



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Council Session

Item C-1

Presentation of Fire Department Citizen's Citation to Hanna Moeller, Megan Schafer, Angie Puller, and Tiffany Landon

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: EMS Division Chief Russ Blackburn

Meeting: November 26, 2013

Subject: Citizen's Citation

Item #'s: C-1

Presenter(s): Fire Chief Cory Schmidt
EMS Division Chief Russ Blackburn
Paramedic Ryan Seaman

Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States, claiming nearly 300,000 lives each year. During a sudden cardiac arrest, heart function ceases – abruptly and without warning. When this occurs, the heart is no longer able to pump blood to the rest of the body, and in some 95 percent of victims, death occurs.

While Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a significant public health crisis, it is often misunderstood. SCA is not a heart attack. A heart attack occurs when a blood vessel becomes blocked and interrupts blood flow to the heart, causing heart muscle to die. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart stops beating. Most of these deaths occur with little or no warning, from a syndrome called sudden cardiac arrest. The most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest is a disturbance in the heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation.

Once a cardiac arrest occurs, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation is required within the first several minutes to restore electrical activity to the heart and revive the heart's pumping function. Availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is critical for rapid response to cardiac arrest.

Discussion

On September 11, 2013 a patron of the Xenon International Academy had completed her appointment and was heading home when she suffered cardiac arrest. Four people performed CPR on the patron until paramedics arrived. The patron was taken to the hospital and survived to be discharged from the hospital to recovery care. The patient

declined an invitation to attend these proceedings. The patient did agree that these ladies deserve the recognition for their actions on that day.

The four people were two other patrons of the Xenon school, Angie Puller and Tiffany Landon, and two students of the school, Hanna Moeller and Megan Schafer. The patient collapsed outside of Xenon in a pouring rain and the two patrons, Angie and Tiffany, went out to start CPR. The Administrator of Xenon was told about what was happening. She went out to the front of the school, and on the way asked if anyone knew CPR. Hanna and Megan were in the school's café and went out to help taking over CPR from the first providers. The administrator, Kristi King, helped hold a cape over the people doing CPR and another bystander loaned a CPR mask to the rescuers doing CPR.

Hanna was trained in Red Cross CPR when she worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool.

Megan was trained in CPR as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Saint Francis Medical Center.

Angie was trained by American Heart Association in CPR as a nurse. Angie is a nurse in Ord's hospital.

Tiffany Landon was trained in Red Cross CPR for another job, but kept up the training because she is a mother. Tiffany is a teacher at Platte Valley Children's Academy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Hanna Moeller, Megan Schafer, Angie Puller, and Tiffany Landon be presented with the Grand Island Fire Department's Citizen's Citation for their life saving efforts on September 11, 2013.