



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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February 26, 2008

Engine/Medic 14 – C Shift:

Rick Fretschel, Captain/Paramedic
Mark Kaiser, Fire Equipment Operator

Mark Sottile, Firefighter/Paramedic
Andy Michalski, Fire Equipment Operator (acting Firefighter)

SUBJECT: Unit Commendation Award

The Saint Paul Fire Department bestows a **Unit Commendation Award** to a group of individuals whose actions as a team went above and beyond the call of duty. Your rapid and accurate assessment of the need for and activation of the “ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction” (STEMI) procedures during a recent response, are worthy of such recognition.

On February 4, 2008, Medic 14 responded to a seventy year old male with chest pains. The patient showed signs and symptoms indicating he was having a significant cardiac event. Indeed he was. On the way to the hospital the patient went into cardiac arrest three times. Each time you defibrillated him back into a viable heart rhythm and consciousness. You recognized the potential benefit from activating the STEMI procedures, and made a sound medical decision to transport the patient directly to the Cath Lab of Saint Joseph’s Hospital. Saint Joseph’s staff determined that the patient was suffering from a complete blockage of a major coronary artery, and successfully pierced the blockage. Blood circulation to the man’s heart, vital organs, and body areas was restored within 21 minutes of arriving at the hospital.

Not too many years ago, this patient would most likely have died. Because of the STEMI procedures now in place, the advanced training and experience of Saint Paul Fire’s medical personnel, and new technologies like our 12-lead EKGs, you were able rapidly assess, treat, and transport this patient directly to the Cath Lab. The exceptional teamwork between patient, pre-hospital EMTs and paramedics, and the medical directors and hospital staffs at the three City hospitals participating in the STEMI program directly led to this life-saving effort. This incident is a superb example of why Saint Paul residents and visitors enjoy a cardiac survival rate three times the national average, and how we’re making Saint Paul the most livable city in America!

Your compassionate care and exceptional teamwork, the rapid and accurate analysis of the patient’s medical situation, and a decisive leadership decision to activate the STEMI program are all commendable actions directly leading to this unique and life-saving effort. At the recommendation of District Chief Pat Smith, I am proud to present this **Unit Commendation Award**. It signifies the importance of your actions and the value you bring to the patients and the medical program in Saint Paul. The team effort demonstrated during this medical emergency represents the very character the fire service strives to achieve. You are a credit to the Fire Department and the City of Saint Paul.

Timothy M. Butler, Fire Chief

cc: Mayor Chris Coleman
City Council Members
Assistant Chief Hogan

EMS Chief Jacobson
Fire Marshal Zaccard
District Chief Smith

Deputy Chief Galbraith
Dr. R.J. Frascone
Saint Joseph’s Hospital