



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Chief of Police

DATE: November 8, 2019

RE: Proclamation – Mayoral Certification of Recognition – Christopher Smith

BACKGROUND:

There are times when private citizens provide assistance to police during the course of performing their duties. These acts of bravery never go unnoticed and are immeasurably appreciated.

On the afternoon of Thursday, October 24, 2019, Elizabeth City Police Officer Andre J. DiMichele was attempting to take a suspect into custody on a warrant, at which time the suspect eluded arrest and fled into a nearby field. Officer DiMichele gave pursuit and the suspect became combative with the officer while the two were alone in the field. A private citizen, who lived in close proximity of where the event was occurring witnessed Officer DiMichele with the combative suspect. Without reservation, he provided assistance to Officer DiMichele by running to the field to offer assistance. This individual had no obligation, whatsoever, to place himself in a situation that was undoubtedly aggressive and potentially harmful. However, seeing that Officer DiMichele was in a concerning situation, this citizen went quickly to be near his side and ensure the officer was safe. The situation was soon afterwards brought under control, and the suspect was taken into custody.

The private citizen who helped Officer DiMichele is Mr. Christopher Smith. In recognition of Mr. Smith's heroic act, the Police Department has requested that he be awarded a Mayoral Certificate of Recognition during the November 12, 2019 City Council meeting. Please note that Mr. Smith will not be present to receive the award in person; staff will ensure that he receives it in a private setting, per his request.