

# Santa Barbara Citizens Council On Crime

P.O. BOX 474

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-0474

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## PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 10, 2016  
From: Santa Barbara Citizens Council on Crime  
For: Immediate Release  
Contact: Roger Aceves (805) 895-8105

### **The 47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL H. THOMAS GUERRY AWARDS RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.**

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual H. Thomas Guerry Awards Ceremony will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 4:30 P.M. in the **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor's Hearing Room, 4th Floor, County Administration Building, 105 East Anapamu Street.**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE: 2:30 PM Wednesday, 5/11/16**

**A press conference is scheduled for Wed, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 PM at the Arch of the County Court House, Anacapa Street entrance. This year's recipients of the H. THOMAS GUERRY AWARDS FOR VALOR will be available for interviews and photos from 2:30 to 3:00 PM.**

### **The H. Thomas Guerry Award for VALOR:**

Sergeant <b>Mike McGrew</b>	Santa Barbara Police Dept.
Officer <b>Bryce Ford</b>	Santa Barbara Police Dept.
Sergeant <b>Brian Dickey</b>	Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Sr. Deputy <b>Neil Gowing</b>	Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Deputy <b>Brian Flick</b>	Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Deputy <b>Todd Lefemine</b>	Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.

### **Superior Performance Awardees and Valor Narratives:**

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## For SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE:

Sr. Dep. D.A. **Kimberly Siegel**  
Sr. Deputy **Bill Borneman**  
Deputy **Ruben Esparza**  
Deputy **Brett White**  
Detective **Dan Tagles**  
Police Services Coordinator **Sadie Lewman**  
Detective **Andrew White**  
Officer **Jonathan Gutierrez**  
Sr. Dep. Probation Officer **Duane Erdman**  
Sergeant **Rob Romero**

SB County DA's Office  
Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Santa Barbara Police Dept.  
Santa Barbara Police Dept.  
Lompoc Police Dept.  
California Highway Patrol (SB)  
Santa Barbara Co. Probation Dept.  
UCSB Police Dept.

The narratives for the VALOR Award are below. This "Meet and Greet" style press conference will give the members of the press the opportunity to hear in their own words how these heroes reacted to the situations that lead to their nominations for these awards.

### **Sergeant Mike McGrew and Officer Bryce Ford (Santa Barbara Police Dept.):**

On July 13, 2015 Officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance in progress. The call originated from CHP and was disconnected. Dispatchers called the victim back and a female was heard screaming. The phone was located using cell tower triangulation, and officers eventually found a female victim of domestic violence, who fled from an RV the suspect was driving.

Officers quickly located the suspect who was driving the RV. After an initial refusal to stop, the suspect pulled over in the 2500 block of Anacapa Street. The suspect refused to exit the vehicle, and began to barricade himself inside, rolling up the window and locking the doors. He retrieved a knife and cut his throat. As officers tried to negotiate with the suspect and called for medics, the suspect became more hostile and started the engine of the RV. Sergeant Mike McGrew recognizing the potential danger of a felony suspect who was suicidal fleeing on a public street in a large Recreation Vehicle, directed officers to use police patrol vehicles to block in the suspect's RV.

As the suspect tried to engage the vehicle in gear, officers breached the window and Officer Ford deployed his Taser which temporarily incapacitated the suspect. The suspect was able to overcome the Taser and put the vehicle in gear. Officer Ford unlocked and opened the driver's side door, and Sergeant Mike McGrew reached in the vehicle and grabbed the suspect's right arm. The suspect fought back and was able to put the vehicle in gear and began driving back and forth ramming the patrol vehicles until he was able to pull out from

between them. As this happened the suspect drove forward and ran over Sergeant McGrew's right foot. Sergeant McGrew tried to pull the suspect out of the vehicle until he lost his grip due to the momentum of the vehicle. As the suspect drove forward slamming into other barriers in an attempt to escape, Officer Ford ran to the driver's side door of the moving RV. He reached in and grabbed the suspect and attempted to pull him out to stop him from fleeing onto the public street.

Officer Ford was also dragged by the vehicle until he was thrown off when the RV collided with a wall. The suspect fled the scene and caused nine traffic collisions, one involving a school bus, before his vehicle suffered a mechanical failure.

Sergeant McGrew, who was following the vehicle from a distance, was first to arrive at the scene where the suspect's vehicle stalled in the roadway. With a total disregard for his own safety, and unbeknownst to him a broken foot, Sergeant McGrew without hesitation approached the suspect's vehicle to ensure his capture. As a result, the suspect was taken into custody without further danger to the public.

Both Sergeant McGrew and Officer Ford selflessly put their safety in jeopardy in an attempt to protect the public from danger. Their actions displayed the highest levels of courage and valor that can be expected of a Public Safety Officer.

**Deputy Brian Flick, Deputy Todd Lefemine, Senior Deputy Neil Gowing, Sergeant Brian Dickey (Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept.)**

On Sunday evening November 8, 2015, deputies in the Buellton area were dispatched to a citizen's report of a delusional subject at Tom's Gas Station on Highway 246. As deputies responded they learned that the adult male subject had poured gasoline over himself, a nearby pick-up truck and the surrounding ground. He was seen pacing around the fuel pumps carrying a lighter and canteen containing gasoline. He also had a backpack nearby with unknown contents inside.

Deputy Brian Flick arrived within minutes and immediately recognized the threat to deputies, citizens in the area and the individual himself, in addition to the significant property damage that would occur if the fuel pumps were ignited. Deputy Flick relayed the information to additional deputies that were responding and then engaged the subject.

Recognizing he was putting himself in danger Deputy Flick got close enough to the subject to engage him in conversation but hopefully far enough away to escape if the subject decided to ignite the fuel. Deputy Flick's intent was to keep the subject's focus on him and away from the fuel pumps, other patrons and nearby highway. When Deputy Flick arrived the subject began taking fighting stances and would vary from aggressive to conversational

throughout the contact.

While Deputy Flick continuously spoke with the subject Deputy Lefemine arrived and took a position of cover with force options should Deputy Flick's efforts to calm the subject fail. Senior Deputy Gowing and Sergeant Dickey arrived and coordinated a Fire Department response to have them stage nearby but outside the danger zone while they continued to negotiate with the distraught subject.

As all of the deputies slowly moved towards the subject he began backing away from the fuel pumps. The deputies continued to calmly advance on the subject to direct him into an area of the parking lot away from other patrons. While they were advancing Deputy Flick continued to calmly speak with the subject and was eventually able to convince him to put the gas canister down. He was then able to convince the subject to put the lighter away. They were eventually able to get close enough to restrain the subject without injury to him or themselves.

Due to their crisis intervention techniques, teamwork and officer safety tactics Deputy Flick, Deputy Lefemine, Senior Deputy Gowing and Sergeant Dickey, at great risk to themselves, successfully ended what could have been a disastrous outcome.