooperation and expertise, the renovation of the gym would have been impossible.

The work completed by Lauren Briggs demonstrates a clear testament to her commitment to the health and safety of the members of the Lakewood Police Department and embodies the very qualities this award represents. As stated by the PAL Board president, "It is because of Lauren's dedication and commitment that we have a top-notch PAL facility . . . and it is by far the best facility we have ever had." Therefore, it is my pleasure to present the Chief's Special Recognition Award to Ms. Lauren Briggs of the Lakewood Department of Human Resources.

### **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

**Sergeant Scott Tripp, Agent Victoria Harrel,**

**Agent Nicole Hartner, Agent Saul Palomo,**

**Agent Vanessa Schultz, and Agent Jon Willden**

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On Sunday morning, June 21, 2020, Sergeant Scott Tripp and Agents Vanessa Schultz, Nicole Hartner, Victoria Harrel, Saul Palomo, and Jon Willden were dispatched to the 100 block of South Sheridan Boulevard reference a woman pointing a gun at a passing bicyclist. The witness stated the woman had two guns, both tucked in the waistband of her jeans, and was last seen in a grassy area next to a neighborhood café.

Responding agents found the woman sitting on the grass, west of the restaurant. She appeared disoriented or likely under the influence of drugs or alcohol. She refused to comply with all orders from the agents stating that agents had no right to question her and were illegally impersonating police. Agents could see what appeared to be a black handgun behind the suspect. The woman grabbed a tan gun from her waistband and threw it toward Agent Schultz, claiming it was a BB gun. The suspect was becoming more agitated and constantly reaching in front of her and putting her hands in her pockets.

Sergeant Tripp used a ballistic shield to approach the suspect, who began to crab-walk away from him. Simultaneously, he signaled agents to move forward to catch the woman off guard, enabling them to take her into custody. The woman continued to struggle with agents and as she was being carried to the patrol car, she attempted to bite Agent Harrel. The woman was transported to the hospital to safely detoxify and for further observation.

This was a highly volatile situation involving a suspect who acted erratically and refused to follow directions. The suspect was in possession of handguns that could not be readily identified as non-lethal weapons. Responders acted with composure and continued to perform their duties to safely take the suspect into custody. I am pleased to present each of you with a Chief's Commendation recognizing your performance in accordance with the highest standards of a Lakewood Police sergeant and agents.

## **MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

### **Agent Saul Palomo**

## **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

### **Agent Cody Henaire**

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On November 11, 2019, agents responded to the 1500 block of South Harlan Street to locate a known felon with two pending, nationally issued felony warrants for his arrest. The woman calling explained that she had been the fugitive's former girlfriend and verified that he was at her home along with his parents, the woman's current fiancé, and her two young daughters.

Close to 11 a.m., Agent Henaire and two other agents approached the front of the residence while Agent Palomo watched for possible escape routes at the back of the house. Agents spoke to the suspect's mother at the front door, who indicated her son was

in the basement, and that her husband was also downstairs. As agents ordered the suspect to come to the main level, a man appeared at the foot of the stairs and pointed toward a back room.

Aware that agents were approaching, the suspect climbed through a small basement window into the backyard. Agent Palomo alerted the team that the suspect had left the house and challenged him to show his hands. As the suspect turned, he pointed a black handgun at the agent and stated, "You're going to have to shoot me." The suspect ignored Agent Palomo's repeated commands to drop the weapon forcing the agent to shoot. The suspect dropped the weapon, and once the gun was secured, Agents Palomo and Henaire quickly assessed the man's condition and began lifesaving measures until paramedics could transport him.

Agent Palomo, you were confronted with a highly volatile situation, making difficult and split-second decisions, while showing bravery and self-sacrifice for the protection of others. Therefore, I am pleased to award you with the department's Medal of Distinguished Service to recognize your efforts in accordance with the standards of a Lakewood agent.

Agent Henaire, you were confronted with a highly volatile situation, yet you maintained your composure and performed your duties in accordance with the highest standards of this department. Therefore, I am pleased to award you with the Chief's Commendation recognizing your outstanding efforts to protect and serve the citizens of Lakewood.

## **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

**Agent Jesus Chavez, Agent Ty Countryman, Agent Dan Millard, and**

**Agent Jonathan Miller**

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On the afternoon of November 18, 2019, Agent Ty Countryman was traveling southbound on Allison Parkway returning to the police department. At the first roundabout, he observed a man walk into the roadway holding a knife. The man appeared to be upset, and as Agent Countryman spoke to him, the subject unfolded the knife and asked to be killed. Holding the knife to his side, he was standing about 20 feet from Agent Countryman.

While keeping the man engaged in conversation, Agent Countryman calmly requested additional units and a "Code 1" status. Responding agents positioned themselves to strategically contain the suspect and to protect numerous citizens congregating at the nearby bus stop. All the while, Agent Countryman continued to engage the man with his calming dialogue.

Agents Jonathan Miller, Dan Millard, and Jesus Chavez moved in closer to the suspect, as he continued to demand that he be shot and killed. Despite all efforts, he could not be dissuaded, and his confrontational manner began to escalate. Agent Jon Miller challenged the suspect with a less lethal, "super-sock" round that struck the man's hand, causing him

to drop the knife. As agents moved in, a second knife was spotted at the suspect's waist, but agents were able to disarm him and safely take him into custody. Each agent used excellent restraint and professionalism throughout the confrontation.

Agents Countryman, Chavez, Millard, and Miller, your actions enabled a very distraught individual to find medical attention and counseling rather than lethal force. Each of you were confronted with a highly volatile situation, yet you remained calm and relied upon de-escalation training to perform in the highest standards of a Lakewood agent. It is, therefore, my privilege to award each of you with the Lakewood Police Department Chief's Commendation. Thank you.

## **LIFESAVING AWARD**

### **Community Service Officer Eric Wyngarden**

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On September 30, 2019, around 5:30 p.m., Community Service Officer Eric Wyngarden was stopped on the West Sixth Avenue exit ramp waiting for the traffic signal onto Simms Street. He was alerted to the car behind him having been driven on the highway with four flat tires shredded to the metal rims and the engine smoking. Officer Wyngarden activated his emergency lights and approached the vehicle.

The vehicle's engine was revving as if the accelerator was floored while simultaneously stepping on the brake. The vehicle was not moving, but he feared it could lurch forward at any minute. Through the closed driver's window, Officer Wyngarden yelled instructions to a woman, who appeared to be in her nineties and disoriented. Eventually, she opened the window which allowed Officer Wyngarden to open the door and lean into the vehicle. The accelerator was fully depressed, and the smoke from the engine was becoming more and more intense. The vehicle lurched forward dragging him several steps until he finally managed to shift it into park and turn off the engine. It stopped just short of a rear-end collision with the police cruiser.

Smoke from the engine was filling the passenger compartment and flames could be seen lapping onto the windshield. The elderly woman seemed incapable of moving quickly or understanding the urgency of the situation. Officer Wyngarden was forced to unbuckle her seatbelt and lift her out and away from the burning vehicle, pulling her to safety. Another "Good Samaritan" sheltered the woman in her vehicle, while Officer Wyngarden ran back to move the police vehicle to avoid further spread of the fire. As more agents responded, they worked together to extinguish the flames. The driver and Officer Wyngarden were transported to a nearby hospital for smoke inhalation and related injuries.

The driver's vehicle was destroyed showing the intensity of the fire with melted plastic and soot throughout the interior. Had the victim not been evacuated, there would have been serious bodily injury or worse. Witnesses described Officer Wyngarden as a "true hero" in his response to this emergency.

Eric Wyngarden, you quickly made life-and-death decisions while trying to contain what could have been a catastrophic event. Your focus remained on the safety and wellbeing of a disoriented, elderly woman unable to move quickly from her burning car. Your efforts not only saved her life, but the lives of countless bystanders. Therefore, it is my privilege to recognize your exemplary actions with a Lifesaving award, along with my appreciation for your dedicated efforts.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Haris Mahic**

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Shortly after 2 p.m. on August 10, 2020, Agent Haris Mahic responded to a possible drug overdose at a residence on Garland Street. He was the first to arrive at the home, greeted by a family member, and escorted to the victim's bedroom. There, he found a woman lying on the floor with no apparent signs of life.

Agent Mahic immediately started resuscitation efforts and within the first set of chest compressions, the victim started breathing and had a pulse. When she opened her eyes, Agent Mahic quickly moved her into the recovery position awaiting the arrival of paramedics. Once medication had been administered to counteract the overdose, paramedics determined the victim was medically stable and transported her to the nearest hospital.

The victim had likely overdosed by mixing prescriptions drugs and alcohol. According to paramedics and the woman's mother, had it not been for the diligent performance of lifesaving measures, she would have surely died at the scene. As a result of the experience, the victim has enrolled in an in-house treatment program to address her addiction issues.

Agent Mahic, in consideration of your appropriate and quick response to this medical emergency, a 32-year-old woman survived a near-death incident and has a hopeful future. In consideration of your efforts, it is my pleasure to present you with the Lakewood Police Department – Lifesaving Award.

## **MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**Sergeant Jason Maines, Agent John Cory, Agent Matt Shay,**

**and Agent Matt Vandiver**

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In January of 2020, a suspect walked away from the Intervention Community Corrections Services (ICCS) facility in Boulder. The Department of Corrections issued a national warrant for the subject for a parole violation and robbery. The subject was known to have

an extensive criminal history dating back to 1986. A vehicle was stolen in Thornton and later associated with a bank robbery in Longmont. The armed gunman that fled the scene was believed to be the suspect in question. Investigators from the federal Safe Streets Task Force and local jurisdictions combined efforts to track the individual to the American Motel located in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

On January 12, 2020, members of the West Metro Special Weapons and Tactics team initiated a callout to serve a high-risk warrant. Reports were received that the suspect had boasted of "going out in a blaze of glory." Lakewood Sergeant Jason Maines and Agents Matt Vandiver, Matt Shay, John Cory, along with Wheat Ridge Sergeant Simpson and Officer Mitch Cotton responded to the call. Initially, all occupants within the proximity of the suspect's room were evacuated to safety. The order to breach the door was given at 3 a.m., and a diversionary device was deployed into the room. The team entered the room to find the suspect in the corner holding a gun at his side. Operators gave multiple orders to drop the weapon, but instead the man began to raise the handgun toward the members of the team yelling, "Just kill me." Two officers with a clear view of the suspect were forced to fire their weapons to end the threat.

The Distinguished Service medal is presented to an agent who demonstrates bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice for others, despite significant risk to his own life. Despite a high degree of danger, each of you entered a motel room inhabited by a wanted felon, known to be armed and dangerous. You each exhibited great discipline and professionalism to ensure the safety of citizens and fellow officers. In recognition of your actions, it is my privilege to present you with the Medal of Distinguished Service.

## **MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

### **Agent Josh Guerra and Agent Tracey Lee**

## **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

### **Agent Clay Guidry, Agent Logan Cassidy, and Agent Shawn Reith**

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On the afternoon of April 29, 2019, Agents Tracey Lee, Josh Guerra, Clayton Guidry, Logan Cassidy, and Sean Reith were dispatched to the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Harlan Street on a report of a man jumping in front of cars brandishing a "huge knife." Witnesses reported that a school bus had dropped off children in the area and that the man was holding a knife to his throat.

Responding agents first contacted the suspect at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Depew Street. Rather than comply with orders to drop the weapon, the suspect ran toward Sheridan Boulevard. Agents feared he would be a serious threat to bystanders or drivers along the busy thoroughfare and flanked him in a foot pursuit. Three separate taser deployments had no effect on the suspect. The suspect stopped at Sheridan Boulevard. With a sweatshirt wrapped around his left arm as a shield, he turned and threatened agents with the large butcher knife gripped in his right hand.

Despite repeated commands to drop the knife, the suspect remained erratic, angry and aggressive, taunting agents to come closer. Standing approximately 10-feet from Agent Tracey Lee and Agent Josh Guerra, the suspect raised the knife, took a deep breath and lunged toward Agent Lee. Both Agent Lee and Agent Guerra fired shots stopping the man less than 5 feet away from Agent Lee. The suspect was transported to the nearest hospital and survived his wounds.

Josh Guerra and Tracey Lee, you demonstrated bravery and courage while facing a dangerous man armed with a knife. Despite significant risk of serious bodily injury or possible loss of life, your focus remained on preserving the safety of your fellow agents and Lakewood citizens. You each acted in accordance with the highest standards of a Lakewood police agent, and it is my pleasure to award you with the Lakewood Police Department Medal for Distinguished Service.

Agents Clay Guidry, Logan Cassidy, and Shawn Reith responded to a call that threatened the lives and safety of Lakewood citizens. They each maintained their composure when confronted with a highly volatile situation demonstrating commitment and professionalism in accordance with the standards of the Lakewood Police Department. It is with great pleasure that I award each of you with a Chief's Commendation.

## **LIFESAVING**

**Agent Josh Guerra, Agent Janna Schimmels  
and Agent Nick Makowski**

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On the evening of October 14, 2019, agents responded to a disabled vehicle in the area of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Harlan Street. The driver had collided with a mailbox, crashed into a gulch, returned to the roadway, and flattened all four tires. Responding agents confirmed that he was under the influence of alcohol and he was taken into custody. The suspect was placed in the back of Agent Josh Guerra's patrol car for transport to the hospital, with Agent Janna Schimmels and Agent Josh Makowski following behind. While enroute, Agent Guerra heard a thud from the backseat and when checking his rearview mirror, could see a small amount of blood on the arrestee's forehead. He immediately pulled off the road.

Upon checking, Agent Guerra found the arrestee unconscious but breathing, and he immediately utilized a technique known as the "sternum rub." Agents Schimmels and Makowski requested an emergency medical team be dispatched to their location. The arrestee appeared to regain consciousness and began talking. Within minutes, Agent Schimmels noted that the suspect started "breathing strangely," lost consciousness, and was unresponsive to further attempts to revive him.

The agents pulled the man from the patrol car and observed the man's eyes were open, but he remained unresponsive with a blue pallor. The agents immediately started cardio-resuscitation efforts. After several minutes, the arrestee began to breath and move as paramedics arrived. He was stabilized and immediately transported to a nearby hospital.

Paramedics of West Metro Fire Rescue agreed that had the agents failed to recognize the sudden loss of responsiveness and labored breathing as symptoms of cardiac arrest, the victim's condition would have likely been fatal. Agent Josh Guerra and Agent Janna Schimmels, despite underlying intoxication symptoms, each of you remained calm, observant, and effective in order to make an accurate diagnosis during this critical medical emergency. Therefore, it is my privilege to present them with the Lakewood Police Department – Lifesaving Award.

**CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

**Agent Janna Schimmels, Detective Shawna Gilbert,  
and Crime Analyst Karie Nordland**

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Beginning in late-August 2020, a pattern of kidnapping and sexual assault cases began to emerge where victims were being taken from the Colfax Corridor, attacked, and left in the area of the Chief Hosa exit along I-70. Reports had been filed in Jefferson County and Lakewood. Victims offered limited and inconsistent information, while investigators from



police departments, sheriff's offices, and federal task forces shared information in search of a suspect.

Working the Colfax beat, Agent Janna Schimmels used a vague vehicle description and partial license plate numbers to begin a review of ARGUS and traffic camera footage looking for any similarities. She took her findings to assigned Detective Shawna Gilbert and together they compared video footage trying to identify a suspect vehicle. Over the course of five days, these investigators searched multiple video sources, game camera footage, License Plate Reader (LPR) information, attended briefings, conducted victims' interviews, coordinated photo line-ups, and wrote warrants. Crime Analyst Karie Nordland joined the effort using her skills to focus the search through law enforcement databases and social media posts. Developing a spreadsheet of vehicles on the specified dates and times, Ms. Nordland was able to narrow the search to two possible vehicles. Then using the distinctive stickers observed on the dark-colored Dodge Ram truck and distinguishing body art of the registered owner, positive identification was made. The suspect was arrested without incident and held on a one-million-dollar bond.

As a result of the demonstrated initiative, collaboration, and embodiment of the department's core values to uphold a safe community, an active and dangerous sexual predator was arrested and prevented from causing further harm to unsuspecting women. Detective Gilbert, Agent Schimmels, and Crime Analyst Karie Nordland, I am pleased to present each of you with a Chief's Commendation recognizing your performance in accordance with the highest standards of Lakewood employees.

## **MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**Agent Montey Brunk, Agent Clay Guidry, and Agent Tracey Lee**

## **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

**Agent Dara Pacot and Agent Nick Makowski**

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On October 27, 2019, agents were dispatched to an apartment in the 10700 block of West 7th Avenue. A woman had reported that she was afraid of her son who was in her home, intoxicated, and destroying her property. Agents Dara Pacot and Clayton Guidry were first to arrive at the home and contacted the victim. From the threshold of the door, they could see a man in the background armed with a handgun. Both agents backed away from the door and assumed positions of tactical advantage while summoning more agents.

Agents Tracey Lee, Montey Brunk, and Nick Makowski responded to assist. As the scene unfolded, the suspect moved his position from inside the residence to the doorway and back inside. Ultimately, he exited the apartment still armed with the handgun and aggressively walked toward the agents' positions. He ignored all commands from police

as he challenged and threatened them, and then pointed his handgun in the direction of Agents Guidry and Lee. In response to the imminent and deadly threat presented by the suspect, Agents Lee, Brunk, and Guidry fired upon him to stop his attack. Agent Pacot and Makowski provided timely first-aid measures for the suspect until paramedics arrived to assume lifesaving efforts.

The Lakewood Police Department policy and procedures state that a Medal of Distinguished Service is presented to an employee who demonstrates bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice for the protection of others. Agents Brunk, Guidry, and Lee were faced with a belligerent individual, diminished by the effects of drugs or alcohol, who was brandishing a handgun that resembled a semi-automatic weapon. Each of you maintained your mission and composure despite the suspect's threats to the safety and well-being of fellow agents and citizens living in a multi-unit residence. Therefore, it is my privilege to present you with the department's Medal of Distinguished Service.

A Chief's Commendation is awarded to an employee who maintains their composure when confronted with a highly volatile situation and continues to perform well in accordance with the department standards. Agents Pacot and Makowski also faced a belligerent individual and without hesitation they provided first-aid to a gunshot victim until paramedics arrived. Therefore, it is my privilege to present each of them with the department's Chief's Commendation.

## **CHIEF'S COMMENDATION**

### **Agent Chas Orris and Agent David Place**

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On the afternoon of June 23, 2020, Agent David Place and Agent Chas Orris were dispatched to an apartment complex on Garrison Street reference a missing three-year-old child. While enroute, the call was amended to a drowning. Upon arrival, Agents Place and Orris witnessed the father retrieving his son from the pool, carrying him to the cement pool deck. The agents immediately began to assess the extent of the child's injuries and checked for vital signs. The child aspirated during preliminary lifesaving measures and as agents rolled him to his side to clear the airway, paramedics arrived. Realizing the child's best chance for survival depended upon immediate trauma care, Agent Place scooped the toddler into his arms and sprinted from the pool, across the lawn and parking lot to the ambulance. He jumped into the rear of the vehicle and passed him to the paramedics with on-board oxygen and medical equipment. As he cleared the ambulance, the child was being treated and rushed to the nearest hospital.

Despite a heart-rending rescue attempt, neither agent hesitated to do their jobs, to serve and protect, to further the investigation. Agent Place worked near the pool to secure the scene, collect evidence, gather witness statements, brief responding detectives, while reassuring lingering bystanders. When the father left for the hospital, Agent Orris followed to offer support for a grieving family and to gain additional information vital to the investigation. The child remained on life support until later that evening when doctors

determined there was no brain activity and he would not recover. Trying to find some meaning to their heartbreaking loss, the family agreed to donate the child's healthy organs to waiting transplant patients.

Agent Place and Agent Orris, although the outcome of this call was tragic, you played a major role in preserving life. You responded to a difficult and emotional call, yet you maintained your composure and continued to perform your duty demonstrating compassion and professionalism that is in accordance with the highest standards of a Lakewood agent. It is my privilege to award each of you with a Chief's Commendation.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Brenna Conway, Agent Andres Evans, and Agent Ashley Ferris**

During the evening rush-hour on January 18, 2020, Agents Andres Evans, Ashley Ferris, and Brenna Conway responded to a medical emergency near West Alameda Avenue and Pierce Street. Agent Evans was first on scene to find an unresponsive woman lying on the ground next to a parked vehicle. She was not breathing, her pallor was bluish, and she was unconscious. Her husband was on his cell phone trying to follow the dispatcher's instructions on how to revive his wife, with their two small children looking on from the car.

Agent Evans asked the man to step aside so he could render aid and immediately began chest compressions. Within the first cycle of compressions, Agents Ferris and Conway arrived and moved in to assist. Agent Ferris provided rescue breaths as Agent Conway tracked the time and assisted with compressions. As the minutes ticked by, the trio continued CPR only interrupting efforts to confirm the victim had begun agonal breathing.

Once paramedics arrived, they took charge of the resuscitation efforts. Using additional equipment and medications, they were able to restore the victim's breathing and immediately transported her to the hospital. Agent Evans later learned that the woman required extensive medical treatment to survive the ordeal but had recovered to return home to her family.

Agent Evans, Agent Conway, and Agent Ferris, had you not responded quickly, with an accurate diagnosis and lifesaving measures, the woman would have likely died at the scene. Each of you did your respective part to take control of a life-and-death situation with an exemplary response. Therefore, it is my privilege to present you with the Lakewood Police Department Lifesaving Award. Thank you for performing your duties befitting a Lakewood agent.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Chase Williams**

On the evening of July 10, 2020, a distraught man reported that his girlfriend had overdosed, was unconscious, and not breathing. Agent Chase Williams was first to respond to the medical emergency and found the front door of the apartment open. He could hear a man screaming inside the bedroom as he attempted to follow instructions from the 911 dispatcher. Agent Williams entered the residence moving toward the bedroom as he announced he was there to help. The woman was lying on the floor unconscious and pale in appearance. Agent Williams instructed the man to return to the front door to direct responding paramedics, and immediately began chest compressions.

Agent Williams stopped only to assess the woman's condition prior to starting the second round of compressions. She had begun agonal breathing with a faint pulse but remained unable to breathe on her own. Agent Williams continued lifesaving measures. Paramedics arrived and with the additional equipment and revival techniques, the victim was stabilized and transported to the nearest hospital.

Agent Williams, there is no doubt that a woman would have likely died from a drug overdose had you not responded quickly, with an accurate diagnosis and response. Your calming manner of instruction for the victim's boyfriend was essential in your lifesaving efforts. You took control of the situation restoring calm to chaos. Therefore, it is my privilege to present you with the Lakewood Police Department Lifesaving Award. Thank you for performing your duties befitting a Lakewood agent.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Wendy Liggitt, Agent Brandon Saunders, Agent Ryan Siert and Agent Brian Stone**

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Agents Brandon Saunders, Wendy Liggitt, Brian Stone, and Ryan Siert responded to a call concerning a suicidal young woman, on the afternoon of February 5, 2020. Agents were told the woman was inside a home located in the 14200 block of West Virginia Drive. She had been unsuccessful in a previous attempted suicide and was now threatening to try again when she disconnected with the dispatcher. Agents attempted contact at the front door but received no answer. They found the door to be unlocked and made entry into the home loudly announcing their presence. There was no response.

Agents searched the house as a team and found the victim in the master bedroom closet, their view obscured by the closet door. The young woman was trying to hang herself from the closet pole by a belt wrapped around her neck. As agents forced the door open, the belt broke and the victim fell to the floor. Agents pulled the woman from the closet quickly assessing the visible injuries to her throat and neck. As paramedics left the bedroom with the victim to rush her to the hospital, they confirmed she had adequate vital signs.

Agents Liggitt, Saunders, Stone and Siert, each of you were faced with an emergent situation where you played an integral role in saving the life of a suicidal young woman. You performed in the highest standards of a Lakewood agent, and it is with great pleasure that I present each of you with the department's Lifesaving Award.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Connor Gooch**

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On June 11, 2020, shortly after 2 p.m., police call-takers received a report of a medical emergency at a residence in the 600 block of South Simms Street. A drug overdose was suspected but the victim had an extensive medical history of coronary disease. Agent Connor Gooch was the first to arrive on scene finding a woman in her sixties lying on the sidewalk with a family member attempting to provide first-aid. Agent Gooch decisively checked the woman's pulse and finding none, immediately began chest compressions.

With each sequence of compressions, Agent Gooch checked the victim's pulse and breathing finding minimal signs of life. Undaunted, he continued for approximately five more minutes without assistance. Fighting fatigue, he continued CPR efforts and eventually detected a faint pulse from the victim just as paramedics arrived to assume lifesaving measures. Once stabilized, the victim was immediately transported to the hospital. Upon further inquiries, the woman has since returned home and by all accounts has survived a serious medical emergency.

Agent Gooch, you responded in a quick and decisive manner to a life-and-death situation.

Undoubtedly, you alone are responsible for saving the life of an elderly woman in serious condition. For exemplary performance of your duties as a Lakewood police agent, I am pleased to present you with the department's Lifesaving Award.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent William Boik, and Agent Jason Saville**

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On June 17, 2019 at about 1 a.m., Agent William Boik and Agent Jason Saville responded to the 1500 block of Depew Street on a report of shots fired. Upon arrival, Agent Saville quickly located a critically wounded male victim and began to tend to his injuries. Agent Boik directed his attention to a female victim lying face-down in the grass a short distance away.

Agent Boik observed considerable blood loss on the victim's right side and found that she was unresponsive but breathing. After rolling her over, he found a gunshot wound to her right thigh bleeding heavily. Direct pressure did little to stop the flow and Agent Boik made the determination to apply the first tourniquet. Agent Saville joined him with more medical supplies, and the two found another serious gunshot wound located mid-thigh in the left leg. The agents immediately applied the second tourniquet as paramedics arrived and assumed care of the victim. She was immediately transported to a nearby hospital.

Although the male victim succumbed to his injuries at the scene, the agents were able to save the life of the female victim. Despite the early morning darkness, their astute observations, triage, teamwork, and application of lifesaving measures, the victim was given a second chance for a future.

Agent Boik and Agent Saville, each of you responded without hesitation, focused and committed to the care and safety of a critically injured victim of violence. You provided medical assistance which undoubtedly resulted in the woman's survival. Therefore, it is my privilege to present you each with the Lakewood Police Department Lifesaving Award.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Michael Lee**

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On the afternoon of May 2, 2020, Agent Michael Lee responded to a call in the residential neighborhood of West Utah Lane reference a medical emergency. Agent Lee arrived at the home prior to paramedics and found the victim slouched over on the couch and noted a bluish appearance. He quickly moved her to the floor, confirmed she was not breathing and had no pulse or vital signs.

He began chest compressions and continued with more than 30 compressions, but the victim was not responding. He instructed the woman's sister to provide two breaths. With that, the victim began irregular breathing and gasping for air but still was unable to breathe

on her own. The two continued lifesaving efforts in this synchronized manner for the next several minutes until the paramedics arrived. With the additional equipment and revival techniques, the victim was stabilized and transported to the nearest hospital.

Agent Lee, had you not responded quickly with an accurate diagnosis, along with your calming manner of instruction for the victim's sister, the woman would have likely died at the scene. You took control of a life-and-death situation with an exemplary response. Therefore, it is my privilege to present you with the Lakewood Police Department Lifesaving Award. Thank you for performing your duties befitting a Lakewood agent.

## **LIFESAVING**

### **Agent Mark Bronzini**

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On June 27, 2020 at 2 a.m., agents were dispatched to a disturbance involving a stabbing at a bar and grill located in the 7500 block of West Jewell Avenue. Agent Mark Bronzini was the first to respond to the disturbance and found a large crowd in the parking lot and front patio of the business. He first noticed a woman kneeling in front of a young man holding a blood-soaked t-shirt against his throat. The ground around the victim was covered in a large pool of blood, as were the pants he was wearing.

Agent Bronzini responded with a Combat Life Saving (CLS) kit which included Quik-Clot Combat Gauze. He immediately began to assess the man's vital signs and render first-aid. First, he removed the t-shirt from the wound momentarily noting the man was still bleeding profusely. The victim had sustained a large laceration to the side of his neck which had damaged his carotid artery. Agent Bronzini applied clotting gauze while maintaining pressure until paramedics arrived to relieve him. The victim was transported immediately to the hospital due to the severity of the injury. After emergency surgery, surgeons credited the victim's survival to Agent Bronzini's quick actions and the application of the gauze.

Agent Bronzini, you immediately recognized that the man was at a life-threatening crossroads. While maintaining your composure, you took the appropriate medical steps that undoubtedly saved a young man's life. It is with great pleasure that I present you with the Lakewood Police Department Lifesaving Award.

## **HALL OF FAME**

### **Detective Jim Caffrey**

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As you retire from the Lakewood Police Department after 38 years of service, your friends, peers, and department leadership have selected you for induction into the department's Hall of Fame. The prestigious award is presented to an employee who has distinguished himself through acts of professionalism, demonstration of leadership, peer recognition, and

significant achievements. Without question, you have attained that level of professionalism with a career that has epitomized the award criteria.

You have held law enforcement positions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City Department of Investigations, and the Lakewood Police Department. You have worked every aspect of police work from patrol to special enforcement teams, and undercover intelligence operations. You were a founding member of the West Metro Drug Task Force, and your final assignment lasted 16 years as a highly specialized detective in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Although varied, your body of work has focused on the detection and prosecution of criminals operating in the shadows, just under the surface of society. You have investigated cases involving governmental corruption, organized crime, criminal gang affiliations to include high-profile motorcycle groups, and the eradication of long-term criminal activity associated with vice and narcotics investigations. Despite working the most difficult cases, you have maintained your unwavering integrity, compassion for those less fortunate, and your commitment to the protection of those victimized by crime. Your awards and accolades are many to include: Lakewood's "Detective of the Year" in 2006, recognition from the Drug Enforcement Administration as "Administrator of the Year" in 2009, "Exceptional Performance Award of the Year" in 2010, and the "Outstanding Investigator of the Year" in 2019.

Detective Jim Caffrey, today, it is my privilege to recognize you with the induction into the Lakewood Police Department Hall of Fame for 2020. With this, you have joined the ranks of a select few who have made a significant contribution to this department and to the community we serve.

## **HALL OF FAME**

### **Sergeant John Griffith**

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As you retire from the Lakewood Police Department after more than 40 years of service, your friends, peers, and department leadership have selected you for induction into the Lakewood Hall of Fame. The prestigious award is presented to an employee who has distinguished himself through acts of professionalism, the demonstration of leadership, peer recognition, and significant achievements. Without question, you have attained that level of professionalism with a career that has epitomized the award criteria.

The diligent enforcement of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol has long been a central strategic initiative of the Lakewood Police Department. You have taken the lead in the department's enforcement effort throughout your career, having honed your skills in drug recognition and drunk driving. As a recognized expert, you were responsible for training law enforcement professionals within this organization, neighboring jurisdictions, and in the Regional Academy. You were Lakewood's boots on the ground who coordinated participation with neighboring jurisdictions' DUI checkpoints increasing the



effectiveness of enforcement in the metropolitan area. You also managed the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund DUI program for 13 years and were responsible for obtaining more than a half-million dollars in grant funding. Your efforts saved lives, prevented injuries and accidents, and have made the streets of Lakewood safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

As a first-line supervisor, you have shaped and mentored countless agents to excel as law enforcement professionals. There is a recurring theme in your leadership style described by both subordinates and supervisors as respected, superior, empathetic, willing to step into the gap, and humility. The commendations, awards, medals, recognition and accomplishments are numerous and speak to your level of proficiency, however, they are only a glimpse of the man behind the badge.

Sergeant John Griffith, today, it is my privilege to recognize you with the induction into the Lakewood Police Department Hall of Fame for 2020. With this, you have joined the ranks of a select few who have made a significant contribution to this department and to the community we serve.

/ljm