

CITY OF MUSCATINE



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
215 SYCAMORE STREET
MUSCATINE, IA 52761
PH. (563) 264-1550 Ext. 166

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 18, 2025

LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS RECOGNIZED THURSDAY

Three officers honored for bravery and swift response in life-threatening situations

MUSCATINE, Iowa – They may not consider themselves heroes, but their quick and decisive actions meant the difference between life and death — and those lives saved stand as a testament to their bravery.

During the Muscatine City Council meeting on Thursday, July 17, Muscatine Police Officers Samantha Wheeler and Darran Ritchie, along with Cedar County Detective Matt Jackson, were



each presented with the Life Saving Award in recognition of their extraordinary efforts in two separate incidents.

On May 11, 2025, Officers Wheeler and Ritchie responded to a medical emergency involving an unconscious, non-breathing woman. Upon arrival, the officers quickly assessed the situation and determined that the victim had no pulse. Officer Wheeler immediately initiated CPR while Officer Ritchie prepared and deployed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

CITY OF MUSCATINE



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
215 SYCAMORE STREET
MUSCATINE, IA 52761
PH. (563) 264-1550 Ext. 166

The pair continued administering life-saving measures until Muscatine Fire Department personnel arrived on scene. Thanks to their swift response and teamwork, the victim regained a pulse and was transported for further medical treatment. Their actions are credited with saving the woman's life.

Detective Jackson was honored for his actions during a high-risk incident that occurred on May 29, 2024. Jackson and Muscatine Police Officer Adam Bell were involved in a vehicle pursuit of two individuals suspected of narcotics trafficking. The chase came to a dramatic end near the intersection of Highway 61 and Cedar Street when the suspects' vehicle left the roadway.



As the suspects fled on foot, Officer Bell pursued them. During the foot chase, the suspects drew firearms and began shooting in Bell's direction. Acting without hesitation, Detective Jackson returned fire, striking both suspects and bringing the dangerous confrontation to an end.

Jackson's decisive response is credited with protecting the life of Officer Bell and preventing further harm.

CITY OF MUSCATINE



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
215 SYCAMORE STREET
MUSCATINE, IA 52761
PH. (563) 264-1550 Ext. 166

"These officers exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and courage," said Muscatine Police Chief Anthony Kies. "Their actions reflect not only their training but their unwavering commitment to protecting the lives of others."

The City of Muscatine is proud to recognize these officers for their heroic efforts and dedicated service to the community.

-30-

For more information contact:

Kevin Jenison
Communication Manager
Public Information Officer
Muscatine City Hall
(563) 264-1550
kjenison@muscatineiowa.gov