

ECO Wadiya Pearson

Emergency Communications Officer (ECO) Wadiya Pearson has been a dedicated employee of the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) since October 31, 2016. ECO Pearson has proven to be a valuable asset to B Platoon and the entire department. Her unshakable focus and proactive approach to her daily duties ensure that she is ready for whatever the job entails on any particular day.

During November, ECO Pearson had several opportunities to display her preparedness, and as usual, she surpassed all expectations. As a Radio Operator, working channel four (4) she adeptly handled the subject pursuit of a shoplifting suspect (CAD 202211220320) with a taser deployment and one apprehension. She also managed a neighbor dispute turned deadly (CAD 202211210404). She dispatched officers as a result of a call from one of the involved parties, actively arguing while on the phone. Less than ten minutes later calls started to come in from uninvolved parties that a female had been shot in the head and was dead in the street. ECO Pearson advised the units of the calls possibly being related and handled the incident per protocol. ECO Pearson's skills on fire radio were just as proficient as what was displayed while working the police radio. While working Fire Console 1, she assisted in handling an apartment fire (CAD F02211130073), a water rescue with a male pinned down in the water by his boat (CAD F02211130049), and a crash on I-95 with a vehicle fire (CAD F02211070094). Her most intense work though, came while working fire radio console 2 and the TAC channels. ECO Pearson meticulously managed a house fire (CAD F02211170115) and a crash involving an overturned vehicle with three (3) people trapped which was no small feat, but there would be a greater challenge that highlighted her skills in November. Though it is never a good thing when a citizen does not survive an incident, the efforts that go into the response and attempted rescue really speak volumes as to the dedication of those involved. On November 2nd calls were received reporting a truck driving on Interstate 95 (I-95) while on fire (CAD F02211020042). Only moments after that, calls were received reporting that there had been an explosion. It was confirmed that a



tanker truck had indeed exploded on I-95 under the Boulevard Bridge overpass and ECO Pearson found herself at the helm for the coordinated effort. She did a great job in managing all resources including Richmond fire, the Hazmat Team, Richmond Police, Virginia State Police and DPW with Roadway Maintenance for inspection of the Boulevard Bridge. The mass transportation collision incident lasted close to 3 hours and ECO Pearson did the Department proud. It is hard to imagine that anything could be added after such a busy month, but in the midst of all of this ECO Pearson notified POM Roane of a program that we did not have any information about, which she realized through a call received making reference to it. Project Lifesaver is a premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

The Sheriff Department has units assigned to this program. There are several locations within in the city with premise notes added to their location if someone who resides at the location is registered with the program. Due to ECO Pearson being proactive and taking the time to bring this to the attention of Program and Operations Manager (POM) Roane, phone numbers have been added to the Contact Management Database for Sheriff Units assigned to the program if needed. POM Roane notes on her correspondence, "Thank you to ECO Pearson for bringing this to our attention reference availability of phone numbers and information".