



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

315 Fourth Avenue, MS P-200
Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: May 3rd, 2022
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina, Public Information Officer
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Fax: (619) 585-5610
Subject: **Chula Vista Police Department's Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony**

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Thursday, May 5th, 2022, at 1130 AM, the Chula Vista Police Department will be holding a ceremony to honor the officers and members of the community who performed above and beyond in 2021. Their stories are compelling and often go untold. This ceremony helps tell the story of the daily efforts our men and women make to serve others and of the exceptional efforts made by members of the community for the greater good.

FEATURED STORIES:

Officers Cody O'Riley and Sheena Ramirez (Life Saving Award)

On April 15th, 2021, Officers O'Riley and Ramirez were nearing the end of their shift and about to turn in for the night when a 9-1-1 call of a suicidal man came out. The distraught man had a rope around his neck and was ready to jump from the second story ledge of a parking structure. Officers O'Riley and Ramirez hurried to the scene and were the first to find the man who was ready to end his life. The two worked together to safely approach and try to calm him. At one point, however, the man decided to jump. The officers expertly read the situation as they lunged to grab him and keep him from going over. The officers saved the man's life while putting their own lives at risk. The Chula Vista Police Department commends their courage and heroism.

PERT Clinician Linda Dalton, Officer Manny Padilla, and Lieutenant Rusty Rea (Life Saving Award)

On July 6th, 2021, Officer Padilla was partnered with PERT Clinician Linda Dalton. They were in a patrol car, stopped at a red light when a car coming in the opposite direction almost crashed into them. The driver of the car had fallen unconscious and collided into stopped vehicles at the intersection, causing the car to flip on its side and continue through the intersection at a high rate of speed. The car narrowly missed Officer Padilla and Clinician Dalton as it jumped the center median, crashing into other vehicles and catching on fire.

Without hesitation, the pair ran to the burning car to render aid. Officer Padilla broke a window to get to the unconscious driver while Clinician Dalton used a fire extinguisher to keep the flames at bay. Other officers arrived on scene, including Lt. Rea who climbed into the car to help render medical aid while the car was still on fire. When Fire Department personnel arrived, the man was extricated from the vehicle and survived. The turnout could have been tragically different. The Chula Vista Police Department recognizes the heroic efforts of

Prepared By: Sgt. Anthony Molina
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PERT Clinician Linda Dalton, Officer Manny Padilla, and Lt. Rusty Rea and commends their willingness to put themselves at risk to save a community member's life.

Officer Ronnie Haus, Starbucks Barista Kass Hernandez, and Southwestern College Officer David Felix (Life Saving Award / Citizen Exceptional Service Award)

On September 14th, 2021, a man was having coffee with friends at a Starbucks near the Southwestern College Campus in Chula Vista. He suddenly slumped over and stopped breathing. Kass Hernandez, a barista who was working at the time, heard the yell for help and immediately jumped into action. Kass moved the man to the ground and started CPR.

Meanwhile, Officer Haus was on patrol in the area and heard a livestream of the emergency call on Live911. Traditionally, a 9-1-1 call is typed into the computer-aided dispatch system by one dispatcher and then dispatched by another one. This doesn't take long for life and death calls, but in these situations every second is precious. Because of a program employed by the Chula Vista Police Department known as Live911, officers can hear emergency calls in real-time and choose to act on what they're hearing without needing to be dispatched. The Chula Vista Police Department was the first police agency in the country to test and utilize Live911 as an innovative way to decrease priority response times and provide officers with details to help de-escalate dangerous situations.

In this case, Officer Haus was close enough to the scene that when he heard the call, he responded without being dispatched and arrived in less than a minute from the time it came in. He took over CPR. Southwestern College Police Officer Felix also responded and helped Officer Haus with CPR until paramedics arrived about five minutes later. The quick actions of these three saved a man's life and the Chula Vista Police Department commends each of them for their selfless act of service and kindness. During the ceremony, they will be honored and given their awards by the very person they saved.

Michel Lombrozo (Citizen Exceptional Service Award)

In September of 2021, Michel Lombrozo, a Chula Vista business owner and resident, became the victim in the theft of unique and very high valued sports cards. Michel took the reins on his own investigation. He combed through security footage, finding photos of the thief, which he immediately distributed to other sports memorabilia dealers in the area. Michel's investigation led to him finding five of his stolen cards at a dealer in Buena Park.

Like a good detective, he didn't stop there. Michel continued his investigation and found the same thief on security footage at Buena Park. He matched the thief to a customer at that location. When Michel shared this information with his network of business owners, they collectively realized the suspect was responsible for several burglaries they were aware of. The thief was ultimately arrested by Carlsbad Police Officers in coordination with Chula Vista Police Detectives. The Chula Vista Police Department is honored to recognize Michel for the amazing work on his case and his service to other business owners who suffered losses.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS:

MADD/DUI Award – Officer Ryan Culver

Detention Officer of the Year Award – Detention Officer Julian Valencia

Cadet of the Year Award – Josimar Gonzalez

Senior Volunteer of the Year Award – Sergeant Joe Young

Auto Theft Advisory Committee Officer of the Year (ATAC) Award – Officer Cody O'Riley

Auto Theft 10851 Award – Officer Cody O'Riley, Officer Donald Truong, Officer Henry Ingram Jr., Officer Christopher Lawrence, Officer Cody Horn

Proactive Narcotics Enforcement Award – Officer Henry Ingram Jr., Officer Shane Coleman, Officer James O'Mahony

Communications Operator of the Year Award – Miguel Armenta

San Diego Crime Stoppers “Enough is Enough” Award – Officer Cody O’Riley

Community Policing Project of the Year Award – Officer Shane Coleman

Community Service Officer of the Year Award- CSO Angelle Menefee

Field Training Officer of the Year Award – Officer Jose Lizarraras-Diaz

Scottish Rite Award – Lieutenant Ernie Pinedo

VFW Award – Off. Henry Ingram Jr.

Life Saving Award – Officer Cody O’Riley, Officer Sheena Ramirez, Officer Ronnie Haus, Officer Manny Padilla, Lieutenant Rusty Rea, SWC Officer David Felix, PERT Clinician Linda Dalton

San Diego Police Officer’s Association “I Love a Cop” Award – Agent Evan Linney

Employee of the Year Award – Crime Lab Manager Jennifer Shen

Citizen Exceptional Service Award – Michel Lombrozo, Kass Hernandez

Department Exceptional Service Award – Dispatch Supervisor Rosa Slim, Senior Public Safety Analyst Sharyl Mesina, Forensic Specialist Tara Venn

***MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Feel free to contact me (Sgt. Anthony Molina) if you need any assistance regarding the ceremony, which starts promptly at 1130 AM on Thursday morning. My desk number is (619)691-5111 and my cell phone number is (619)385-6775. You can also email me at pio@chulavistapd.org.