



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

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Central Falls Police Officer Receives Medal for Heroism:

CENTRAL FALLS – The American Legion honored Sergeant Craig Horton last evening for an act of heroism resulting in saving a man’s life.

On September 1st, 2011 at approximately 11:20 AM, Central Falls public safety dispatch sent police officers to Jenks Park in response to a caller stating that she could hear a male atop Coggswell Tower “screaming” that he was going to jump. Upon arrival, the road supervisor, Sergeant Craig Horton, radioed to dispatch to put the Central Falls Fire Department on standby, advising that a male positioned himself at the top of the tower with an orange cord around his neck.

Officers reached the top of the tower to find the male, who they later determined to be a troubled resident of Central Falls, standing on the west ledge with a cord circling his neck, “visibly shaken” and crying. Sergeant Horton, responding to the scene as emergency counselor, spoke with the man for several minutes in an attempt to calm him and, ultimately, talk him down. When negotiations began to break down, Sergeant Horton decisively called for the fire truck ladder to be raised behind him in an attempt to rescue the suicidal male.

As the ladder approached halfway to the potential jumper, the man began to give indicators that he would jump. Without regard to his own safety, Sergeant Horton quickly and instinctively reached over the ledge to grab the individual as he readied to jump, successfully saving him from plummeting to his death. With the help of his fellow officers, Sergeant Horton pulled the despondent man back over the edge of the

ledge to safety, removing the cord from his neck and lowering him to safety unharmed. Central Falls rescue then transported the suicidal male to Pawtucket Memorial Hospital, accompanied by a Central Falls police officer.

But for the swift and heroic actions of Sergeant Horton, the disconsolate man would undoubtedly have fallen nearly seventy feet to his death. Sergeant Craig Horton is not only a credit to the Central Falls Police Department and to the City of Central Falls, but to all first responders putting public safety above all else.

The Central Falls Police Department is proud and honored that a distinguished and revered Veteran's organization such as the American Legion saw fit to recognize Sergeant Craig Horton for his valor.

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