



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

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Illinois Commerce Commission Gives Thanks to Ashley Aldridge

SPRINGFIELD – On this week of Thanksgiving, The Illinois Commerce Commission would like to give thanks today to a very special young Illinois heroine.

Today, ICC Police Chief Kim Castro and ICC Railroad Safety Specialist and State Coordinator for the Operation Lifesaver Education and Outreach Program Chip Pew made a presentation to Ashley Aldridge, the young woman who saved the life of an Auburn man whose wheelchair was stuck on a set of railroad tracks.

On September 15, Ashley Aldridge was making lunch for her children when she heard Earl Moorman cry for help as one of the wheels of his chair was caught between the rails at the Washington Street crossing (DOT#294343T).

She bravely ran to the tracks and pulled him free from his chair only moments before the Amtrak train struck and destroyed it.

“With the Thanksgiving holidays coming in a couple days, we are reminded to reflect on those things for which we are most thankful,” Pew said. “Today, on behalf of the Illinois Commerce Commission and Illinois Operation Lifesaver we want to give thanks to Ashley for her selfless act in saving the life of Earl Moorman. As a train approached this crossing, she observed an elderly gentleman in distress struggling to free his wheelchair from between the rail and crossing. Unable to move, Ashley sensed a potential tragedy unfolding before her very eyes. Her fast actions had her removing Mr. Moorman from his wheelchair with little time to spare before an approaching Amtrak train reached this crossing and struck the now empty wheelchair. She was in the truest sense of the phrase, a lifesaver.”

"It seems that every community, there are those special individuals whose selfless actions bring only happiness to those around them," said Chief Castro. "Ashley Aldridge is one of those special people. So for our Thanksgiving, we can think about Ashley and how she made a difference and how thankful Mr. Moorman and others are that in the face of potential danger to herself, she chose to prevent this story from having a real sad outcome."

Pew and Chief Castro presented Ashley with a plaque and a proclamation that will be read at Tuesday's Illinois Commerce Commission meeting. The meeting is at 10:30 a.m. at ICC's Chicago Office located at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite C-800. A video link is also available for viewing at the ICC's Springfield Office, 527 East Capitol and the audio feed is available at www.icc.illinois.gov.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.