



Town of Webster Police Department

"Improving the Quality of Life"

Chief Timothy J. Bent

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June 15, 2006

Dana W. Kennan
Town Administrator
350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Dear Sir,

I forward this correspondence to inform you of what I feel was an exceptional reaction and diligence to duty by members of the Webster Police Department responding to a recent call for service. As a community we may choose to simply dismiss the incident by surmising that the police are merely doing what they get paid for, or we may publicly recognize professional and exceptional police services at their best. I'm sure you agree that we would choose the latter.

Domestic violence is of major concern, and is problematic throughout the country. As the years pass, Webster has proven to be no exception.

On June 3, 2006 at approximately 6:30PM this department received a call of a man strangling his wife. Upon officer's arrival, hysterical family members located outside the home were crying and yelling, "hurry up he's going to kill her!" Officer's Patrick Perry and James Baca quickly assessed the situation through the front door of the dwelling. They observed a female with a male subject behind her. The female was yelling "he's gonna kill me," and was observed mouthing the words "help me." As the officers attempted to force entry into the home, Officer Steven Cacciapouti and Sergeant Michaela Kelley arrived on the scene. It became evident at this point the male subject had some type of rope (cable wire) around the female's neck and was strangling her. The male was using the female as a barricade preventing entry into the home. Officer Perry covered the male with his weapon drawn, but re-holstered due to the female obstructing the male. Officer Baca attempted to gain entry through the rear door, which was barricaded with a two by four. Officers broke the door window in an attempt to gain entry, but the door was dead bolted. As officer's attempted to break a window to gain entry, Officer Cacciapouti, who was now assigned to cover the subject, was faced with the decision to use deadly force, as he now had a clear shot. Sergeant Kelley made a command decision not to fire, while continually attempting to assess the female victim's condition, and Officers Perry and Baca entered through the broken window, eventually subduing the male subject. Officer Baca sustained cuts and abrasions from the broken glass while entering through the window. The female victim was treated at the hospital and later released. The male subject was arrested and charged with **attempted murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic assault and battery, kidnapping, resisting arrest, intimidating a witness, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.**

As is clearly evident, the scene was chaotic and dangerous. The responding officers were faced with decisions that had to be made within a few short minutes, making the correct decisions under extreme pressure. I'm sure you will agree, Officer's Cacciapouti, Perry, and Baca, under the supervision of Sergeant Kelley, performed their duties in an exemplary manner. They serve as an outstanding example of the educated, highly trained caliber of Officer's that represent the Webster Police Department.

I will be forwarding each officer a letter of commendation to be placed in their respective files.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Timothy J. Bent