



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



Chief Art de Werk

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Ceres, California - On 08-09-11, at 10:29 PM, a concerned citizen called 911 to report that a man had fallen into the canal, north of 3100 Whitmore. As Ceres Police Officers responded, the citizen reported the man had gone under Whitmore Road.

Ceres Officers arrived and located Robert Short, 60 years old of Ceres, just barely keeping his head above water, about a mile away where he had fallen due to the fast, southern-traveling current. He appeared to be exhausted and was dangerously close to Roeding Road, where he was about to be swept under the street.

Officer Bryan Ferreira, leaned into the canal and was able to reach Mr. Short with his baton. The officer dragged Mr. Short to the edge of the canal, where he was pulled out of the water. Mr. Short said he was not sure if he could have stayed above water much longer and thought he was going to drown.

Robert Short was transported to a local hospital, where he was medically evaluated. Officer Ferreira's quick-thinking and swift action saved Mr. Short's life, as swift waterways tend to drag debris such as shopping carts and other items under roadways, creating a potential snag that could have trapped Robert underwater.

This is Officer Ferreira's second rescue of a potential drowning victim from a Ceres canal. His first was on July 18, 2006, when Ceres Police dispatchers received a report of a male yelling for help in the canal. Officer Ferreira was on scene and managed to pull the victim out of the water within approximately four minutes of the initial call coming in.

Officer Bryan Ferreira was also recently recognized for his actions during another incident at the Concert in the Park – Public Safety Night on July 5th. He and his trainee, Reserve Officer Hector Pulido, received “Chief Awards” for their professionalism and compassion. Chief’s Awards are presented by Chief Art de Werk to the men and women of the Ceres Police Division for acts of valor, heroism, outstanding performance or lifesaving. Officers Ferreira and Pulido performed CPR on an elderly man who had suffered a massive heart attack and passed out at the wheel while driving. The victim’s wife, who was in the vehicle with him at the time of the incident, said that the officers are her heroes.

According to Police Chief Art de Werk, “Officer Ferreira is quick to assert that he is no hero, and that he was just doing as expected. But he saved a life in two instances by acting quickly, using excellent problem solving skills and foresight. He also keeps himself physically fit and strong such that he was able to propel the victim out of the water and onto the canal bank. There is no greater honor in life than to save the life of another person.”