



BRIAN HORROCKS

Mayor

KEN LEETHAM

City Manager

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE

Police Department

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CRAIG BLACK

Chief of Police

To: Mayor Horrocks and members of the North Salt Lake City Council
From: Craig Black, Chief of Police
RE: Police Officer Recognition and Award of Police Star

Every day, officers of the North Salt Lake Police Department come to work to protect the lives, property, and safety of our community. Many days are uneventful, even “routine”, but other days include calls that expose our officers to danger. There is no way to prepare for what each day will bring, except for regular training and the internal commitment they have made as police officers to put others before themselves.

Regularly, officers act in meritorious and distinguished ways and we try to identify and recognize this outstanding work. There are even occasions where they are put in a situation with the opportunity to save a life. Thankfully, incidents that require them to make a conscious decision to place their safety, even their lives at risk to protect others is relatively rare, and often the time to consider the safest way to do these things is afforded their decision-making process.

But, as with all police officers, they may be faced with an immediate, urgent situation that does not afford them time or circumstances to do much more than just act, exposing themselves to great risk of harm.

Tonight, we recognize three officers who were faced with that very situation on September 29, 2023, and unselfishly placed themselves at great risk to help another in deep distress. No judgment was made on the circumstances that led to the distress of this person, only the need to help him at this crucial time was considered. The outcome was successful, and all were thankfully okay. But it could have turned out very differently for all involved.

The Police Star is a formal award in the North Salt Lake Police department. It is the third highest recognition that is awarded, only behind the Medal of Valor and Police Medal, for distinctive and courageous acts involving personal hazard and protecting or saving a human life.

It is noteworthy that these three officers did not choose, nor were they specifically chosen for the call or day or circumstances that they faced. But when confronted with this situation, acted as we hope and expect our officers to act. With that in mind, it is also important to realize that it is a reflection on the courage, commitment, and competence of all officers of the North Salt Lake Police Department.