

Citizen Distinguished Public Service Award
Mr. Samuel A. Weese

At 2:38 a.m., on the morning of August 26, 2010, Lawrence Police Officer Shawn Gross observed a motorist driving erratically at 23rd Street and Ousdahl. Officer Gross was able to stop and investigate the driver in the parking lot of a convenience store near 23rd Street and Iowa. In the ensuing investigation, Officer Gross believed the driver had been driving the vehicle under the influence of alcohol which was supported by several field sobriety tests. As those tests concluded, the driver of the vehicle stated he was feeling ill and Officer Gross told the man he could lean against his car for support but was not to re-enter his car. After a few moments the man forced his way into his driver's seat and attempted to drive away. Officer Gross leaned through the driver's side window and tried to place the vehicle in park and turn off the engine while other officers on the scene also attempted to enter the vehicle. As the car was driven erratically through the parking lot with Officer Gross dragged along side, the other officers were having little success in slowing and stopping the vehicle.

While the episode was unfolding, a nearby citizen, Mr. Samuel Weese witnessed the event and as the official police report later noted, "Weese advised the vehicle began to accelerate and did not appear concerned with the Officer's safety. Weese advised he feared for the Officer's safety and pulled his vehicle in front of the suspect's vehicle in an attempt to block the vehicle from traveling further and harming the Officer. Weese advised the vehicle eventually stopped and the driver placed into custody."

With little regard for his own safety and any potential damage to his own vehicle, Samuel Weese's direct intervention and assistance in this incident while dangerous went above and beyond that which is normally expected of a citizen and was a major factor in the suspect's apprehension and arrest without further injuries or damage.

For his actions to assist the officers of the Lawrence Police Department and in recognition of outstanding public service, we present the Lawrence Police Department's Citizen Distinguished Public Service Award to Mr. Samuel A. Weese on this 3rd day of February, 2012.

Citizen Meritorious Public Service Award
Mr. Austin T. Rogers and Mr. Matthew D. Tuckel

On March 25, 2011, just shortly after 4:00 in the afternoon, Lawrence Police Officers were dispatched to the 2000 block of Heatherwood Drive for a report of a residential burglary in progress. One of the first officers on the scene, Officer Richard Nichols, quickly radioed that he was in a foot pursuit with a possible suspect. The pursuit only covered a relatively short distance before Officer Nichols was able to catch up to the suspect where the man began to fight and resist arrest. Two Lawrence citizens, Mr. Austin Rogers and Mr. Matthew Tuckel had observed the events as they unfolded and came to the aid of Officer Nichols. Both men helped to contain the combative suspect until he could be safely and effectively placed under arrest.

With little regard for their own safety, Austin Rogers and Matt Tuckel's direct intervention and assistance in this incident while dangerous went above and beyond that which is normally expected of citizens and was a major factor in the suspect's apprehension and arrest without further confrontation.

For their actions in assisting the officers of the Lawrence Police Department and in recognition of excellent public service, we present the Lawrence Police Department's Citizen Meritorious Public Service Awards to Mr. Austin T. Rogers and Mr. Matthew D. Tuckel on this 3rd day February, 2012.