



# CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

[www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org)



To: Officer Matthew Klein  
From: Police Chief Nick Reimer  
Ref: Award of Valor  
Date: July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (date of incident)

Officer Klein,

Lt. Culligan recently nominated you for the 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 July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Officer Klein was dispatched to 75 Maritime Dr. for a report of an occupied vehicle that had driven into the Manitowoc River. Officer Klein recognized that the bridge was up and the Manitowoc Fire and Rescue Department personnel were blocked by the raised bridge. Therefore, despite the lack of all appropriate rescue gear, Officer Klein removed his duty gear and jumped into the Manitowoc River to attempt to rescue the occupant of the vehicle.

Officer Klein dove as deeply as he could safely go, however the water was very murky and much deeper than he anticipated. He utilized a nearby kayaker's paddle to try to locate the submerged vehicle, however that was also unsuccessful. Once the Manitowoc Fire and Rescue Department arrived on scene, they took over the rescue efforts with rescue attire, gear, and equipment. Unfortunately, after some time, the Manitowoc Fire and Rescue Department declared that it became a recovery rather than a rescue.

Officer Klein went above and beyond the call of duty in this rescue attempt. With his prior Navy training, he made a split second decision to put his own well-being at risk for another. Although the outcome was sad and unfortunate, Officer Klein displayed remarkable courage despite the inherent danger and uncertainty of the situation.

Officer Klein, we are proud to present you with the Award of Valor. The award will be presented to you at the next available Common Council Meeting. Congratulations!

  
Chief Nick Reimer

Manitowoc Police Department

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