


**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

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<b>DATE</b>	September 17, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Police Chief/AGM of Public Safety, Roberto Filice, will present Lifesaving Medals to Officer Erin Herlihy, Officer Grant Boysen, Officer Jacob Epstein, Sgt. Tom Starick and Sgt. Gary Castaneda, a Distinguished Service Medal to Officer Keith Gilkerson, and a Distinguished Service Medal and a Lifesaving Medal to Officer Jay Dowke
<b>DIVISION</b>	Public Safety
<b>FROM</b>	Joe Cotcher, Police Captain Roberto Filice, Assistant General Manager Public Safety/Chief of Police
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Join in the Special Presentation to present Lifesaving Medals to Police Officers Erin Herlihy, Grant Boysen, and Jacob Epstein, and Sergeants Tom Starick and Gary Castaneda, a Distinguished Service Medal to Officer Keith Gilkerson, and a Distinguished Service Medal and Lifesaving Medal to Officer Jay Dowke.

**BACKGROUND**

The Lifesaving Award may be awarded to persons who have acted in the furtherance of human life. It may be awarded based on the following criteria:

- (a) May be awarded to any person directly involved in the action.
- (b) The action shall be exceptional and in emergency and/or extraordinary conditions.
- (c) Use of tactical skills or verbal approaches to de-escalate a situation that has the potential for a deadly force outcome may be considered if the outcome results in sustaining human life.
- (d) An act of CPR or other approved lifesaving measure will only constitute recognition under the Lifesaving Award if, in fact, a life was saved.
- (e) The Lifesaving Award shall be silver with a red and white ribbon.

The Distinguished Service Medal is the Department's third highest award. It may be awarded to employees who distinguish themselves, either by performing a single act that is outstanding, or by performing a series of actions that are outstanding, often over a consistent period. The Distinguished Service Medal differs from the Medal of Merit in that:

- (a) Generally, there was no immediate threat to the employee's life or safety
- (b) In the case of outstanding service, it will be awarded for a somewhat lesser degree of achievement.
- (c) Whereas the Medal of Merit recipient shall have contributed greatly to the overall operation of the Department, the Distinguished Service Medal may have impacted a smaller portion of the Department's Operation.

- (d) The Distinguished Service Medal is a higher honor than a commendation. Generally, the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal will combine a particular outstanding action with a consistently high level of performance.
- (e) The Distinguished Service Medal shall be silver with a green ribbon.

## **ANALYSIS**

Lifesaving Medals will be presented to:

Officer Jacob Epstein – Administered lifesaving tourniquet to shooting victim at Skyline High School  
5/23/24

Officer Erin Herlihy – Drowning Rescue at Lake Del Valle, 6/9/24

Sergeant Tom Starick - Drowning Rescue at Lake Del Valle, 6/9/24

Officer Grant Boysen - Drowning Rescue at Lake Del Valle, 6/30/24

Sergeant Gary Castaneda - Drowning Rescue at Lake Del Valle, 6/30/24

Officer Jay Dowke - Drowning Rescue at Lake Del Valle, 7/7/24

Distinguished Service Medals will be presented to:

Officer Jay Dowke – Overall dedication and commitment to law enforcement throughout 35 years with EBRPD Public Safety Police Department.

Officer Keith Gilkerson – First responder to shooting incident at Skyline High School, he attended to victims and witnesses and assisted in the search for the suspects.