



CUMBERLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

290 TUTTLE ROAD
CUMBERLAND, MAINE 04021

CHARLES J. RUMSEY, IV
CHIEF OF POLICE

EMERGENCY
911

BUSINESS
(207) 829-6391

FAX
(207) 829-2211

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Tonight, Monday, July 24th, at 7PM in the Cumberland Town Council Chambers, Officer Matthew Merriman will receive the Cumberland Police Department's Meritorious Service Award. Officer Merriman's award stems from actions he took in the early hours of July 3rd to rescue a woman who had climbed over the I-95 overpass railing on Blackstrap Road and was contemplating suicide.

The incident, which unfolded over the course of approximately 5 minutes, was captured by Officer Merriman's Body Worn Camera. The video clearly shows the inherent danger of the situation and the swift, decisive, and effective action taken by Merriman to preserve the life of the subject.

Officer Merriman's actions come approximately three months after another member of CPD received the Meritorious Service Award. In April, Sergeant Scott Hendee was recognized for his actions to rescue a woman from a burning vehicle on Route 1 in Cumberland. That rescue was also captured on Body Worn Camera.

"I am immensely proud of Officer Merriman and Sergeant Hendee. Their selfless actions embody the best of who we are as members of the Cumberland Police Department and the law enforcement profession. They displayed our agency values of Dedication, Respect, Integrity, Vigilance, Excellence and Nobility," said Chief Rumsey. He added, "Matt and Scott are outstanding team members, and we are lucky to have them watching over our town, its residents, and visitors."

The letters issued to both officers detailing their respective actions, and accompanying Body Worn Camera footage, is available at: <https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/cumberland-police-department/news/officer-recognition>.

The Cumberland Police care about your wellness. Call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. Additionally, help is available if you or a loved one are experiencing a suicidal, mental health, or substance use crisis. Call or text 9-8-8 to be connected to a trained crisis counselor, 24/7.