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PRESS RELEASE
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SGT. MAGANA TO RECEIVE LIFE SAVING AWARD

At the September 6, 2022, City of Marysville City Council meeting, Sgt. Nelson Magana will be recognized and presented with a life-saving award for his selfless actions while off duty.

On June 27, 2022, Sgt. Nelson Magana was off duty enjoying a day at the river with friends. Sgt. Magana heard a cry for help. Sgt. Magana looked into the water and saw where the cries for help were coming from, but no one in close proximity jumped in to help.

The victim wrote a letter with her account of the events. She was swimming in the South Yuba river with a young friend of hers. The woman saw her friend's face turn from happy to panic as she attempted to hold onto a large boulder. The channel was deep, but she found a rock to stand on and called to her friend. She was able to get her friend to the rock, but there was only room for one person. The woman told her friend to stay there while she swam away, but her friend was terrified and held onto her. Her friend got her arm around her neck, and there was nothing she could do to get her off and separate them. This caused the woman to be pulled underwater several times. She called for help several times, knowing she could not get them the short distance to shore. There were no responses from people who were very close to them. The woman went underwater again, and when she came back up, she called for help again.

Sgt. Magana jumped into the water and was able to separate the two. Sgt. Magana was able to assist the woman by propelling her toward the shore. Sgt. Magana was also being pushed underwater by the frantic friend. Sgt. Magana was able to hold the friend out of the water and walk her to a shallower portion of the river and to safety. It was described that Sgt. Magana was holding his breath, walking entirely underwater, while holding the woman's friend out of the water and to safety.

Sgt. Magana was at the right place at the right time and dove into action when others did not. Sgt. Magana saved two lives that day, and the women are thankful with all the gratitude their hearts can carry.

Sgt. Magana went above and beyond while off duty without hesitation. Sgt. Magana truly deserves this recognition, and we are proud to honor him with this life-saving award.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Chief Christian Sachs by email at csachs@marysvillepd.org.