



BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MERIT AWARD

OFFICER RYAN GOULD

On April 21, 2103 during the early morning hours, Officer Ryan Gould responded to assist the fire department at Sage Pond Place for a report of smoke coming from a residence. Upon Officer Gould's arrival he found a thick layer of smoke in the first floor hallway. Officer Gould proceeded to the unit where he saw smoke coming from the top of the doorway. Finding the door locked Officer Gould pounded on the door and called out to the occupant. Officer Gould could hear an unintelligible female voice from inside the unit, but was unable to decipher what she was saying. After recognizing that she was unable to open the door he found the door cold to his touch and forced entry by kicking the apartment door open. Officer Gould immediately observed the apartment was filled with thick white smoke and called out to the resident to determine her location. The handicapped woman called out from the kitchen area where she had fallen and was unable to get up. Officer Gould advanced through the smoke into the kitchen where he located the woman and dragged her out of the apartment into the hallway. Utilizing the woman's wheelchair he evacuated the woman to the parking lot where she was attended to by EMS for smoke inhalation. Officer Gould's courageous and immediate actions facilitated the woman's removal from the apartment where she was in harm's way and potentially the victim of smoke inhalation.

In recognition of Officer Ryan Gould's actions, which helped protect and save the life of the disabled resident, and for his courage and professionalism under a very difficult situation Officer Gould is awarded the **Merit Award**.

Chief Paul Fitzgerald

May 7, 2014