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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 27, 2012

# NEWS RELEASE

## Police Respond to Unconscious Man

**Durango, CO:** On August 24, 2012 at about 7 pm, officers from the Durango Police Department responded to CJ's Diner on report of an elderly male who had collapsed and was not breathing.

Sergeant Robert Taylor and Sergeant Dave Longenette arrived within one minute of the dispatched radio call. Sergeant Taylor went inside while Sergeant Longenette retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator, "AED" unit from his car. A woman patron had already assessed the male and determined he did not have a pulse. She started CPR on the male who was identified as 88 year-old Alfred Severyn from Cleveland, Ohio. Sergeant Taylor and Sergeant Longenette deployed the AED which delivered an electrical shock to Mr. Severyn. At this time Paramedics from Durango Fire and Rescue Authority arrived on scene and took over care of Mr. Severyn. He was resuscitated and transported to Mercy Regional Medical Center where further care is being given.

All officers from the Durango Police Department undergo yearly training in CPR and First Aid. This includes training on how to deploy the AED. All patrol vehicles at the police department are outfitted with AED's and there are several inside the police department buildings. The Durango Police Department has partnered with Heart Safe La Plata to make all of this possible.

Police Chief Jim Spratlen said, "We are very proud of our officers and citizens and how they reacted in this situation. We don't often have opportunities to save lives, but when we do we must be prepared to act. This system of care gives us the proper tools to do just that. I hope for Mr. Severyn and his family, that he has a full and speedy recovery." ###