

## **TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES**

## PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

6001 NORTH A1A \* INDIAN RIVER SHORES \* FLORIDA \* 32963 FIRE \* POLICE \* EMS

"SERVICE EXCELLENCE"
RICHARD ROSELL, DIRECTOR



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March 18, 2024

Beth Powell, Director Indian River County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation 1800 27<sup>th</sup> St. Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Mike Zito, Deputy County Administrator Indian River County 1800 27<sup>th</sup> St. Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Johnathan Billings, Beach Operations Supervisor Indian River County 1800 27<sup>th</sup> St. Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Dear Mrs. Powell, Mr. Zito, and Mr. Billingsley,

There are times when individuals go above and beyond what is expected and required of them. Such was the case at Tracking Station beach on March 12, 2024, when lifeguards Andrew Francoeur and Aaron Levy provided life saving treatment to an individual that suffered from cardiac arrest while visiting the beach.

These lifeguards quickly assessed the situation and sprang into action. They immediately began CPR and applied the automatic external defibrillator. They provided a shock and continued CPR until an Indian River Shores rescue unit arrived on scene. During the time our paramedics worked on the patient, both lifeguards continued assisting with CPR and carrying the patient up the beach to be transported to the emergency room. Prior to placing the patient on the stretcher, the patient regained pulses and began trying to breathe on his own. Emergency care was continued as the patient was transported to the hospital. Upon arrival at the emergency room, the patient continued to show signs of life and had a stable blood pressure.

On follow-up several days later, the patient was sitting up in bed, awake, talking and had just finished eating a meal! None of this would be possible without the work of those lifeguards on scene. Where others with less motivation would have faltered, these lifeguards were a testament to the professional determination that saved this gentleman's life. Any degree of success that was achieved that day is directly attributable to their actions.

Please accept our personal thanks for what these lifeguards did on this call. Their efforts were commendable, but above all, they were inspiring.

Sincerely,

Tad Stone

Chief and Director of Public Safety

Mark Shaw

Deputy Chief