

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 actions on February 4, 2008, are worthy of such recognition.

Medic 14 responded to the 1700 block of Carroll Avenue for a seventy year old male with chest pains. The patient had significant indications on his 12-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) that he was having a major 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 transported him directly to the Cath Lab of Saint Joseph's Hospital where they determined he suffered a complete blockage of his left anterior descending artery to the left ventricle of the heart. In the Cath Lab they were able to pierce the blockage and restore circulation to the left ventricle, which is the largest chamber of the heart that pumps blood throughout the vital organs and rest of the body.

Not too many years ago, this patient would most likely have died. Because of the "ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction" (STEMI) procedures now in place you were able to treat and transport this patient, not to the emergency room, but to the Cath Lab where the patient could immediately get the life-saving procedure that he desperately needed.

Your compassion, dedication, and professionalism are commendable. Each of you truly went above and beyond the call of duty under extremely stressful circumstances. At the recommendation of District Chief Pat Smith, I am proud to award this **Unit Commendation Award**. It signifies the importance of your actions. Your rapid assessment of this challenging situation, a decisive leadership decision in the face of limited resources, and the professionalism and skill exhibited by each member of the crew – acting individually and as a cohesive team – directly lead to a unique and life-saving effort. 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Butler, Fire Chief

TB:sz

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. Frascione