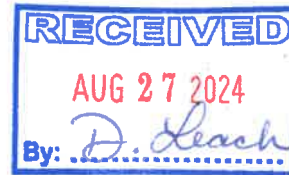


MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



Michael W.T. Gruits
Chief of Police

Margaret M. Doud
Mayor



Mayor Doud and members of the City Council,

On Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, at approximately 1920 hours, Mackinac Island Police Officers were dispatched to assist Mackinac Island EMS with an injured, unconscious elderly male who had fallen and struck his head. It was immediately clear that this was a serious situation and the patient required immediate, advanced medical attention.

Once Mackinac Island EMS personnel were in a position to transport the male, the Shepler's ferry to St. Ignace had just departed the dock, meaning that the next available ferry for St. Ignace was scheduled to leave in 30 minutes.

An officer with the Mackinac Island Police Department noticed that a Shepler's ferry for Mackinaw City had remained at the dock. That officer made contact with the captain of that vessel and advised him of the severity of the situation. According to this officer, the captain did not hesitate to hold the ferry and reroute his course, stating that he would transport the patient to St. Ignace before resuming service between Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City. This compassionate act undoubtedly saved precious minutes and was instrumental in getting the male advanced medical attention as quickly as possible.

This incident served as a needed reminder of the exceptional service that Shepler's has provided the residents, workers and visitors of Mackinac Island and the surrounding area for the decades of their existence as a company. It would have been far easier, present circumstances considered, for the Shepler's captain to recite policy or point to their current scheduling and transportation demands as reasons why they could not deviate from their assignment. Instead, they deviated, and did so with selfless enthusiasm.

We thank Shepler's for the outstanding service they continue to provide this community.

With appreciation,

Michael W.T. Gruits
Chief of Police

Mackinac Island Police Department