



City of Cambridge

R-70.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 30, 2001

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: On June 28, 2001 Cambridge firefighters conducted a daring rescue of a sixteen year old girl who had fallen 40 to 50 feet to the cement basin of a tower on the Longfellow Bridge; and

WHEREAS: Firefighters Kenneth W. Souza and Thomas F. Cahill rappelled approximately 50 feet within the zero visibility bridge pier structure to provide emergency medical care and to rescue the young victim; and

WHEREAS: Fire Lieutenant Thomas G. Cauchon took charge of the rescue operations sector and professionally directed the technical rescue operation while simultaneously ensuring the safety of the victim as well as the rescuers; and

WHEREAS: The Incident Commander, acting Deputy Fire Chief Pasquale J. DeMaio supervised and coordinated the well-run rescue operation; and

WHEREAS: As a technical rescue, this operation utilized complicated set-up and hauling systems, and its success depended upon the professional support work and teamwork provided by all of the following firefighters:

Engine 2

Fire Lieutenant Brian O'Regan
Firefighter Edwin Cruz
Firefighter Patrick Headley

Truck 3

Acting Fire Lieutenant Christopher G. Towski
Firefighter John W. Hathaway
Firefighter Brian D. Albert

Rescue Company

Firefighter Steven J. Kelley
Firefighter Sean W. White
Firefighter Christopher J. Melendy

Truck 4

Fire Lieutenant Edward F. Dahl
Firefighter Michael Clinton
Firefighter Bryan J. Trelegan

Engine 1

Fire Captain James Ferreira
Firefighter Kenneth J. Albert
Firefighter Simon S. Camelo

Division 1

Firefighter Daniel J. Maloney

Staff

Deputy Fire Chief Michael J. Morrissey - Fire Investigation Unit
Fire Captain Stephen G. Persson - Training
Fire Captain Gerard E. Mahoney - Fire Prevention

Fire Alarm Operators

Ronald Richard
Thomas Landers

Auxiliary Firefighter Brian Herman

now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record expressing its commendation and appreciation to all of the courageous and professional firefighters who saved the life of a Cambridge teenager; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Fire Department on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council July 30, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- 

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

①

P. 10.

W/A On June 28, 2001 Cambridge firefighters conducted a daring rescue of a sixteen year old girl who had fallen 40 to 50 feet to the cement basin of a tower on the Longfellow Bridge; and
zero visibility

W/A Firefighters Kenneth W. Souza and Thomas F. Cahill rappelled approximately 50 feet within the bridge pier structure, ~~and~~ to provide emergency medical care and to rescue the young victim; and

~~W/A~~

W/A Fire Lieutenant Thomas G. Caution took charge of the rescue operations section and professionally directed the technical rescue operation while simultaneously ensuring the safety of the victim as well as the rescuers; and

W/A The Incident Commander, Acting Deputy Fire Chief Pasquale J. De Maio supervised and coordinated the well-run rescue operation; and

~~W/A~~ As a technical ~~fire~~ rescue, this ~~operation~~ utilized

2

w/a As a technical rescue, this operation utilized complicated ~~and~~ set-up and hauling systems, and its success ^{depended upon} ~~came from~~ the ^{professional} support work and teamwork provided by all of the following fire ~~personnel~~ fighters:

Engine 2

Fire Lieutenant Brian O'Regan
Firefighter Edwin Cruz
Firefighter Patrick Headley

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Fire Alarm Operators

Ronald Richard
Thomas Landers

A auxiliary Firefighter Brian Herman

③

now therefore be it

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its commendation and appreciation to
all of the courageous and professional
firefighters who saved the life of
a Cambridge teenager; and be it further

R SEC

2001 JUN 29 A 10:37

JOHN J. HARRIS, CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Councillor Toomey

Commend Firefighters on the
rescue of Jarvis
Story in
(Herald on page 5)

R: That the City Council go on record
commending the Cambridge ~~for~~ firefighters
for their dramatic rescue of a
sixteen year old girl who had
fallen 40 to 50 feet to the cement
basin of a tower on the Longfellow
Bridge on June 28, 2001; and be it
further

R: SEC to Fire Chief Gerald
Reardon yr presentation to ~~the~~ our
courageous and competent ~~public~~
~~servants~~ firefighters, MR

Girl rescued after fall into Longfellow Bridge tower

By LAUREL J. SWEET

In a dramatic struggle late last night, Cambridge firefighters rescued a 16-year-old girl who had fallen 40 to 50 feet to the cement basin of one of two towers on the Longfellow Bridge.

Six firefighters standing in a tight line stretching into the roadway pulled the bloodied girl up in a basket just before midnight to the steady chant of "Haul, stop, easy!" Firefighters had rappelled down

the inside of the tower to reach the girl who they said was conscious and able to communicate with them.

Because of the cramped space inside the tower, Lt. Tom Cauchon of the Fire Department's rescue unit said, only two firefighters could be lowered into the hole.

"The guys on the bottom said it was full of debris — 30 to 40 years of ladders, tires and rubbish," he said. "There was an old set of stairs there, but they had rotted away

years ago. We didn't have a lot of places to set up our rope anchors."

The incident occurred about 11 p.m. on the Boston-bound side of the bridge spanning the Charles River.

"She is a fortunate young lady to be alive after the fall she had," said Cambridge acting Deputy Fire Chief Pat Demaio. "There are no stairs in there. It's all rotted away. She went straight down."

"There are pipes on the bottom. She could have impaled herself. As

it is, I don't even think she broke a bone."

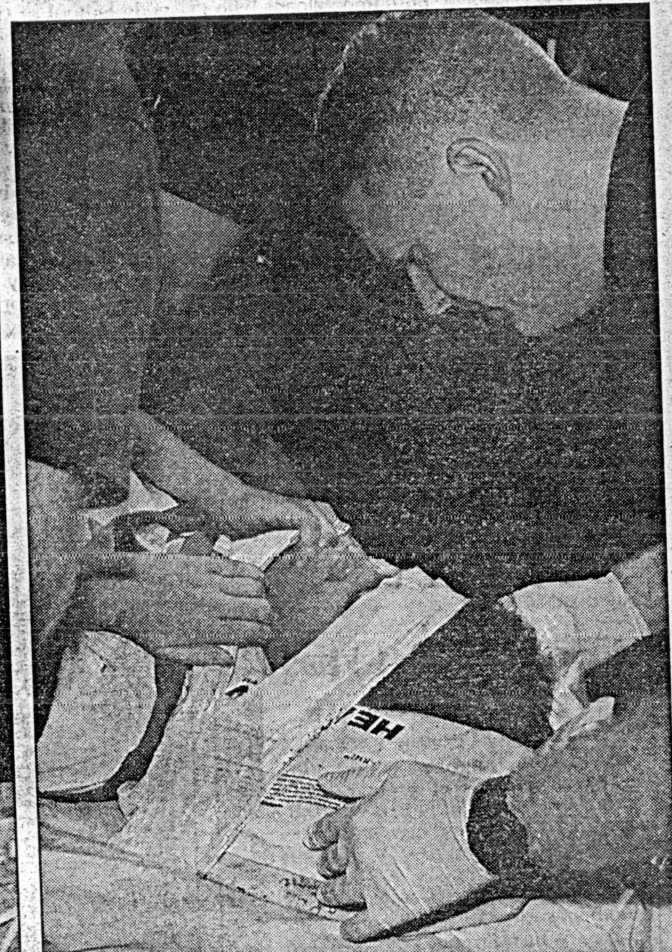
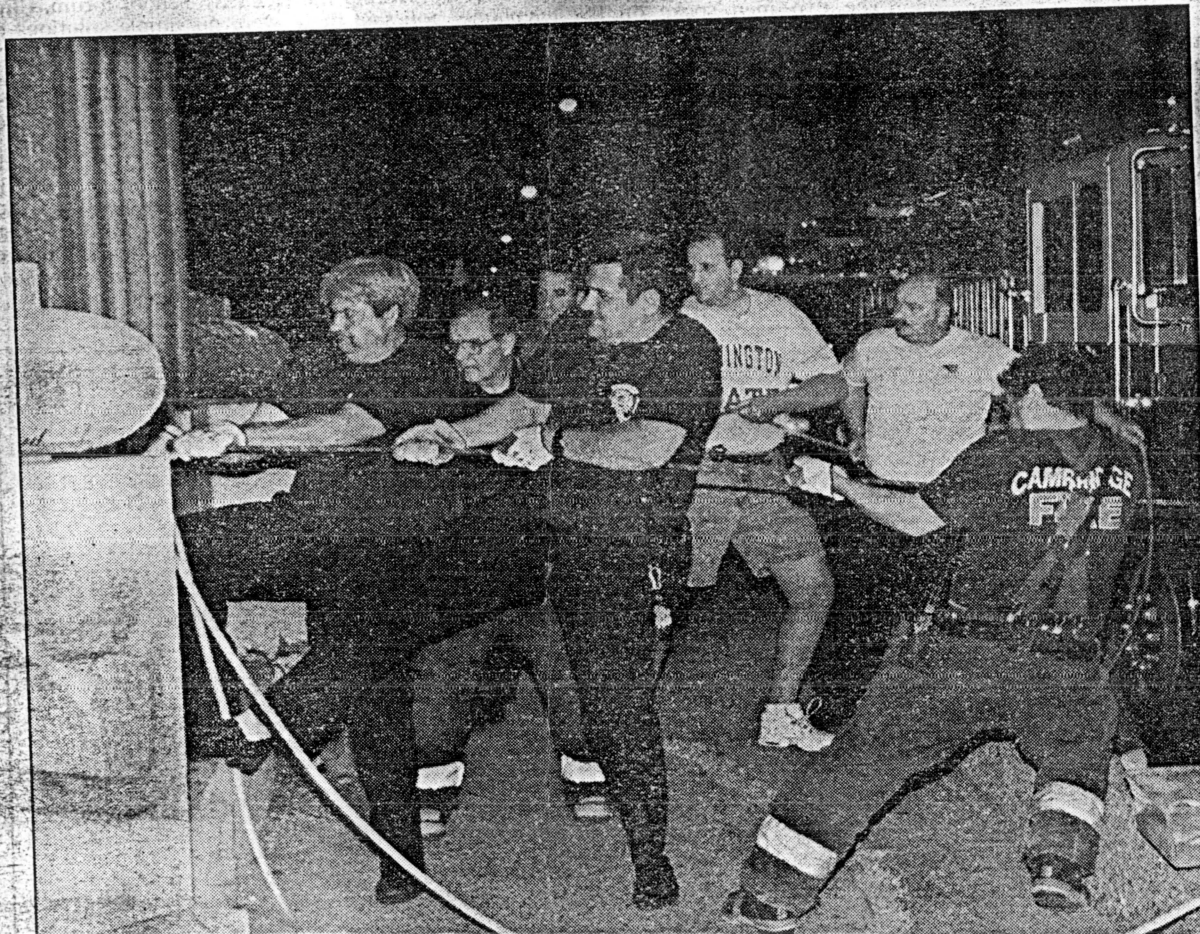
The exact nature of the girl's injuries was unknown, but Demaio said she appeared to be "in shock." She was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Demaio said the girl and companions had gained access to the tower through a doorway facing the Boston skyline, which Metropolitan District Commission officers said apparently had been vandalized and broken off.

Once inside the pitch-black tower, the girl apparently plunged off the lip of its incomplete semi-circular floor, officials said.

The girl had been accompanied by two young women, one of whom was her sister, and a young man, Demaio said.

A woman on the bridge who said she was the girl's sister declined comment. When Demaio was asked what the group could have been doing inside the tower, he replied, "Weren't you ever 16?"



Rescue Company**Firefighter Steven J. Kelley****Firefighter Sean W. White****Firefighter Christopher J. Melendy**Truck 4**Fire Lieutenant Edward F. Dahl****Firefighter Michael Clinton****Firefighter Bryan J. Trelegan**Engine 1**Fire Captain James Ferreira****Firefighter Kenneth J. Albert****Firefighter Simon S. Camelo**Division 1**Firefighter Daniel J. Maloney**Staff**Deputy Fire Chief Michael J. Morrissey – Fire Investigation Unit****Fire Captain Stephen G. Persson – Training****Fire Captain Gerard E. Mahoney – Fire Prevention**

Fire Alarm Operators **Ronald Richard** and **Thomas Landers**, Auxiliary Firefighter **Brian Herman**, and Professional Ambulance Paramedics **Wayne Stathopolous** and **Paul Liolios** are also recognized for their assistance at this incident.

Lastly, the Incident Commander, **Pasquale J. DeMaio** is congratulated for supervising and coordinating this well-run rescue operation.

Please see that all members are present for a reading of this order.

Per order

Chief of Operations

Read & Initial

Gr. 1 _____
Gr. 2 _____
Gr. 3 _____
Gr. 4 _____

FIRE HEADQUARTERS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

July 5, 2001

GENERAL ORDER NO. 24, Series of 2001

TO: The Commanding Officer

RE: **Commendation/Unit Citation**

On the recommendation of Acting Deputy Fire Chief Pasquale J. DeMaio of Division 1, **Fire Lieutenant Thomas G. Cauchon, Firefighter Kenneth W. Souza, and Firefighter Thomas F. Cahill** of the Rescue Company are hereby commended for their actions at the Still Alarm, 2241 hours, 28 June 2001. This Still Alarm was for the confined-space rescue of a 16-year-old girl who had fallen and become trapped within the confined and zero-visibility space of a bridge pier supporting the Longfellow Bridge over the Charles River.

Firefighters Souza and Cahill rappelled approximately 50 feet within the bridge pier structure to provide emergency medical care, package, and rescue the young victim. Relying on their training, background, and experience, Firefighters Souza and Cahill performed this rescue in a hostile environment without regard for their own safety. Fire Lieutenant Cauchon took charge of the rescue operations sector and professionally directed this technical rescue operation, while simultaneously ensuring the safety of the victim as well as the rescuers.

The actions of Fire Lieutenant Thomas G. Cauchon, Firefighter Kenneth W. Souza, and Firefighter Thomas F. Cahill are in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department and are a credit to this department.

Additionally, the members of all companies operating at the above incident are hereby recognized in a Unit Citation. At a technical rescue such as this, utilizing complicated set-up and hauling systems, a large support group assisted and ensured a successful outcome. Historically, the fire service has operated within a teamwork concept in both routine and emergency actions. The following members operated professionally as a team at the above incident and are recognized for their actions:

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Firefighter Edwin Cruz
Firefighter Patrick Headley

Truck 3

Acting Fire Lieutenant Christopher G. Towski
Firefighter John W. Hathaway
Firefighter Brian D. Albert

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Firefighter Bryan J. Trelegan

1050 R

Resolution #70

Commendation and appreciation to
all of the firefighters who rescued a
sixteen year old girl who fell from
the tower on the Longfellow
Bridge.

Councillor Toomey

In City Council July 30, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED