



Houston Police Department

Officer B.E. (Britt) Holland

On October 19, 2021, the Houston Police Department received a request for assistance from other agencies regarding a possible suicidal jumper who was sitting on top of a high voltage transmission tower in the 11600 block of West Hardy Street. Officer Holland was one of the officers dispatched to this event and upon arrival found a male sitting at the top of a tower that is over 100 feet tall. Personnel from Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 1 and the Houston Fire Department were trying to establish communications with the male; however, due to the height of the tower and noise from passing traffic on the toll road, all were unable to establish any good communication. Constables reported that the male was suicidal having mentioned that he was going to jump.

Supervisors on scene requested additional departmental resources to include Crisis Intervention Response Team and personnel from the Tactical Operations Division. Additionally, the passing traffic on the toll road was diverted in hope of being able to establish communications with the male. A backpack left hanging low on the tower was recovered and the male was identified. With other distractions now removed, and while waiting for other resources to arrive on scene, Officer Holland used a megaphone given to her by fire personnel to establish some broken communications with the male. She even convinced him to climb partially down so that they could more clearly hear each other.

With all of the many first responders on scene, it was Officer Holland that was able to garner the mental health consumer's attention. She was professional, remained calm and spoke with the male in a non-threatening manner while reassuring him that she only wished to help him with his problems. Officer Holland focused all of her attention on the male, used his name routinely and used active listening to determine what he wanted. Officer Holland was very patient and continuously indicated a willingness to understand and help the male. Finally, after the male showed some concern about all of the personnel on scene, she agreed that she would be the officer who detained him and that she would then accompany him to the hospital for evaluation and treatment.

Throughout this event, Officer Holland used sound de-escalation techniques, stabilized the scene and was able to eventually get the male to voluntarily climb down. Then, true to her word, she detained the now fully cooperative male and she transported him to the Neuro Psychiatric Center (NPC) where she completed the Notification of Emergency Detention to have the male treated for the serious mental health crisis that he was experiencing. Officer Holland followed the department's mission, values, and guiding principles throughout this event. She provided a safe environment for the male in crisis, exhibited professionalism and demonstrated that all lives are sacred. Therefore, I respectfully request that she be commended and that a copy of this correspondence be included in her personnel file.