



City of Chicago



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

January 13, 2011

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution concerning Ambulance Commander Sheila Gara and Fire Paramedic Christopher Hunter of the Chicago Fire Department, and their exemplary conduct during the events of October 23, 2010.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A large, handwritten signature of Richard M. Daley, with the word "Mayor" written vertically below the main signature.

A resolution

adopted by The City Council
of the City of Chicago, Illinois



Presented by MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY on JANUARY 13, 2011

Whereas, On the afternoon of October 23, 2010, Companies of the 2nd District and EMS Field Division North of the Chicago Fire Department responded to a report of an injury involving a knife on the 4600 block of North Wolcott Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Ambulance Commander Sheila Gara and Fire Paramedic Christopher Hunter of Ambulance 40 responded quickly to the call. As they approached the address, they encountered a gruesome scene - an elderly man, his clothes crimson with blood, was standing unsteadily on the sidewalk, clutching a large kitchen knife; and

WHEREAS, Ambulance Commander Gara immediately called the Office of Emergency Management and Communications to request Police help in dealing with this presumed offender; and

WHEREAS, Waiting for Police assistance, Commander Gara and Paramedic Hunter tried to assess the scene while maintaining a safe distance. However, the situation before them suddenly took a nightmarish, surreal turn as the man, crying out and speaking incoherently, began to stab himself deeply in the chest and stomach; and

WHEREAS, Blood began to fountain from the man as another stroke of the knife caused a slicing wound to his neck, laterally across the trachea; and

WHEREAS, Attempts to calm down and assist the man were futile, for he was highly agitated and incoherent, making threatening gestures towards the ambulance personnel with the sharp blade; and

WHEREAS, Suddenly, overcome by his grievous wounds, the man collapsed, and Commander Gara and Paramedic Hunter rushed forward and, with help from Engine 110, managed to take the knife from the man and place him onto a stretcher; and

WHEREAS, Even after the victim was on the stretcher, he continued to thrash violently and resist treatment. The first responders' task was made even more difficult by the fact that the man and stretcher were drenched with potentially infectious blood and that now, with every exhalation, the man was spraying a mist of blood into the air; and

WHEREAS, Despite these harrowing and dangerous conditions, Commander Gara and Paramedic Hunter did not flinch, but applied desperately needed measures to stanch the bleeding and stabilize the patient; and

WHEREAS, As the ambulance departed for Illinois Masonic Emergency Medical Center, Commander Gara and Paramedic Hunter continued their focused, determined efforts enroute, not ceasing until the man was transferred for care by hospital surgeons; and

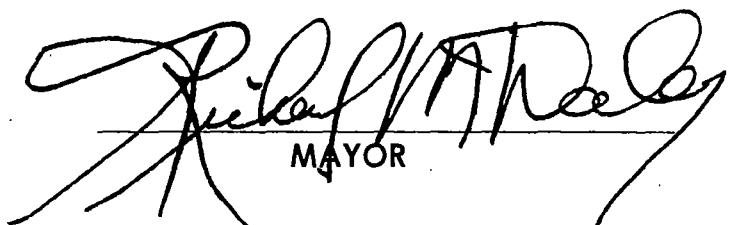
WHEREAS, The exceptional professionalism, poise and skills shown by Ambulance Commander Sheila Gara and Fire Paramedic Christopher Hunter were the key to keeping the wounded man alive and successfully resolving a very dangerous incident; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the devotion to duty of these members of the Fire Department, a deeply disturbed man was given a rare second chance at life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this thirteenth day of January, 2011, do hereby honor Ambulance Commander Sheila Gara and Fire Paramedic Christopher Hunter of the Chicago Fire Department's Ambulance 40 for their skilled medical rescue of a victim in desperate peril; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to these members of the Chicago Fire Department, and placed on permanent record in their personnel files, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.




MAYOR


CITY CLERK