



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 4, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Janet Wilwerding
Communications Specialist
O: 515.727.7781
C: 515.414.0662
jwilwerding@cityofjohnston.com

Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department to Present Lifesaving Awards

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department (JGMFD) will recognize six individuals for their noble service on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday May 11, 2017, units from Stations 38 and 39 from the JGMFD responded to a medical incident on NW 54th Court and provided electrical defibrillation to save a life. Their quick actions demonstrated the benefits of advanced medical training of the JGMFD personnel.

When the units arrived on scene, the patient was moved to the ambulance and once in the ambulance was deemed too unstable to transport to the hospital. While doing a medical evaluation and treatments, the patient was placed on the cardiac monitor, which showed Ventricular Tachycardia, a rhythm that can be lethal if left untreated. The responders then made the decision to give the patient cardioverted (electrical shock therapy) to bring his heart back into a normal rhythm, this procedure is seldom used. Upon providing this therapy, the patient went into a lethal cardiac arrest rhythm and was immediately defibrillated with the cardiac monitor. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation was performed until the patient woke up disoriented.

After all the therapy and treatments were provided, the patient was back in a non-lethal cardiac rhythm. He was treated with the highest advance life support care that each of the units could provide and was emergently transported to the hospital for further care.

Listed below are the employees from Stations 38 and 39 that will be recognized by the City of Johnston for their heroic actions.

Award Recipients

- Nick Hutchinson – Station 39
- Shawn Benberg – Station 39
- Ginger McAndrew – Station 39
- Brook Hansen – Station 38
- Alex Headley – Station 38
- Lt. Sean McAndrew – Station 38

“Each of these members performance is a credit to the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department and their profession,” said Fire Chief Jim Clark. “It gives me great pleasure to award each of these members with a commendation for Lifesaving for their efforts in this medical intervention. The fact that this is such a rarely

used procedure shows what great training our people have and the level they maintain their skills, to recognize the irregular heart rhythm and take the appropriate actions to correct it in the field.”

Each of these individuals is commended for their quick actions, which helped save a life. The professionalism each of the members displayed throughout this encounter were exceptional. It is only through each of the teams’ devotion to duty, exceptional skill, and persistence during difficult situations that extraordinary levels of achievement such as this are formally recognized.

This Lifesaving Award is to recognize their compassion and commitment to the citizens we serve as well as offer recognition for the effort each of the member put into providing this team lifesaving care.

#