



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon State Police

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April 22, 2021

Steven Romero  
Chief of Police  
Ontario, Oregon

**RE: LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

On April 22, 2021 at approximately 7:12am, the Oregon State Police responded to a single vehicle crash on Sunset Drive and SW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The call was reported to be a single vehicle into an active irrigation canal. Upon arrival, a single elderly male was uninjured and still inside the vehicle. Water was beginning to pour into the vehicle putting the male at extreme risk.

Law enforcement acted quickly and made the decision to enter the frigid water to rescue the male before his vehicle became submerged in the canal. Your officers' **CASEY WALKER, TODD HARNDEN and ADAM CLINTON** acted heroically in this rescue effort. Clinton shed most of his duty gear and entered the frigid water without provocation. Officers Walker and Harnden assisted me with deploying a safety rope which was placed around Officer Clinton. Once Officer Clinton had the male in his arms, both were pulled from the water to safety.

This was a rapidly evolving scene and Ontario Fire & Rescue was slightly delayed due to another call for service. Ontario Fire & Rescue Chief Leighton arrived on scene and expressed his appreciation of the quick actions of law enforcement in being instrumental in preventing injury and potentially saving the motorists life.

I have worked in this community for 28.5 years and throughout have enjoyed a phenomenal working relationship with your staff. Today, your officers' acted selflessly and in an exemplary fashion. All should be commended for their efforts. Please provide them a copy of my letter and place a copy in their personnel file.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Duncan, Lieutenant  
Oregon State Police  
Ontario Area Command

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Cc: Ontario Fire & Rescue Chief Leighton  
Ontario Police Department Lieutenant Jason Cooper