

Date: March 19, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: N/A

Board Meeting Date: April 3, 2008

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Donald A. Smith, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Recognize Act of Heroism

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Policy Related Action: No

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

BACKGROUND:

Recognize Rayfield Halsell, Transit Division Supervisor at the Cerone Operating Division, for providing extraordinary service to the public.

DISCUSSION:

On Wednesday, April 18, 2007, Supervisor Halsell was driving home to Tracy over the windy Altamont Pass when he witnessed an out-of-control SUV. As he managed to struggle against the howling wind and maintain control of his own vehicle, another swerving SUV was much less fortunate. Supervisor Halsell watched as the vehicle swung into multiple lanes eventually overcorrecting. The SUV rolled violently three times landing upright on the side of the road. All other cars kept driving by without stopping or calling CHP. Supervisor Halsell stopped and found a woman with a 6-month-old child in the vehicle. Supervisor Halsell smashed the rear window to get the baby out first and secured the baby in his vehicle. He then returned to help the female driver. When CHP arrived on scene, the officer told Supervisor Halsell that they had not received any other calls on this incident and that the woman and child were very lucky he stopped to help. A few days later, the mother and child came to Cerone Division to personally thank Supervisor Halsell.

Supervisor Halsell's heroic and decisive action is deserving of this recognition. He took charge of a stressful situation, remained calm and assisted a mother and child who were in danger. We are proud of Supervisor Halsell and commend his selfless actions.

Prepared by: Cyndi Laptalo