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## Houston Police Department Police Officer Sandy Fernandez

On Thursday, April 08, 2021, at approximately 1:40 PM, Officer Sandy Fernandez, who is assigned to Kingwood Patrol Shift I, was dispatched to a "Suicide/In Progress" call on the Sorters-McClelland bridge over Highway 59 North, which resulted in the freeway being shut down to traffic. Officer Sandy Fernandez, numerous other officers and sergeants, and Lieutenant Medina responded to the scene. Officer Fernandez engaged and spoke with the consumer for almost an hour, continually listening to and working with the gentleman to establish rapport, in efforts to keep him from ending his life. The man repeatedly moved toward the ledge and threatened to jump, stating he wanted to die.

While both the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) and SWAT were enroute to the scene, Officer Fernandez was able to develop rapport with the consumer and coax him away from the ledge. Other officers on scene were able to assist Officer Fernandez in detaining the gentleman and getting him to paramedics for evaluation and transport to Kingwood Hospital. Officer Fernandez then followed the ambulance to the hospital and completed a Notification of Emergency Detention on the individual so that he could be assisted with stabilization and possible treatment for his suicidal ideations. As a result of this, both the HNT and SWAT were disregarded from responding to this scene.

\*\*Of special note, Officer Fernandez had just taken the 40-hour CIT course and he told his Commander that he used many of the techniques he learned in the class to speak to the consumer.

