CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS
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Office of the City Manager

Memo

TO: Mayor Allen Brown and Board of Directors

FROM: E. Jay Ellington, ICMA-CM
City Manager

DATE: October 14, 2022

SUBJECT: CM Opportunity Review

Met with:
Quorum Court members Rodney Watkins and Eric Darden
Tederal Jefferson and Interim Chief Jordan re: noise complaints
Rob Sitterley of REDI
David Peavy re: contract
David Orr for monthly City Managers' meeting
Dr. Hiren Patel (by phone) re: plans for water park

Attended:
Board of Directors meeting
Teams meeting with Michael Sparks, et al, re: Amtrak station relocation
Zoom meeting with Roman Aldaiz of Enterprise, et al, re: fleet management
A&P Funding meeting
Garver/City staff monthly meeting via Zoom

Staff:
Several meetings with TyRhonda re: 2023 budgets
Meeting with Doug, Wendy, Bobby re: PSAP
Conducted Staff meeting
Met with various staff re: numerous issues

Other:

Attended Dine on the Line, MainStreet fundraiser
Attended Beer Fest Downtown, TownSquare Media event
Attended First Responder Fish Fry at Silvermoon
Attended meeting of 30/30 CORE Team
Attended TRAHC Board Meeting
Attended 30/30 CORE Team meeting
Attended TRAHC Festival Committee meeting
Attended Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at TX Convention Center

Next Week:

Meeting with Roman Aldaiz, Enterprise re: fleet rental options
Teams meeting with Amtrak officials and staff
Meet with Kevin Miners, Director of SW Arkansas Corrections
Meetings with TyRhonda re: budget
Attend TAPERS meeting
Meet with Doug, Wendy re: PSAP
Attend lunch/training by Texarkana Area Community Foundation – Diversity
Serve as judge for Texarkana Library Pumpkin Judging Contest
Attend HR Workshop for all Department heads
Meetings with TyRhonda and individual Department heads re: departmental budgets for 2023
Make presentation on strategic doing for Leadership Texarkana class
Attend meeting with housing group re: in-fill houses / housing plan

Work List:

Continue to review lawsuits against City
Continue work with non-profits for In-fill Housing Pilot opportunities
Working on contracts for MainStreet, Chamber, REDI, Crossties, etc.
Developing Capital Plans for: streets, water and sewage, public facilities, and housing; draft being reviewed by staff

Attachments:

Reprint of *Texarkana Gazette* article covering awards to TAPD officers

cc:

Department Staff
Ina McDowell, MainStreet
Rob Sitterley, REDI
Denis Washington, Chamber of Commerce
David Orr, Texarkana, Texas City Manager

Texarkana | Friday, October 14, 2022

Officers praised by state for saving victims of opioid overdose

By Stevon Gamble
Texarkana Gazette

■ Patrol officers Joshua Jones, third from left, and Kristen Beach, second from right, pose with their Naloxone Life Saving Awards after a presentation ceremony Thursday morning at Texarkana Arkansas Police Department. Also pictured are, from left, Interim Police Chief Bobby Jordan; Arkansas Drug Director Boyce Hamlet, who made the presentations; and City Manager Jay Ellington.

Staff photo by Stevon Gamble

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Two Texarkana Arkansas Police Department patrol officers were recognized Thursday morning for helping to save the lives of local residents who overdosed on opioids.

Kristen Beach and Joshua Jones received the Naloxone Life Saving Award from Arkansas Drug Director Boyce Hamlet during a brief presentation ceremony at the Police Department. Hamlet said the awards are long overdue and a way to shine a light on the positive work of the men and women in blue.

"Everytime, unfortunately, there's law enforcement shooting or law enforcement officer has to take someone's life, that's a big story. It should be a big story, it's a big deal," said Hamlet, whose office is in Little Rock. "But when I looked in our office and I saw these stacks of these awards, I thought, 'I never hear anything about them saving a life,' so I thought it was important to get out and make that part of the story."

Beach, who has been on the force for about four years, helped to revive an overdose victim in April.

"We were called to an unconscious person, said it was a cardiac arrest. When we got there, it was a known drug user's house," Beach said.

LifeNet paramedics had started intravenous medications on the man, whom Beach said was in his late 20s to early 30s, but were unable to resuscitate him.

"I ran and got mine (naloxone) better known as out of the car and went ahead and administered both of mine, and he came to me and was able to start talking to us and laughing," Beach said.

Naloxone is an FDAapproved medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

"It is an opioid antagonist — meaning that it binds to opioid receptors and can reverse and block the effects of other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone," according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a department of HHS. "Administered when a patient is showing signs of opioid overdose, naloxone is a temporary treatment and its effects do not last long. Therefore, it is critical to obtain medical intervention as soon as possible after administering/ receiving naloxone."

The medication can be given by intranasal spray (into the nose), intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin) or intravenous injection, according to SAMHSA.

Jones, an eight-year member of TAPD, administered naloxone four times between February and March. Each case had something in common.

"All four calls that we got, all were fentanyl-related overdoses," Jones said. "We were told right away that somebody had taken pills that were M30s, these common fentanyl things that we found in the area."

Each individual who received the naloxone was brought back from the brink, Jones said.

"One of the girls in particular was, you know, completely out," he said. "I gave her four doses. We hit her with oxygen, and she came back right away. There was no doubt in my mind all four of these people would have died without it."

The Office of the Arkansas Drug Director is a department of the Arkansas State Police. It operates a website — **artakeback.org** — that is home to opioid dashboards for each of the state's 75 counties. According to the Miller County dashboard, was administered 10 times in Texarkana, Arkansas, between January and August. The recipients — three women and seven men — all overdosed on opioids, primarily fentanyl, except the most recent case, which was for alcohol.