



KRONENWETTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Community Focused, People First"

Established 2004

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PRESS RELEASE

PURPLE HEART AWARD TO OFFICER LOPES

On Monday October 27th, 2008 at 6:00 PM during the regular board meeting Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao will be awarded with the first ever Departments "Purple Heart Award". The award is being given for injuries received during an early morning incident in which Officer Lopes-Serrao responded to calls for assistance to the Rothschild Police Department.

On September 21, 2008 Officer Lopes-Serrao responded to The Bar in Rothschild to a report of a tavern altercation in which it was reported at least six (6) individuals were involved. Upon arrival Officer Lopes-Serrao observed at least one individual lying in the parking lot being attended to by staff and was directed to subjects attempting to flee the area.

Not knowing the seriousness of the injuries to the individual lying in the parking lot Officer Lopes-Serrao gave foot pursuit to the fleeing subjects giving them verbal orders to stop. By the time Officer Lopes-Serrao had closed the distance with the individuals they were getting into a vehicle. Officer Lopes-Serrao slapped the back of the vehicle and ordered the individuals to get out of the vehicle. The driver intentionally put the vehicle in reverse and backed up into Officer Lopes-Serrao pushing him off to the side.

Officer Lopes-Serrao then took a position to the front of the vehicle, drew his weapon and again ordered the driver to stop. Officer Lopes-Serrao at this point heard the vehicle accelerate, striking him and knocking him onto the hood of the vehicle. After a brief distance Officer Lopes-Serrao was thrown from the vehicle onto the ground and as a result suffered a laceration to his head as well as abrasions and bruising to other parts of his body. Officer Lopes-Serrao was subsequently transported to Aspirus Hospital to be treated for his injuries and was later released. He has since returned to full duty status.

In part the award will read; *"In recognition of injuries received as a result of your response to an incident in the Village of Rothschild involving a subject attempting to flee the scene of a crime during the early hours of September 21st, 2008. Although the injuries were not life threatening the fact that you put yourself in harm's way to stop a suspected criminal from fleeing the scene indicates your dedication to the safety and well being of the public you have chosen to serve. Your actions reflect great credit upon yourself, the Village of Kronenwetter, the Kronenwetter Police Department and the State of Wisconsin."*

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