



# CITY OF LODI

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: "Citizen Recognition"

MEETING DATE: April 19, 1995

PREPARED BY: Hank A. Howard, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommend to the Mayor and City Council to present a Certificate of Merit to Fernando Gomez, Lodi resident. Mr. Gomez works at his family's store El Lucero Productos Mexinanos.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On March 5, 1995, Mr. Fernando Gomez assisted the Lodi Fire Department in a multiple vehicle accident involving a Church School bus with 15 children at Cherokee Lane and Pine Street. Mr. Gomez made entry into the bus prior to Fire Department EMS arrival. Mr. Gomez assisted the non-English speaking children and pursued calm from the children. He also assisted in applying C-Spine precautionary measures to a girl victim. Once all the victims were removed, Mr. Gomez assisted the EMS, Police and church officials with translation and comfort to the non-injured children.

On March 10, 1995, at the same location Mr. Gomez again came to the aid of victims in a multiple vehicle accident. Again used good judgment and medical practices to protect injured victims with C-Spine immobilizations. Please recognize Mr. Fernando Gomez for his acts of unselfish help to the citizens and children of the City of Lodi.

FUNDING: None Required.

Hank A. Howard  
Fire Chief

HH/ks

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager

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**LODI FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MEMO**

TO: Chief Howard  
FROM: Jeff S. Larson  
DATE: March 24, 1995

**SUBJECT: CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

A matter has come to my attention that I felt need some recognition. During these times of Aid's hysteria, proliferous violence and self centeredness it has become all to infrequent when a person will cross the line to help a fellow human being in need. It is just this issue I want to address.

On March 5, 1995 (Incident # 9514889) I Jeff S. Larson responded as the driver/operator on Engine 2 to the report of a vehicle accident at the intersection of Cherokee and Pine streets. Upon the entering the emergency zone I visualized two vehicles bumper to bumper in the middle of the intersection and an approximately 40 passenger church bus which had smashed into a utility pole. We as a crew (Person, Larson, Miller, Mackey) split up to assess the scene. I entered the bus and Captain Person asked all walking wounded to exit the bus to a designated location. What was left was, a young girl who had been thrown forward a couple of rows, her mom, and a mom who was holding her nick in C-spine precautionary measures. I had no idea where he had gotten his training. He was holding her correctly. He advised me that the drivers of the other vehicles were OK and this was the only known injury to him. I thanked him for his help and took over patient care. When I looked for him, he had left the scene.

His acts of unrequited assistance were not finished yet. Not even a week later on March 10, 1995 at 08:57 he was on scene of another vehicle accident, again providing C-spine immobilization to a victim who was the passenger in the front seat and had been T-boned by another vehicle. The victims chief complaint was of back pain. Again C-spine immobilization was called for. This time however I did not let him egress so quickly. He works at his family store, El Lucero Productos Mexicanos, at the corner of Cherokee and Pine. This explains his quick arrival both times. But this man took the initiative to help complete strangers in need. He was not looking for accolades, He was just trying to help his comrades in need. The actions he displayed I feel are in need of recognition. For this reason I am making the following recomendations. I hereby submit a request for a letter of recognition or a citation of merit for Fernando Gomez for his acts of unselfish help to the citizens of the City of Lodi.

Respectfully



Jeff S. Larson  
Engineer Engine 2 "C" shift



# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

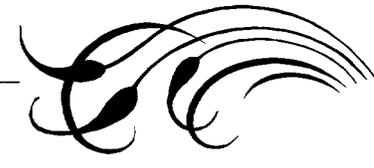


Awarded to

( **FERNANDO GOMEZ** )

For extraordinary work  
ASSISTING THE LODI FIRE DEPARTMENT AT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS  
ON MARCH 5, 1995 AND MARCH 10, 1995

Wednesday April 12, 1995



*Robert H. ...  
Lodi Fire Department*