



Harris County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Peter Smith

On February 20th, 2021, Sergeant Peter Smith, was dispatched to a call in West Harris County involving a suicidal female with a knife. Prior to Sergeant Smith's arrival, the female had been involved in a family disturbance where her boyfriend was trying to stop her from killing herself. The female then was not only suicidal but homicidal and began ramming her vehicle into her boyfriend's vehicle as he was inside of it. The female then fled the scene and attempted to strike another deputy with her vehicle. Deputies pursued the female. The female was able to make it to her apartment where she locked herself in.

The responding deputies arrived on scene and due to exigent circumstances kicked the door in. The female was in her room, refusing to come out. Sergeant Smith arrived on scene and was able to slow the situation down and communicate with his deputies to give the female some room before rushing in. Sergeant Smith began to communicate with the female and started to de-escalate the situation. Sgt. Smith noticed the female had fresh cuts on her arm and a knife in her hand. As complex as the situation was and all the factors that led up to this moment, Sergeant Smith was able to communicate effectively to everyone on scene and bring tranquility to such a chaotic situation. The female was very scared and did not want to drop the knife, as she believed she would be going to jail. The female continued to make suicidal statements and stated she has bipolar and has been hospitalized before. Sergeant Smith continued to speak with the female in a calm tone of voice and gained her trust. During this interaction, in this moment, he was able to convince the female to drop the knife. Sergeant Smith was able to get the knife away from the female and passed it on to another sergeant. Sergeant Smith continued to speak with the female and re-assured her that he was here to help.

Sergeant Smith utilized the fundamentals of what our Crisis Intervention and De-escalation training are and exercised one of our Core Values to "Protect our citizens with honor and courage." Sergeant Smith is a nineteen-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and currently serves in District 4. We are proud to have him in our agency as he represents true leadership.

