
Lexington Police Department

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Terrence Green
Chief of Police

"Building Partnerships with the Community We Serve"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Officers Recognized for Heroic Actions

Lexington, SC (May 12, 2011, 2:00 pm) – Chief Terrence Green is proud to announce that Sergeant Aron Hefner and Patrol Officer Nic Beza were presented with the Chief's Letter of Commendation at the May 2, 2011 Town Council Meeting for their heroic actions in the line of duty.

On April 2, 2011 at 1554 hours Lexington Police Department officers were requested to assist with a motor vehicle collision involving a vehicle versus a tree which had occurred just outside of our jurisdiction. Multiple 911 calls were received on the incident indicating that the driver was entrapped in the vehicle and that the engine compartment of the vehicle was on fire. Due to the imminent possibility of the loss of human life multiple units from this agency responded with no regard to the danger or location.

Arriving simultaneously, PFC Honeycutt and Officer Beza observed heavy smoke conditions and found the engine compartment of the vehicle ablaze. The driver was conscious and trapped under the crushed dashboard with his legs pinned by the steering column. Officer Beza began deploying fire extinguishers in an attempt to control the fire despite the heat from the flames and smoke. Sergeant Hefner arrived on scene and began trying to extract the driver by physically attempting to open the crushed doors. Officer Beza continued to deploy fire extinguishers and made contact with the driver reassuring him that they would get him out. While other officers and citizen's also deployed extinguishers, Officer Beza did so from right beside the driver knocking down and pushing the fire away from the driver despite putting himself in as much danger. A private ambulance service stopped and provided an oxygen mask that Officer Beza held on the driver despite the readily apparent hazard of such. Other officers arrived on scene and assisted in various ways to include providing more fire extinguishers and traffic control.

The Lexington County Fire and Emergency Medical Service arrived and began fire suppression and patient care efforts. The fire was completely extinguished by firefighters and the driver had to be mechanically extricated from the vehicle where he was subsequently transported to the hospital for treatment of his injuries. Chief Green believes that "if not for the selfless immediate heroism and bravery of Sergeant Hefner and Officer Beza it is a certainty this incident would have had a more tragic outcome."

Worth noting is that both Sgt. Hefner and Officer Beza received the same award almost exactly two years ago for a large apartment fire at Park North Apartments in which residents had to be physically evacuated.

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(Photo Attached)

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