Kyle Police Department

111 N. Front St. Kyle, TX 78640

Memorandum

Date: January 9, 2014
To: Texas Department of Public Safety
Darryl Jiral, Sergeant
From: T. Vrana; Sergeant
Re: Commendation for DPS Corporal Eli Badillo

On the morning of January 9, 2014 I was having a meeting with one of my officers, Mental Health Officer Genevieve Natal, at a local restaurant. While having breakfast and discussing departmental matters, I began having difficulty breathing due to an apparent airway obstruction. I quickly became somewhat asphyxiated and felt physically unsteady due to the lack of oxygen.

Officer Natal realized my troubled breathing and asked if I was “ok.” With a restricted breath I replied “no.” Officer Natal recognized the typical signs in a choking incident and moved in to assist me. During this time several uniformed Texas DPS Troopers were seated adjacent to us and evidently observed what was occurring. Among these officers was DPS Corporal Eli Badillo who immediately ran to and began performing the Heimlich maneuver on me. Within a few seconds I was able to breathe normally again.

What I initially believed to be a minor and typical case of pulmonary aspiration from food “going down the wrong pipe” was much more serious than I thought. The delay in realizing that I was in trouble only exacerbated my situation. If I had not have received the assistance as quick as I did, I am certain I would have lost consciousness shortly thereafter leading to full asphyxiation. I want to personally thank and commend Texas DPS Trooper Corporal Eli Badillo for his quick thinking and reaction to my situation.

With immeasurable appreciation,

Sgt. T. Vrana
Special Services Bureau
Kyle Police Department