



CITY OF MANITOWOC FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

To: Captain Garrett Grissom
From: Chief of Fire Rescue Todd Blaser
Ref: Award of Valor
Date: November 9th, 2020 (date of incident)

Captain Grissom,

You are being recognized with an Award of Valor from the City of Manitowoc. The Award of Valor is given to employees who perform heroic, exceptional, and courageous acts, which result in outstanding service or performance to the community. When the Award Review Board reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

On November 9th, 2020, Captain Garrett Grissom's oath to the community he serves as a firefighter paramedic to ensure the well-being of the community was put to the test. While preparing to eat dinner with his crew, Captain Grissom noticed an unusual situation unfolding in front of his assigned fire station on Fleetwood Drive. Captain Grissom observed a car stopping in the road with a person standing in front of it. Captain Grissom, wanting to make sure the citizen wasn't having vehicle problems, opened the patio door to investigate the situation. It was at that moment when Captain Grissom observed three individuals attempting to carjack a citizen. Captain Grissom observed one of the perpetrators displaying a long rifle. He shouted to the perpetrators to stop their actions, requested Motor Pump Operator Jason Sweney to call 911, and notified dispatch of the need for police assistance. Captain Grissom exited the safety of the fire station and started toward the road where the driver was exiting the vehicle with her hands in the air. The perpetrators quickly got into the vehicle and sped away while Captain Grissom continued relaying information to dispatch. Captain Grissom escorted the victim back to the safety of the fire station.

Later that evening, information began circulating that the perpetrators had attempted additional car jackings later in the evening in Sheboygan and that shots were fired at one of the victims who drove away from the car jackers. The majority of perpetrators were taken into custody when the Manitowoc victim's car was stopped by law enforcement officers with the use of spike stripes near the Sheboygan/Ozaukee county line. Nobody knows what might have happened that evening if Captain Grissom hadn't utilized his acute situational awareness and decision-making ability in an attempt to stop the crime and quickly alert law enforcement officials.

Motor Pump Operator Sweney summarized the actions taken by Captain Grissom with the following assessment: "Throughout Captain Grissom's career he has been a model of consistency, hard work, and a positive team member who has performed above and beyond for the public. His commitment to the community was put to the test in early November."

Captain Grissom, it is an honor to present you with the Award of Valor. Congratulations!

Todd Blaser, Chief of Fire Rescue Department