

Tammy Agee

From: webemail
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Tammy Agee
Subject: Lifesaving Award Nomination

LIFESAVING AWARD

Rank of Nominee

Sergeant

Nominee Name

Michael DeBree

If more than one officer is being nominated, please list others here.

Sergeant Brian Griffith
Griffith@mydelraybeach.com
Promoted to sergeant: 09/25/10

Department/Agency

Delray Beach Police Department

Address

300 West Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, Florida 33444
[Map It](#)

Nominee's Email

debree@mydelraybeach.com

Dates of Employment In Current Position

Promoted to Sergeant 09/01/14

Section II - Nominator Information

Nominator's Rank

Captain

Nominator's Name

Rachel Saunders

Organization

Delray Beach Police Department

Phone

(561) 243-7889

Email

saunders@mydelraybeach.com

Please describe the exceptional lifesaving act. In addition provide documentation of the incident such as a police report.

On May 19, 2018 officers responded to a host of frantic calls reporting a young "deranged" female was outside on a second-story townhouse ledge with her two very small children. Callers advised the female appeared to be impaired on narcotics, was exhibiting bizarre behavior and her children were scared and crying. It was evident the children were in immediate danger.

Sergeants Griffith and DeBree arrived on scene and took immediate action. They were able to gain access to the home and went out onto the second-floor ledge themselves. Sergeant DeBree quickly maneuvered around the hysterical female to get near the children. He grasped the arms of each child and led them across the narrow ledge to another bedroom window where other officers were waiting to take them safely inside. He was able to guide the children to safety, while assuring them that they were going to be okay.

During the time Sergeant DeBree was attending to the children, Sergeant Griffith was out on the ledge trying to calm and gain the trust of the female. She was delusional and did not believe he was a police officer. She was convinced he was going to hurt her. There was very little room for Sergeant Griffith to take any type of action. He calmly spoke to her and waited until he had an opportunity to act. When he felt comfortable, he quickly grabbed the female and pulled her into him to keep her from falling. Sergeant Griffith remained in this position until Sergeant DeBree got the children to safety and returned to assist him. The sergeants were able to secure the female and get her safely off the ledge without injury.

Sergeants DeBree and Griffith, without hesitation, placed themselves in an extremely dangerous situation to safely remove two small children (ages 1 and 2) and their mother who was obviously suffering from some type of mental crisis, from a second story narrow ledge. They worked together during this critical incident utilizing their crisis management skills, tactical experience and critical thinking abilities. This selfless act of courage and compassion avoided what could have been an unspeakable tragedy.

Words cannot adequately describe the danger of this incident. I have attached the body worn camera footage of this incident and ask that the award reviewers watch it. This footage gained international attention. Sergeants DeBree and Griffith are both deserving of the FPCA Life Saving Award.

Date(s) of Exceptional Act(s)

May, 19, 2018

Please select Agency size

Large: 75+ Officers

Agency Head Signature

Chief Jeffrey Goldman

Date

03/13/2019