



## Ceres Department of Public Safety

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



### Chief Art de Werk

2727 Third Street, Ceres, CA 95307

Office: (209) 538-5726 Fax: (209) 538-5707

<http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/Newsroom.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/CeresPoliceDepartment>

## NEWS RELEASE

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News Release Contact: Administrative Sergeant Jose Berber, PIO

Email: [jose.berber@ci.ceres.ca.us](mailto:jose.berber@ci.ceres.ca.us)

Phone: (209) 538-5719

### Chief Award Presentation to Ceres Police Officers Brittney England and Kiashira Ruiz for Lifesaving

Ceres, California – Two Ceres Police Officers were presented with “Chief Awards” by Chief Art de Werk at last night’s [Ceres City Council Meeting](#). Chief 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 in the case of Officers Brittney England and Kiashira Ruiz - lifesaving.

On April 11, 2012 at approximately 9:40 am, Ceres Police dispatchers received a call from a woman who gave her address and then became inaudible. She was having difficulty breathing so officers were sent to do a security check. Upon arrival, dispatchers still could hear an open line, moaning, and then the breathing sounds stopped. Officers England and Ruiz forced entry into the residence by breaking a window. The victim was found lying in a doorway, without a pulse, not breathing, and her skin appeared to be blue in color. The officers initiated CPR, with Officer Ruiz doing chest compressions while Officer England performed respirations in an effort to resuscitate the victim until patient care was turned over to Ceres Fire and AMR personnel. They were able to obtain a normal heart rhythm and the patient was transported to the hospital. There, she had a pacemaker implanted in her chest to prevent future incidents and was released home to recover.

According to Battalion Chief Randy Wheeler, the paramedic was very complimentary towards Ceres’ personnel. He said the likelihood of the patient walking out of the hospital was very good due to their quick actions. Chief Wheeler also said the Fire Captain on scene was impressed by Officers England and Ruiz’s response to this critical situation. Sergeant Dedra Borges was the supervisor on duty that day and wrote commendations for both officers that read, “For the past 33 years, I have been involved in the medical/police field and this is the first case that I have seen in which CPR was performed and the patient returned home. Your training kicked in and without hesitation, this woman was saved from death and is now home and on the mend. This truly exemplifies the mission of the Ceres Police Department and I would like to commend you for those efforts.”

Both Officers Brittney England and Kiashira Ruiz began their careers in law enforcement as Police Explorers – Officer England for Ceres Police Department and Officer Ruiz for Gustine Police Department and graduated from the same police academy class on January 6, 2010. Officer England was sworn in as an unpaid Level I Reserve Police Officer on August 24, 2010, filled patrol shifts after clearing the field training program, and was hired as a full-time officer on July 10, 2011. Officer Ruiz began as an unpaid Level I Reserve Police Officer on October 11, 2010 and was recently selected for a full-time Police Officer position, which begins May 20<sup>th</sup>. Both officers are Reserve Police Officer of the Year award recipients, Officer England for 2010 and Officer Ruiz for 2011.

In addition to being presented with the Chief's Award coin and pin to affix to their uniforms, the officers were personally thanked by the woman and members of her family at the meeting. Her granddaughter gave the officers cards with the following words written in red crayon, "Thank you for saving my grandma," with a heart drawn at the bottom.

Chief de Werk said, "There is no higher call to duty, nor is there any act more rewarding than that of saving another person's life."