



The City of  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
William Citty  
Chief of Police

August 17, 2015

**TO: Clinton Cody Powell, Sergeant**  
**Comm. # 1470**  
Operations Bureau / Hefner Division / Shift-1

**SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation**

On the evening of April 17, 2015, you responded to a fatality accident in the 12100 block of N. Portland Avenue near John Marshall High School (Inc. #15-031054) where a single car accident involved three male John Marshall High School student athletes. Dozens of students were in the school parking lot at the time of the accident and many of them witnessed it in some form. Many of the upset and highly agitated students responded to the scene on foot and in vehicles. Several Hefner Division officers responded to the scene to assist with upset and distraught students. Two of the three injured students were transported to a local hospital by EMSA. The third student, identified as Cleatis "CJ" Davis, was pronounced dead at the scene after other students removed him from the wreckage. Officers established a crime scene to prevent students and spectators from entering. CJ's mother, Lisa Roberts, arrived and was notified that her son was identified as the deceased accident victim. Mrs. Roberts became very distraught and refused help from everyone who tried to assist in calming her. Mrs. Roberts paced, yelled, and repeatedly attempted to enter the guarded accident scene.

You continued to monitor Mrs. Roberts and you approached her in an attempt to calm her down. You developed a rapport with her as you explained the accident investigation process and tried to help her understand the actions taken by police. You empathized with Mrs. Roberts as you expressed sorrow for her loss. Mrs. Roberts cried uncontrollably as the shock of the event set subsided. You reached out and hugged her as she broke down to express sorrow for the loss of her son. She expressed feelings of loneliness and discomfort with the crowds of people gathered at the accident scene. You allowed her to lean on you for support in her time of grief. You both spoke of your children as you continued to comfort Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. Roberts tried to call her daughter and other family members, but her hands shook so badly she could not place the call. You made the call to summon her daughter and other family members to the scene. You remained with Mrs. Roberts, despite the arrival of family, as the Medical Examiner removed her son's body from the scene. Afterwards, when Mrs. Roberts refused to leave the scene, you humbly remained with her at her requests, sitting in the middle of the street near the crime scene tape, as she said goodbye to her son at the location of his death. You spoke to her about God and faith until she was ready to depart with her family.

Your actions on this day truly transcended all barriers as you exposed your human spirit of caring for your fellow man. You are commended for your professional, proactive, and truly empathetic response during this tragic situation. The Roberts family and the Oklahoma City Police Department are grateful for your service.

Sincerely,

Tom Jester  
Deputy Chief of Police