



Timothy J. Bent  
Chief of Police

# Webster Police Department

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Michael D. Shaw  
Deputy Chief

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*Community Committed*

To: Sergeant Joseph J. Brooks

From: Lieutenant Toby M. Wheeler

Re: Letter of Commendation

Date: February, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Sgt. Brooks,

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at approximately 7:10pm, the South Worcester County Communications Center received a 911 Call from a female reporting party, reporting that her Brother was making suicidal statements. The female reporting party was not with the male (Brother) in question. You and Officer Bruce Hamm responded to (address redacted), Webster, Massachusetts to check the welfare of the male in question.

From review of Officer Hamm's report and from conversation with him, I learned the male party was located in his bedroom and that upon locating him he was observed holding a box cutter/razor knife to his own throat. Officer Hamm's report annotates the male party was upset and making suicidal statements in the presence of Officers. I am told you were able to utilize your training, abilities and verbal communication skills to effectuate a safe outcome to this highly stressful and life threatening situation.

Although it appears neither you nor Officer Hamm were in direct danger of harm, the male in question certainly was, from himself. You successfully talked the male into submission, at which point the male threw the box cutter/razor knife onto the couch. The male subsequently received the medical assistance that he was apparently in need of, as the male was transported to UMass Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts under a Section 12 filed by Officer Hamm.

It is clear from Officer Hamm's report and verbal account that you were the driving force in diffusing this stressful and life threatening situation. I wish to commend you on your professionalism and leadership during this incident. I encourage you to continue displaying this type of professionalism and leadership in the many years to come.

Sincerely,

Lt. Toby M. Wheeler

From the shores of  
*Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*