



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### PRESS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### OFFICERS SAVE A LIFE WITH NEW TOOL

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – May 10, 2019 – On May 9, 2019, the Athens Police Department completed department wide training on the use of “Narcan”. Narcan is a medication that can prevent death by counteracting the effects of an opioid overdose. The training was administered by the Hamilton County Coalition, and they provided all officers with doses of the substance to carry with them on duty. The Athens Fire Department also completed the training.

Later that day, officers were dispatched to a suspected overdose in Athens. Upon arrival, Officer Kristen Warren found that an 18 year old male had apparently overdosed on an opioid substance. She was able to administer her newly issued Narcan to the subject. Officer Darryl Wright arrived immediately thereafter and administered a second dose. The subject was transported by EMS when they arrived on the scene.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said “this is a perfect example of why it’s so important for Athens to equip its first responders with all of the necessary training and equipment to do their job as quickly as possible. Every day that passes without a necessary tool or training may be a missed chance to save a life. I’m proud of the officers that handled this call, and I’m thankful to the Hamilton County Coalition for partnering with us to save this young man’s life. He and his family will be in our prayers, and I hope he can get the long-term help he needs.”

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