



Everette Robbins
Chief of Police

HURON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Mark Perkins
Deputy Chief

Letter of Commendation

To: Sergeant Jon Bettendorf, Huron Township Police Department
Officer Ahmed Kassem, Huron Township Police Department
Officer Crystal Niewiadomski, Huron Township Police Department
Dispatcher Alexis Powell, Huron Township Police Department
Officer Joe Balowski, Sumpter Township Police Department
Officer Chris Herrick, Sumpter Township Police Department

From: Everette Robbins, Huron Township Director of Public Safety

Re: Suicidal Subject

Date: May 29th, 2019

On *Wednesday May 29th, 2019*, The Huron Township Police Department received a 911 call regarding a suicidal subject in the 19000 block of Clark Road. Upon receiving the initial call for service, Dispatcher Powell took the pertinent information from the caller and relayed the information to responding units. The information received was that a 49-year-old male was currently attempting suicide after calling a family member to say "goodbye." The reporting party further advised the suicidal male was currently locked inside a pole barn near the residence with his vehicle running.

I first want to thank and commend Sumpter Township Public Safety Director Eric Luke, along with his staff, for their support and commitment to the partnership that we have developed between our two public safety organizations. With that partnership, we are very fortunate to have the ability to share radio communications with the Sumpter Township Police Department. Upon hearing the call for service and recognizing the severity of the incident, Sumpter Township Officers Joe Balowski and Chris Herrick responded to assist Huron Township Sergeant Bettendorf and Officers Kassem and Niewiadomski who were present at the incident scene.

Immediately upon arrival, it was reported that officers could hear the vehicle's engine running and announced themselves to subject, requesting that he come to the door. When the suicidal subject did not respond and knowing that time was critical, Officer's Kassem and Balowski attempted to make entry into the pole barn. This attempt was unsuccessful due to the door being reinforced. Showing quick thinking and leadership, Sgt. Bettendorf retrieved the RAM from his patrol vehicle and once again announced to the suicidal subject that they would be making entry. When receiving no response and while fearing for the life of the individual, Sgt. Bettendorf

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utilized the RAM and officers made entry into the pole barn. Upon officers making entry into the pole barn, the suicidal man was found unconscious from the inhalation of carbon monoxide. The Huron Township Fire Department and Huron Valley Ambulance were able to medically treat not only individual for elevated carbon monoxide levels, but also each of you who were exposed to potentially dangerous elements during your life-saving efforts. Due to your efforts, the suicidal individual was transported to the hospital where he can begin to receive the necessary treatment to return him to a happy and healthy life.

Police officers regularly find themselves in situations where they deal with people that are in the lowest moments of their lives. It is how we as police officers treat these individuals during these moments that will define our career as well as our relationship with those that we serve so proudly.

Today's police officer is often in peril, risking life and limb in his or her dedication to the public. I want to thank each of you for acting decisively and quickly, even placing yourself in serious danger to help this individual before he could take his own life. If things had gone differently, his family very well could be planning a funeral service rather than me recognizing you for your meritorious service.

It is important for you to know your good deeds and excellent work are not going unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do every day. You can take special pride in knowing that your efforts positively affect the quality of life in both Huron Township and Sumpter Township and in this case, gave one of our residents a second chance. Please accept my congratulations and thanks for a job well done!



Everette Robbins
Huron Township Director of Public Safety

Cc: Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Township
Supervisor John W. Morgan, Sumpter Township
Huron Township Board of Trustees
Sumpter Township Board of Trustees
Personnel File