



Milpitas Police Department

*Dennis Graham
Chief of Police*

PRESS RELEASE

County Board Honors Milpitas Police Officers

On January 11th Milpitas Police Officers Mitch Timko and Abbie Serrano were among 13 law enforcement officers honored by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors as 2010 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers of the Year.

Officers Serrano and Timko were honored for teaming up to defuse and end a highly dangerous encounter with an armed, mentally distraught woman last year.

On January 16, 2010 a woman entered a Milpitas Church holding a loaded revolver to her head, and ordered the parishioners to leave. Officer Mitch Timko engaged the woman in conversation for two hours, during which time the woman told Officer Timko to shoot her. Due to Officer Timko's calm and sincere manner and non-stop conversation with the woman over two hours, he eventually convinced her to put down the gun, which was cocked and ready to be fired. Officer Abbie Serrano, a hostage negotiator and CIT trained officer, then took over the dialogue with the woman, eventually convincing her to move away from the gun so that other officers could safely recover the gun and take the woman into custody. It was later discovered that the woman had left a suicide note in her car, with notes for her family and written funeral instructions. As a result of these two officers' actions, the woman survived this acute crisis, and was able to receive mental health care rather than carry out her suicidal plans.

Police Chief Dennis Graham credits their teamwork for the successful outcome of this emergency, stating that "Both Abbie and Mitch played a key role in this situation, and by working together and with the many other officers present, they ensured that nobody was hurt and that the woman involved got the help she so desperately needed."

Officer Serrano became a police officer in Milpitas in July of 2000, and has served as a Crisis Negotiator, Field Training Officer, Field Evidence Technician, and Life Support Instructor.

Officer Timko joined the Milpitas Police Department in December of 2001, and has served in Patrol Services his entire career.

The Milpitas Police Department wishes to congratulate Officers Serrano and Timko on this well-deserved honor!

DATE: January 14, 2011



COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Board of Supervisors
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has received a nomination for the position of Sheriff of the County of Santa Clara, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the nomination of the following individual is in the best interests of the County of Santa Clara:

Officer Mitch Tinker

[Signatures]

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WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the nomination of the following individual is in the best interests of the County of Santa Clara:

Officer Almo Serrano

[Signatures]