



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 2,

DATE OF MEETING: June 17, 2013

REQUESTED BY: Commissioner Chester Ward

SHORT TITLE: Recognition of Colleen and Adam Holmquist and Mark Fowler, Hampstead Residents, who Performed Acts of Heroism Responding to an Automobile Accident.

BACKGROUND: While sitting in their home in Olde Point on August 14, 2012, Colleen Holmquist and her husband Adam Holmquist heard a car speeding down Olde Point Road towards their house. They then heard screeching tires and what sounded like a severe collision. Mr. and Mrs. Holmquist immediately got up, grabbed a medical kit, and began moving to the scene of the apparent accident. Before they reached their car they began hearing screams and cries for help. Upon arrival at the scene, Mr. and Mrs. Holmquist and their neighbor, Mark Fowler, who had also heard the accident and come to assist, jumped out and began moving towards the screams. While they were approaching the vehicle, they began to hear one of the victims, who had apparently been ejected from the car, calling for help some distance from the vehicle. While her husband, Mr. Fowler and Deputy Clay Barbee who had arrived on the scene, moved to the vehicle, Mrs. Holmquist moved to locate and assist the ejected victim. Mr. Holmquist and Mr. Fowler announced to Deputy Barbee that they are Combat Medics. The three went to the car where a young male was laying in the front passenger seat and a female in the back seat. The two Combat Vets were working on the male in the car when one of them said "we need to get a line started on him." They had a bag on the car and began working and got a line started to the victim's nose to assist his breathing. EMS arrived soon after the line was started and they took over. Deputy Barbee attributed the young man's life to these two gentlemen who gave of themselves unselfishly.

Once Mrs. Holmquist located the ejected victim, who was entangled and buried under a combination of tree branches, vines, and underbrush, she immediately began reassuring the victim that help was on the way. She stayed with the victim until more emergency personnel arrived. Once she realized that first responders had arrived on the scene, she moved to meet them on the road and began leading them and directing them to the location of the victims. Once she had ensured emergency personnel were with all of the victims, Mrs. Holmquist moved back to the road and continued directing other emergency personnel as they arrived on the scene. While leading the emergency personnel to the victims, Mrs. Holmquist was told by one of them that "Life Line," referring to helicopter evacuation, was needed. She immediately moved to a State Highway Patrol vehicle and after making the Trooper aware of the need for Life Line, assisted him with directing the helicopter to the scene. Mr. and Mrs. Holmquist and Mr. Fowler then continued to assist other emergency personnel in any way they could.