

JOSH LONG & ROBERT MATASSA

City of Port Orange

****Employees of the Year – Parks & Recreation****

Mr. Long & Mr. Matassa are tremendous assets to the citizens of Port Orange. Day in and day out they work hard to keep the city parks and facilities clean, safe and green while always interacting with the public by lending an ear, providing a warm smile or a simple hello.

On October 6, 2018 Mr. Long and Mr. Matassa went one step further. While they were servicing a park in the Harbor Oaks neighborhood, they witnessed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed zoom past them, through a park fence and then enter Rose Bay. Without a second thought Mr. Long entered the water and swam out to the car and removed the driver from the vehicle while Mr. Matassa quickly called 911.

Upon securing the driver on the hood of the sinking vehicle Mr. Long then went back under water to be sure no one else was in the car after he witnessed children's toys float by him. Thankfully the driver was indeed the only person in the vehicle.

Mr. Matassa stayed on the phone with the 911 operator giving updates to assist with the quick arrival of our first responders. These gentlemen went to a new level on October 6th to provide public service to a resident in need without any concern for their own safety. That is why I am nominating them for the Parks and Recreation employees of the year. I am extremely proud that they are members of my team not only for the reaction to this situation but for the work they do each day serving the citizens of our community.

