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## Needville Police Department Chief Michael Dickerson and Lieutenant Craig Rader

On March 30, 2021 Chief Michael Dickerson and Lieutenant Craig Rader responded to the home of a known community member who experienced several health issues and major depression. The community member previously called a family member (his son, who is also a police officer) and expressed suicidal ideation with a plan to complete suicide with his handgun. The two responding officers entered the community member's home and came face to face with a man in deep despair, armed with a handgun, and hopeless.

Chief Dickerson and Lieutenant Rader were confronted with most officer's worst nightmare, a possible deadly force encounter. Additionally, this encounter was with a person they have known for years. Chief Dickerson and Lieutenant Rader worked through the awkward spacing available, used calming language, and quickly de-escalated the community member as he lifted his handgun several times, but never pointed it at the officers. Due to the community member's medical state, he has severe mobility issues and requires assistance for daily needs. Chief Dickerson advised that during the encounter the community member stated, "I am tired of living this way, I can't get around or anything!"

Ultimately, the community member was de-escalated and placed his handgun down so that it could be secured by the officers. The community member was transported to the hospital for medical clearance and then stabilized at a mental health facility.

Needville Police Department services a growing rural community and is led by a committed Chief who partners in Crisis Intervention efforts. The work that Chief Dickerson and Lieutenant Rader demonstrated on that day is to be commended. Their steadiness, poise, and quick thinking turned what was certain to be a tragedy into a victory. Job well done!

