



3/25/2021

Press Release

To: Area media outlets

From: Hampton Police Department

Re: Arrest of Jakob Parkinson

HAMPTON, NH- The Hampton Police Department is proud to announce the recognition of 4 officers for their response to an incident on February 4, 2021 involving a suicidal woman on the Route 101/Interstate 95 overpass. On March 22, 2021 Sergeant Andrew Jowett, Detective Sergeant Stephen Champey, and Officer Justin LeDuc were awarded with the Hampton Police Department Lifesaving Medal and Sergeant Timothy Hamlen was cited with a Commendation for their work to bring a safe resolution to an otherwise dangerous event.

At the event held in front of the Hampton Police Department, Chief David Hobbs highlighted the exemplary work of the officers while also reminding officers of the realities of the times that we are in.

“We are tasked with responding to people in mental health crisis more and more. This serves as a reminder of the positive impact that we can have on people’s lives. While we see many people at their worst, you never know what someone is going through.”

-Chief David Hobbs

On February 4, 2021 Officer Justin LeDuc was patrolling the area of Route 101 by Interstate 95 when he observed a vehicle pulled over in the breakdown lane on the overpass. Concerned that the it was a distressed motorist, Officer LeDuc pulled in behind the vehicle to render assistance. As he approached the vehicle, he also noticed a woman standing on top of a snowbank against the fence on the side of the bridge. As Officer LeDuc called out to the woman, it became quickly apparent that she was experiencing a mental health crisis. Officer LeDuc called for additional support and was soon joined by Sergeant Andrew Jowett, Sergeant Timothy Hamlen, and Detective Sergeant Stephen Champey.

The New Hampshire State Police and Department of Transportation assisted with shutting down several lanes of travel on I-95 northbound.

After approximately and hour and half, the woman lost her footing. Fearing that she may fall, and taking prompt action, Sergeant Jowett was able to tackle the her and get

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her to safety. The woman was promptly taken to a medical facility to receive care. There were no injuries in this incident.

“We are grateful for the peaceful resolution to this situation and are thankful that the young woman is safe and getting care. We want people to know that if they are in crisis that they are not alone. Help is available.”

-Chief David Hobbs

On March 22, 2021, Chief Hobbs recognized the officers involved at the Board of Selectmen Meeting.

“This is an example of one person going through a difficult time that they don’t feel like they have anybody to turn to and nowhere else to go. It just shows you how difficult of times we are in right now. I think this serves as a good reminder for us to check on each other. Check on your neighbors, check on your friends. You can think you’re having a bad day, but somebody is out there could be struggling a little bit more. Continue to support one another. It does go a long way when you hear from your friends.”

-Chief David Hobbs

The Department Lifesaving Medal may be awarded for an act performed which through prompt and alert action, results in saving a life.

The following is the text from each of the citations that accompanied the Lifesaving Medal:

Officer Justin LeDuc

***THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT** Officer Justin LeDuc has been awarded the Hampton Police Department Lifesaving Award for his actions on the night of February 4, 2021 as per the following: During the evening of February 4, 2021 Officer Justin LeDuc observed a vehicle stopped on Route 101 at the Interstate 95 overpass with the vehicle door open. Officer LeDuc observed a female standing outside of the vehicle, on top of a snowbank overlooking Interstate 95.*

Officer Leduc pulled in behind the vehicle and promptly made contact with the female who was emotional and distraught. Officer LeDuc maintained a dialogue with the female while simultaneously requesting additional support to help with the female who at that point had made her intentions to jump from the bridge to commit suicide known. Additional supervisors and resources responded to the area to assist. A handoff to an experienced Crisis Negotiator was made and the area was made as safe as possible. After a period of time, officers were able to physically take control of the female and get her to safety. The female was ultimately

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transported to a medical facility to receive needed care. Officer LeDuc escorted the Hampton medics to the hospital where the female attempted to escape from the medical facility. Once again, Officer LeDuc took actions to secure the individual and ensure her safety.

The intelligent, quick thinking, and prompt actions by Officer LeDuc on this occasion resulted in saving the individual's life. Furthermore, Officer LeDuc's actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Hampton Police Department.

Detective Sergeant Stephen Champey

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Detective Sergeant Stephen Champey has been awarded the Hampton Police Department Lifesaving Award for his actions on the night of February 4, 2021 as per the following: During the evening of February 4, 2021 officers from the Hampton Police department responded to an incident involving a suicidal female who was expressing intentions to jump from an overpass. Officer Justin LeDuc had made initial contact with the female and alerted other officers to the situation. Officer LeDuc had come upon a vehicle stopped on Route 101 at the Interstate 95 overpass with the vehicle door open. He observed a female standing outside of the vehicle, on top of a snowbank overlooking Interstate 95.

Once alerted to the situation, Detective Sergeant Champey responded, and utilizing his training as a Crisis Negotiator, established a rapport with the female and began working to get her to safety. During the hour and a half incident, Detective Sergeant Champey was able to keep the female calm and talking. After a period of time, the female leaned down and lost her footing. Taking prompt and decisive action, Sergeant Jowett was able to lunge toward, and tackle the female, bringing her to safety. The female was ultimately transported to a medical facility to receive needed care.

The intelligent, quick thinking, and prompt actions by Detective Sergeant Champey on this occasion resulted in saving the individual's life. Furthermore, Detective Sergeant Champey's actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Hampton Police Department.

Sergeant Andrew Jowett

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Sergeant Andrew Jowett has been awarded the Hampton Police Department Lifesaving Award for his actions on the

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night of February 4, 2021 as per the following: During the evening of February 4, 2021 Sergeant Jowett responded to a call for a suicidal female who was expressing intentions to jump from an overpass. Officer Justin LeDuc had made initial contact with the female and alerted Sergeant Jowett to the situation. Officer LeDuc had come upon a vehicle stopped on Route 101 at the Interstate 95 overpass with the vehicle door open. He observed a female standing outside of the vehicle, on top of a snowbank overlooking Interstate 95.

Upon arriving on scene, Sgt. Jowett took prompt action, establishing a rapport with the individual and assisting a crisis negotiator once he arrived. During the intense situation, Sergeant Jowett was instrumental in keeping the female calm.

After approximately an hour and half, the female leaned down and lost her footing. Taking prompt and decisive action, Sergeant Jowett was able to lunge toward, and tackle the female, bringing her to safety. The female was ultimately transported to a medical facility to receive needed care.

The intelligent, quick thinking, and prompt actions by Sergeant Jowett on this occasion resulted in saving the individual's life. Furthermore, Sergeant Jowett's actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Hampton Police Department.

Commendation for Sergeant Timothy Hamlen

On February 4, 2021 officers from the Hampton Police department responded to an incident involving a suicidal female who was expressing intentions to jump from an overpass. Officer Justin LeDuc had made initial contact with the female and alerted other officers to the situation. Officer LeDuc had come upon a vehicle stopped on Route 101 at the Interstate 95 overpass with the vehicle door open. He observed a female standing outside of the vehicle, on top of a snowbank overlooking Interstate 95. Once alerted to the situation, Sergeant Timothy Hamlen responded and established Command and Control of the scene. Sergeant Hamlen coordinated response, and controlled scene safety while other officers worked to bring peaceful resolution to the incident. After a period of time, the female leaned down and lost her footing. Taking prompt and decisive action, Sergeant Jowett was able to lunge toward, and tackle the female, bringing her to safety. The female was ultimately transported to a medical facility to receive needed care.

The dedication to his duties potentially saved the loss of human life. The actions of Sergeant Timothy Hamlen in this instance serve as an example of outstanding service and dedication to duty, which is in keeping with the highest standards of our profession.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, the Hampton Police Department wants you to know that you are not alone and that help is available. Anyone experiencing a crisis is encouraged to seek help immediately through your local behavioral health provider, police department, fire department, or hospital. Resources can be also be obtained by dialing 2-1-1 in New Hampshire.

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Hampton Police Department Lifesaving Medal

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