

2019

Patrolman Shane Rahz

Willoughby Police Department

August 20, 2019, was a beautiful summer day in the City of Willoughby. Patrolman Shane Rahz was assigned to motorcycle patrol, a nice way to patrol on this type of day. Much of a motorcycle officer's duties revolve around traffic enforcement along with providing support for officers assigned to patrol areas of the city by motor vehicles. That afternoon, one call would pull Rahz away from his motorcycle duties and positively impact the lives of several residents.

A call was dispatched to both Willoughby Fire and Police Departments of a house fire on Hurricane Drive. Patrolman Rahz was very close and quickly respond to the area. He knew that a house in the area was the home of several elderly residents. Heavy smoke was blanketing the area, and neighbors advised Rahz that residents were still inside. Rahz, without the benefit of any protective gear, entered the home, and quickly located a female resident. He led her outside to safety. She was unable to provide any information s top th location of any other residents. Rahz went back inside and located two more victims, one on a wheeled reclining chair. He pulled the victim in the chair and led them to safety. Rahz returned to the house a third time to make sure that all residents were outside. At this point, fire personnel were on scene, and began fire suppression. In the process, they were able to save several pets.

Video of the fire from a dashcam, showed he conditions in which Rahz was working and him leading residents to safety. The fact that he residents were elderly and confused, added to the necessity for immediate action provided by Rahz.

Jason Wuliger in presenting the award, stressed the fact that Rahz had no protective gear of any kind when he chose to enter the home. "Thanks to his heroism, and putting himself last, he was able to save man lives that day." The actions of Patrolman Rahz on that August day certainly justified him receiving the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award.

