

Patrol Officer P'tah Johnson- Life Saving Medal

On May 20, 2021 Patrol Officer P'tah Johnson was off duty traveling on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan to pick up his son from daycare. While in traffic, he noticed two individuals who appeared to be in distress inside a vehicle. Officer Johnson's training and experience kicked in recognizing these two people needed help, so he exited his vehicle and began rendering assistance. Upon initial assessment, Patrol Officer Johnson noticed one individual was not breathing normally and had a weak pulse. Based on these conditions, Officer Johnson directed bystanders to call 911 and began CPR.

Shortly thereafter, Boston EMS and Fire arrived and administered Narcan to both subjects as it appeared they were showing signs and symptoms of opioid use. According to a Boston Police report, both individuals had become alert and conscious prior to being transported to the hospital where they were further evaluated by medical professionals.

This is just one example of the benefits of the training police officers receive. It is said that police officers are never off duty and in this instance, because of his training and experience, Patrol Officer P'tah Johnson not only recognized that these individuals were in need of help but he chose to take action while off duty to render aid until EMS arrived and could provide a higher level of care. Because of his efforts, the two individuals who were initially unresponsive prior to EMS arrival, became alert and conscious before being transported to the hospital. Due to his swift actions while off duty Patrol Officer Johnson was awarded a Letter of Commendation, and we voted unanimously to award him a Lifesaving Medal as well.

Patrol Officer William Walker- CIT Officer of the Year

Officer William Walker conducts himself in a manner that exemplifies the principles of Crisis Intervention Training and implementation. He received CIT training shortly after beginning his career and was an early member of the Brookline Police Crisis Intervention Team. His calm demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond his assigned duties greatly benefit the Brookline Police Department and the Brookline Community.

Officer Walker is a highly trained member of the department's SRT Team and one of the department's K-9 Operators, but is equally adept at working with individuals in acute crisis as well as vulnerable members of the Brookline Community who are living with ongoing challenges. He regularly works with adults, children and families living with mental health concerns, substance misuse disorders and developmental challenges. His calm and measured response to various incidents increase the likelihood of a positive outcome.

A call from 2021 exemplifies his skills and compassion. Officer Walker was the lead officer on a call involving a suicidal teen. On scene, the teen was highly agitated and made numerous suicidal and homicidal statements. At one point, the teen wielded a knife, backed himself into a room and invited the officers to come in after him. Officer Walker created space, employed a barrier, called for a less lethal option and slowed things down. This, while continuing to utilize verbal de-escalation and assuring the teen that they only wanted to help him but could only do so if he dropped the knife. Eventually, the teen did drop the knife and became compliant and was transported to the hospital. After completing his report, Officer Walker



alerted the Family Unit and CIT of the event to ensure that the appropriate follow up was conducted. He does this consistently in similar cases.

This is just one example of the professional and compassionate manner in which Officer Walker conducts himself. Officer Walker exemplifies the principles of CIT; recognition, communication, de-escalation and community engagement. Officer Walker's professionalism, dedication and compassion make him imminently deserving of recognition by the Norfolk County CIT/ TTAC and the Brookline Police Department.

Sergeant Joseph Amendola-Public Service Medal.

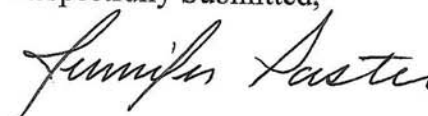
During the past year, primarily while he was assigned to the Community Service Division though continuing post-promotion, Sergeant Amendola has been instrumental in mitigating community concerns and public health issues, specifically with several chronically homeless individuals in our community. He proactively checks the CAD and report writing system for calls involving homeless individuals and he conducts rounds during each shift to check in on several individuals in an effort to address issues before they reach a crisis state.

Throughout this this past winter, Officer Amendola ensured that many of our homeless had warm clothes, hats, gloves, socks, etc. and shelter when necessary. He managed clothing donations and even served as a point of contact for local hospitals whenever our homeless are receiving care and have no other "next of kin" to contact.

Sergeant Amendola works with the Department of Mental Health and the Brookline Community Mental Health Center to access services for individuals experiencing homelessness in Brookline. He fielded calls and BrookOnline reports from the community regarding public health, sanitation and quality of life issues and mastered balancing the needs of the under housed in Brookline while addressing the concerns of impacted residents, businesses and Town agencies.

For the quality of his work in this field, and for all of his efforts that far exceed his job description, the board voted unanimously for Sergeant Amendola to receive the Public Service Medal.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Paster
Acting Chief of Police

