



9/2/2021

Press Release

To: Area media outlets

From: Hampton Police Department

Re: Civilian Award Presentation

HAMPTON, NH- The Hampton Police Department is pleased to announce the presentation of the department's Civilian Award to Mr. Michael Hayden for his assistance during an arrest earlier this summer.

On September 1, 2021 The Hampton Police Department held a small ceremony to present the special award to Hayden, a member of the N.H. State Park Patrol in the presence of officers of the department, employees from the N.H. State Park Patrol Service, and Mr. Hayden's wife.

On July 16, 2021 an officer from the Hampton Police Department observed what appeared to be a potential fight brewing in front of the bandshell complex on Ocean Boulevard. The officer arrived on scene and attempted to assist with de-escalating the situation which, at this point, involved the gathering of a large crowd and at least two people actively attempting to fight with each other. As the officer approached the aggressors, one of the men began throwing punches at the other. The officer engaged with that person and attempted to take them into custody for the assault. Immediately, a struggle ensued and the officer found himself attempting to subdue a person larger than himself. The suspect continuously assaulted the officer and was able to rip the officer's radio from the holster. Without hesitation, and without regard for his own safety, Mr. Michael Hayden rushed in and was able to help subdue the subject, allowing the officer to radio for much needed assistance. Mr. Hayden's prior experience as a corrections officer assisted him in giving assistance in subduing the man.

As Mr. Hayden was assisting, he too was assaulted when he was bitten by the suspect. Mr. Hayden continued to hold onto the suspect, despite the risk to his own safety. Eventually, back-up officers responded and were able to take the suspect into custody. Mr. Hayden's selfless service to the public in the area that evening, and to the members of the Hampton Police Department are in keeping with the highest standards of our community. His outstanding assistance directly contributed to maintaining the safety of officers in the field and the department as a whole.

Press contact: Deputy Chief Alex Reno
603-929-4444 ext. 304
areno@hamptonpd.com



Hampton Police Chief David Hobbs expressed appreciation for Mr. Hayden's actions that evening.

"Mr. Hayden's actions on the night of July 16th were above and beyond, and speak to the strong relationship that our agency has with the State employees."

-Chief David Hobbs

"Our officers routinely face situations that place their safety in harm's way. We are thankful that there are people like Mr. Hayden, who stepped and prevented further injury to others. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Mr. Hayden for his service to the community and to our agency on that evening."

-Chief David Hobbs

The Department Civilian Award may be awarded to a civilian who has rendered assistance to a member of this department in an emergency or who has rendered outstanding assistance to the department as a whole.

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Pictured: Michael Hayden, Det. Robert Kenyon

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