

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 3

February 11, 2016

SUBJECT: THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESERVATION OF LIFE MEDAL – ESTABLISHED; AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT RIBBONS – REVISED; INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR BRAVERY – REVISED; AND, COMMENDATION REPORT, FORM 01.18.00 – REVISED

PURPOSE: This Order establishes the Los Angeles Police Department Preservation of Life Medal. The Chief of Police has approved this award to recognize officers who have distinguished themselves by using exceptional tactical skills and exercising sound judgment to preserve the life of another during a dangerous encounter.

PROCEDURE:

- I. THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESERVATION OF LIFE MEDAL – ESTABLISHED.** The Preservation of Life Medal may be awarded to an officer who has distinguished himself or herself by employing exceptional tactics and exercising sound judgment, beyond the normal demands of duty, to preserve the life of another during a volatile or dangerous encounter while protecting the safety and security of the public and his or her fellow officers.

The Preservation of Life Medal shall be awarded by the Chief of Police and presented at the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, lapel pin and citation.

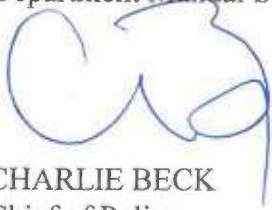
- II. AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT RIBBONS – REVISED; AND, INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR BRAVERY – REVISED.** Department Manual Sections, 3/637.20, *Authorized Department Ribbons*, and 3/756.05, *Individual Awards for Bravery*, have been revised to include the Preservation of Life Medal. Attached are the revised Manual sections with the revisions indicated in italics.

- III. COMMENDATION REPORT, FORM 01.18.00 – REVISED.** The Commendation Report is revised to add the Preservation of Life Medal. The use, completion and distribution for the form remain unchanged.

FORM AVAILABILITY: The Commendation Report is available in E-Forms on the Department's Local Area Network (LAN). A copy of the form is attached for immediate use and duplication.

AMENDMENTS: This Order amends Department Manual Sections 3/637.20 and 3/756.05.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Beck', is written over the text of the audit responsibility section.

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

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637.20 AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT RIBBONS. Department-issued ribbons authorized for wear with the Department uniform in descending order of precedence are:

- Medal of Valor;
- *Preservation of Life Medal*;
- Police Distinguished Service Medal;
- Police Commission Unit Citation;
- Police Medal;
- Purple Heart;
- Police Meritorious Service Medal;
- Police Meritorious Achievement Medal;
- Police Meritorious Unit Citation;
- Police Star;
- Lifesaving Medal;
- Police Commission Distinguished Service Medal;
- Police Commission Integrity Medal;
- Community Policing Medal;
- Human Relations Medal;
- Commendation Ribbon;
- Patrol Service Ribbon;
- Detective Service Ribbon;
- Urban Police Rifle Cadre Ribbon;
- Shotgun Slug Ammunition Cadre Ribbon; *and*,
- Reserve Officer Service Ribbon.

The precedence of ribbons without corresponding medals is listed below in order of seniority. They shall be worn/displayed after the Reserve Officer Service Ribbon in the descending order of precedence, as follows:

- 1984 Olympic Ribbon;
- 1987 Papal Visit Ribbon;
- 1992 Civil Unrest Ribbon;
- 1994 Earthquake Ribbon; *and*,
- 2000 Democratic National Convention Ribbon.

Note: Seniority of subsequent event-related ribbons shall be determined based on the date of the event which the ribbon represents. Weapons qualification ribbons denoting past or present membership in the Urban Police Rifle Cadre and/or the Shotgun Slug Ammunition Cadre shall be worn after the most current (i.e., most recent) event-related service ribbon.

The above listed ribbons are authorized for display on authorized Department uniforms for sworn, civilian, and volunteer members of the Department who engaged in Department activities related to the event denoted by the ribbon. Plainclothes personnel are authorized to wear the corresponding lapel pins on appropriate business attire.

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Officers and civilian personnel who have earned any Department medal or ribbon while assigned as a Reserve Police Officer, civilian employee, or as a Department volunteer are authorized to wear the appropriate ribbons on their Department uniform.

Note: Only Department approved ribbons as delineated in Manual Section 3/637.20 are authorized for wear with the Department uniform.



756.05 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR BRAVERY. The conferring of an award for bravery will be in recognition of a *single* action performed by a Department employee. Several commendatory incidents of bravery, each being worthy of an award, will not qualify the employee for a higher award.

Medal of Valor. The Medal of Valor is the Department's highest award and may be awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Valor, an employee must have performed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril. It is awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and is presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the *Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony*. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, lapel pin, and citation.

Preservation of Life Medal. *The Preservation of Life Medal may be awarded to an officer who has distinguished himself or herself by employing exceptional tactics and exercising sound judgment, beyond the normal demands of duty, to preserve the life of another during a volatile or dangerous encounter while protecting the safety and security of the public and his or her fellow officers. The Preservation of Life Medal shall be awarded by the Chief of Police and presented at the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, lapel pin, and citation.*

Police Medal. The Police Medal may be awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of duty, but to a lesser degree than required for the Medal of Valor. It is awarded by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department and presented by the Chief, or the Chief's designee, at an appropriate ceremony. The award consists of a medal, lapel pin, and ribbon.

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Los Angeles Police Department Purple Heart. The *LAPD* Purple Heart may be awarded to:

- Officers who sustain a traumatic physical injury as a result of a suspect's action(s) during an on-duty tactical situation; or,
- Officers who die in the line of duty as a direct result of a suspect's action(s). In cases involving an officer's line of duty death, not the direct result of a suspect's action(s), the Commendations Board may exercise discretion to award the medal.

Note: In special circumstances, the Chief of Police may award the *LAPD* Purple Heart to civilian employees.

The *LAPD* Purple Heart is awarded by the Commendations Board in the name of the Department and presented by the Chief of Police at *the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony*. The award consists of a medal, lapel pin, and ribbon.

The Commendations Board has the discretion to consider any request involving officers killed in the line of duty and officers who suffer traumatic physical injury in the line of duty. Specifically, officers, who through no fault of their own, sustain a traumatic physical injury during the performance of job related functions such as a violent encounter with the criminal element, a rescue operation, a hazardous materials exposure, a riot, a significant traffic collision or other life altering accident will be considered.

Requests to be considered for the *LAPD* Purple Heart will be critically scrutinized to ensure the spirit and intent of the award is given to truly deserving officers or their families. It is not the intent of the Department to confer the award to officers that are injured in non-tactical situations.

The *LAPD* Purple Heart will not be awarded if the injury occurred as a direct result of the officer's negligent or inappropriate actions.

Area/division commanding officers must follow procedures for submitting Commendation Reports, as outlined in Department Manual Section 3/756.

The *LAPD* Purple Heart can be awarded retroactively to the families of officers killed in the line of duty and to active and retired officers who meet the *LAPD* Purple Heart criteria. Office of Administrative Services (OAS) will be responsible for contacting the families of officers killed in the line of duty who meet the criteria to receive the *LAPD* Purple Heart. If a family desires to be considered for the *LAPD* Purple Heart, OAS will act on the family's behalf to contact the Area/division of occurrence to which the officer was last assigned. The Area/division of occurrence will obtain records of the incident from Medical Liaison Section (MLS) and submit a completed Commendation Report, via their chain of command, to the Commendations Board.

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Definitions and Guidelines for the LAPD Purple Heart.

- Traumatic physical injury is defined as a substantial bodily injury, permanent disfigurement or serious impairment of the physical condition;
- General guidelines for traumatic physical injuries that merit the LAPD Purple Heart are as follows:
 - Any serious and substantial physical injury which involved a substantial risk of death;
 - A serious physical injury requiring inpatient treatment and a protracted hospital stay;
 - The loss or protracted physical impairment of the function of any body part; or,
 - Serious physical disfigurement.

Note: The injury must have required treatment by a medical doctor for the injuries received in the line of duty and must have been a matter of an official record.

Commendation Reports submitted for officers who suffered traumatic physical injury in the line of duty should include an Authorization to Release Medical Information, Form 05.03.00, available from MLS, completed and signed by the officer, whenever possible.

Police Star. The Police Star may be awarded to:

- Employees who distinguish themselves by bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of duty, but to a lesser degree than required for the Police Medal.
- Employees who distinguish themselves by performing in stressful situations with exceptional tactics and/or judgment.

It is awarded by the Commendations Board in the name of the Department and presented by the Chief of Police at an appropriate ceremony. The award consists of a medal, lapel pin, and ribbon.

Lifesaving Medal. The Lifesaving Medal is awarded to recognize the actions of Department personnel that result in the saving or preservation of human life that otherwise would have been lost without the employee's direct involvement. An employee can receive only one lifesaving award per incident, regardless of how many victims were involved. The award consists of a medal, lapel pin, and ribbon.

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMENDATION REPORT**

DATE: _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/UNIT: (If unit, list individuals at beginning of narrative)	SERIAL NO.:	RANK:	DIVISION ASSIGNED:
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LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:	DIVISION OF OCCURRENCE:	DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE:
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ITEMS ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT:

ARREST REPORT
 SERGEANT'S LOG
 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
 WITNESSES STATEMENTS: (e.g., Fire or Paramedic Personnel)

CRIME REPORT
 SOCIAL MEDIA
 PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO
 OTHER: _____

DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITY, TYPE OF ACTION, OR OCCURRENCE: RELATE FACTS INDICATING DEGREE OF HAZARD INVOLVED AND QUALITIES DEMONSTRATED (COURAGE, INITIATIVE, ETC.). INCLUDE TACTICS USED BY THE INDIVIDUAL(S), IF APPROPRIATE. LIST WITNESSES INTERVIEWED.

NOTE: CONTACT THE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS UNIT FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETION OF THIS FORM, IF NEEDED, AT (213) 486-7090.

<input type="checkbox"/> RECOGNITION FOR FOUR MINOR COMMENDATIONS WITHIN 12 MONTHS	REPORTING SUPERVISOR: (NAME, RANK, SERIAL NO.)	CO, COMMENDED EMPLOYEE OR UNIT: (NAME, RANK, SERIAL NO.)
	REPORTING SUPERVISOR: (Signature)	CO, COMMENDED EMPLOYEE OR UNIT: (Signature)

(Check only one) BUREAU COMMENDATION FORWARD TO COMMENDATIONS BOARD

BUREAU CO: (Signature) _____

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMENDATIONS BOARD

<p><u>INDIVIDUAL (BRAVERY)</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Medal of Valor <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of Life Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Police Medal <input type="checkbox"/> LAPD Purple Heart <input type="checkbox"/> Police Star <input type="checkbox"/> Lifesaving Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Commendation	<p><u>INDIVIDUAL (SERVICE)</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Police Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Police Meritorious Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Police Meritorious Achievement Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Police Commission Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Police Commission Integrity Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Community Policing Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Human Relations Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Commendation	<p><u>UNIT</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Police Commission Unit Citation <input type="checkbox"/> Police Meritorious Unit Citation <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Commendation
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NOTE:

COMMENDATIONS BOARD CHAIR, PSTB: (Signature)	COMMENDATIONS BOARD REVIEWING OFFICER, OAS: (Signature)
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