



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** September 26, 2012

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Beach Lifeguards Heroic Act

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission recognize Beach Lifeguards Kevin Massanari, David Schmidt, and the Supervisory team for their heroic actions during the 2012 Santa Barbara County Triathlon.

**DISCUSSION:**

On the morning of August 25, 2012, during the swim component of the Santa Barbara County long-course triathlon, a swimmer participating in the event began displaying behavior consistent with a serious medical episode. Beach Lifeguard Kevin Massanari quickly paddled over to the individual and recognized that he was having a significant medical event. While the swim participant wanted to continue, Kevin professionally explained that he was being pulled from the water and taken directly to the beach. Guard Schmidt who was in the immediate area could tell that this situation would require advanced medical support when the victim arrived on the beach and did not hesitate to paddle to the beach and summon the EMT certified Beach Lifeguard Supervisory team. This team responded with oxygen and performed a full medical assessment before determining that a full response from the Santa Barbara Fire Department and American Medical Response was required.

On August 28, 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department Aquatic Section was notified by the victim that had he been allowed to continue he most likely would not be alive today. He explained that he had suffered a mild heart attack and was experiencing pulmonary edema when guard Massanari paddled over to check on him.

The Parks and Recreation Department Beach Lifeguard Service emphasizes the importance of prevention and the role it plays in eliminating situations where individuals recreating on city beaches find themselves in harms way. However, there are times when staff must react to the situation that they are presented, and in this situation the heroic acts demonstrated by Beach Lifeguards Kevin Massanari and David Schmidt combined with the supervisory team prevented a real life tragedy.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rich Hanna, Senior Recreation Supervisor

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**APPROVED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director