



KRONENWETTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Community Focused, People First"

Established 2004

**CHIEF OF POLICE
DANIEL L. JOLING**

**POLICE LIEUTENANT
TERRY P. McHUGH**

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer: Officer Andrew Zortman

Date Awarded: 01/26/15

Type of Incident: EMS Assist

Submitted By: Lieutenant Terry McHugh

SYNOPSIS OF EVENT

On July 13, 2014 at approximately 7:00 pm, Officer Zortman was enroute back to the village after conveying an arrested person to jail when he heard Everest Metro officers and Schofield EMS being dispatched to a report of a woman choking on food. Officer Zortman happened to be in the area of the call, recognized the seriousness of the situation, and offered his assistance.

In less than two minutes, Officer Zortman was on scene and located the victim. Upon initial contact, Officer Zortman asked the victim if she could breathe and she responded by shaking her head "no." While remaining composed, Officer Zortman calmly instructed the victim on what he was going to do, thereby easing her fears. He then performed the Heimlich maneuver once; however, the object did not dislodge. On a second attempt, Officer Zortman dislodged the object and the victim could once again breathe.

Instances of choking involve a foreign object obstructing a person's airway, thus depriving them of necessary oxygen. This phenomenon is intensely frightening for choking victims, even when the obstruction is partial. For these reasons, time is truly of the essence in responding to these events. Police officers train for these situations and Officer Zortman's training clearly kicked in. His ability to maintain composure played a big role in the success of this incident and helped reassure the victim that everything was going to work out. Incidents like this reflect well on Officer Zortman, the Kronenwetter Police Department, and Law Enforcement as a whole.

Daniel L. Joling

Chief of Police