



# **Town of Webster Police Department**

**"Improving the Quality of Life"**

**Chief Timothy J. Bent**

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## **Letter of Commendation**

**To: Officer Bryan Bates**  
**From: Sergeant Thomas Ralph**  
**Date: March 29, 2010**  
**Re: Incident 10-5033**

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On Sunday morning, March 28, 2010, at approximately 04:30 hours you were dispatched to the vicinity of the Providence and Worcester Railroad tracks to assist the Oxford Police Department search for a female reporting that she had been assaulted, was without clothing and lost on the tracks. The female was only able to provide information that she was near a boxcar. On this date the weather in the area was 26 degrees with a wind-chill of 18 degrees.

After checking several areas in Webster, you along with Officer Difusco took the initiative to cross over into Oxford and search the railway cars located along Route 12. After walking for some distance in Oxford you were able to locate the female huddled underneath one of the cars. You then walked the women out to Hugo Terrace where she was placed in a police cruiser and transferred to EMS.

Your willingness to extend extra effort to search for this female may have saved her life. Hypothermia can begin in as little as 15 minutes when the temperature is below 36 degrees. In this instance the female had been outside for a minimum of one hour prior to locating her.

While in the scheme of things, handling a routine call such as a lost person, is not a big deal for us, it is a big deal for the victim and their family and becomes a situation of life or death when factors such as the weather and lack of clothing are combined. Therefore you are to be commended for your outstanding effort and exemplary attention to duty.

It is important for you to know your good deeds and excellent work are not going unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do every day. You can take special pride in knowing that your efforts positively affect the quality of life in the Town of Webster. Once again thank you.

Cc:  
Chief of Police