

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 20, 2018

1.12

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MEDAL OF VALOR

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners award the Medal of Valor for bravery to:

Officer Paul Razo, Serial No. 35278

DISCUSSION

It is recommended that the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners award the Medal of Valor to Officer Paul Razo for his heroic actions on July 19, 2016.

On July 19, 2016, Police Officer II Paul Razo was off duty driving near Grand Avenue and Juanita Avenue in the City of Glendora. His brother, Nathan Valle, was with him when they observed a white Toyota Corolla collide with a large tree that was in the center divider of Grand Avenue. The collision was so significant, that it drew Officer Razo's concerns for the occupants involved in the accident. Officer Razo stopped to check on the occupants and noticed light smoke emitting from the engine compartment. Officer Razo ran up to the driver side door to pull on the handle, but the door would not open. Officer Razo then went to the passenger side door and noticed a person seated in the passenger seat.

Officer Razo used his hands to forcefully pull the glass window away from its frame causing it to shatter. Once the window was broken, he reached in and moved the airbags aside to check on the condition of the occupants. While doing so, he observed the driver slumped over and lifeless behind the steering wheel. Sadly, she was killed upon impact. However, the passenger, Eric Elliot Genera, was still alive and helplessly screaming that he was trapped inside the vehicle. At this time, the vehicle became engulfed in flames. Despite intense smoke inhalation and heat, Officer Razo began pulling on the passenger side door handle without success. Officer Razo leaned inside the burning car and unbuckled the passenger's seatbelt. Officer Razo attempted to pull Genera out of the car through the window opening. The intensity of the fire made it extremely difficult for Officer Razo to maintain his position. Determined to remove the passenger from the burning wreck, Officer Razo had to break away several times to catch his breath from the heavy smoke and intense heat. Without regard for his own life and safety, he

would return several times to the burning vehicle to continue his attempts to extract the passenger. Noticing the passenger's legs were now on fire, Officer Razo then utilized his brother's assistance to pull Genera out of the vehicle. Officer Razo quickly dragged Genera away from the burning wreck. Los Angeles County Fire Company Engine 153 responded and extinguished the fire and provided medical treatment to Genera for his burns. Officer Razo was also treated for smoke inhalation and minor cuts to his arms and hands.

According to Glendora Police Department's Corporal William Lee, had it not been for Officer Razo's actions that day, Genera would have perished in the fire. Officer Razo never identified himself to the officers or to the firefighters at scene as an off-duty officer. This is a true testament to Officer Razo's humble character; he selflessly acted as a concerned citizen for the life of another and did not act in recognition for his action. His actions prevailed, heroically saving the life of the passenger.

The courageous actions of Officer Paul Razo reflect the highest standards of the Los Angeles Police Department. His bravery, decisiveness and selfless actions are worthy of the Department's highest award for valor.

Should you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Jon F. Peters, Commanding Officer, Personnel and Training Bureau, at (213) 486-7090.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MICHEL R. MOORE". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police