



Date of occurrence: June 12th, 2015

Employee Name: Officer L. Arch/ Officer T. Campbell/ Officer A. Mesa/ Officer J. Gentile/ Communication Operator Sperbeck

Classification: Police Officer/ Communication Operator

Unit/Division: Patrol

Award/Commendation type: Commendation

Narrative: Family members in New Jersey called the Surfside Police Department advising that their sister called and made suicide threats. They stated that she was possibly staying near the Sun Harbor Hotel in Surfside and that she was going to kill herself on the beach. The family provided her name, age, clothing description and vehicle description to the Communications Operator. Communications Operator Sperbeck used her training and experience to gather all necessary information and quickly disseminated that information to all available officers. Officer Campbell and Officer Gentile responded to the Sun Harbor Hotel but she was not staying there. A BOLO was issued over municipal radio and local agencies were contacted to assist in the search for the young woman. Her vehicle was located in the business district by Officer Campbell. Officer Gentile, Officer Mesa and Sergeant Valino canvassed the hardpack and the beach area for the young woman. Officer Arch patrolled the beach area using the Polaris and he located the woman in the 9500 block of the beach. The woman was very distraught and told officers that she wanted to commit suicide. Officer Campbell used her communication skills to calm down the young woman and peacefully restrained her in handcuffs without any physical resistance. She was Baker Acted and transported to Mount Sinai Hospital for treatment. The woman was also a missing person out of the State of New Jersey and she was taken out of the NCIC system by Communications Operator Sperbeck. The family was contacted with this information. The officers of Squad A processed the information gathered and immediately organized a professional and methodical search to find this young woman in distress. Their well-coordinated efforts lead to swift developments and ultimately in locating the victim. These officer's actions directly prevented a tragedy. They were able to provide the needed assistance and have saved a young life in doing so. It is with great respect and appreciation that I commend the actions, dedication and professionalism of Communications Operator Sperbeck, Officer Arch, Officer Mesa, Officer Campbell and Officer Gentile.