



Perris Press Release

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Perris Heroes Honored

The City of Perris offered a well-deserved thank you to seven police officers and a civilian tow-truck operator who teamed up to prevent a woman from jumping from a freeway overpass onto Interstate 215.

The officers spotted a distraught woman preparing to jump off the east end of the Perris Boulevard Bridge over the freeway.

Although they were just returning from another incident, they immediately moved toward her, urging her to move to safety. She ignored them.

Some officers crawled over the chain-link fence and pinned her so she could not jump. Other officers grabbed her fingers in a further effort to keep her from falling. Still others ordered the freeway shut. After about 25 minutes, the woman was pulled to safety and taken to a hospital for evaluation.

For their efforts during the July 20 episode, Police Sgt. Danny Lingo, Investigators Samuel Flores, Daniel Hernandez and Vance Velardez and Deputies Robert Powe, Albert Martinez and Dario Hernandez—along with tow-truck driver Earnest “Gene” Jones received a Certificate of Recognition from the Perris City Council.

Mayor Daryl Busch and Mayor Pro-Tem Joanne Evans commended the deputies and civilian for their “outstanding service, exceptional bravery and courage and heroic service” during the July 20 incident.

The officers said they were just doing their jobs, that they were in the right place at the right time. Perris elected officials commended their valor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Evans said the officers could have died as they tried to rescue the woman. She said she plans to nominate them for a public safety award given out every year by the American Legion.

“They really went out of their way to save her,” Evans said. “It was really a heroic effort. It was teamwork and professionalism, all there in a nutshell.”

Mayor Busch said the City benefits from the services of “many fine police officers who work hard every day but often get the recognition they deserve.”

“They do a great job and we want to show our appreciation,” Busch said.



The honorees who received Certificates of Recognition with Perris Mayor Daryl Busch (right) and Mayor Pro-Tem Joanne Evans.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch presents a Certificate of Recognition to Deputy Dario Hernandez, one of several law officers and one civilian who saved a women from jumping onto Interstate 215.