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HPD, HFD, LCFS and LCSO Work Together to Bring About Positive Outcome in Mental Health Crisis Incident

HINESVILLE, Ga. (Oct. 9, 2020) – On Monday, October 8 at 6:40 a.m. the morning shift change at Hinesville Police Department was met with a call regarding a dangerous situation that had developed at WGML on Rolland Street. An individual experiencing a mental health crisis had climbed to the top of a radio tower and refused to come down.

HPD was already familiar with this individual, having already worked with them over the previous weekend. So, when Lt. Frank Gallob and his team arrived on-scene on Monday morning, he reviewed the documentation from previous incidents and his team immediately took action to bring about a positive outcome for what was ultimately a dangerous and scary situation.

In the Incident Command Station, Lt. Gallob served as Incident Commander, with Command Support from Police Chief Bill Kirkendall, Captain Terranova Smith and Captain Tracey Howard. Officers stepping into the role of Negotiators were Officers Joe Cephus and Patrick Roberts, Star Corporal Jeff Lui and Lieutenant David Guy. Hinesville Fire Department and Liberty County Sheriff's Office also aided in the form of a Negotiators, Chief Robert Kitchings, Captain Chris Moss and Lieutenant Brittany Fleming. Securing the scene to prevent any disastrous outcomes were Lieutenant Scott Hensler, Detective Charles Colon, Star Corporal Bryan Wolfe, Sergeant Jonathan Greer, Sergeant Richard Boucher, Star Corporal James Williams, Senior Patrol Officer Aaron Brant, Senior Patrol Officer Charles Banach, Senior Patrol Officer Rashhe Solomon, Officer Miguel Ramos and Officer Limayri Cruz. Logistics Support was provided by Sergeant Patrick Cochran. Liberty County EMS was on-site for emergency medical support. Additional, Hinesville Fire Department provided equipment and Fort Stewart Emergency Services provided on-site support. Chief Brian Darby from Liberty County Fire Services provided support in the form of coordinating and finding mental health support resources to offer the individual and their family.

Over the course of approximately 8 hours, Lt. Gallob and his team worked to communicate with the individuals, trying to convince them to come down; even going so far as to contact the individual's mother to be on-site and provide a family history for. After Officer Patrick Roberts and Lieutenant David Guy attempted to communicate with them from ground level, negotiators were lifted to speak with the man one-on-one in teams of two in the Hinesville Fire Department's bucket truck. The first team was HPD staff members (Officer Joe Cephus and S.Cpl. Jeff Lui); team two was comprised of a team of HPD and LCSO negotiators (Ofc. Cephus and Lt. Fleming); and the final team was HFD's Chief Kitchings and Captain Moss).

After a third attempt of sending negotiators, the individual agreed to be lowered to the ground by the HFD bucket truck. They were then transported to Winn Army Community Hospital for evaluation and treatment.

Monday's incident and its positive outcome reflects strongly on two areas of interest: the level of teamwork and coordination present in the first responders network in the Liberty County area and the benefits of the in-depth training that HPD staff members receive annually. Each member of the



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department has undergone Crisis Intervention Training CIT), which teaches officers how to assist persons of diminished capacity in their interactions with the public, as well as an annual training course that include refreshment on the elements of CIT. Such training prevents disastrous outcomes in a variety of scenarios and is recognized by HPD as being vitally important as discussions of mental health and policing are on the forefront of many conversations today – both in public and private forums.

The Hinesville Police Department would like to thank our partners and teammates for their assistance in bringing about a successful response to this incident:

Fort Stewart Emergency Services
Hinesville Fire Department
Liberty County Emergency Medical Services
Liberty County Fire Services
Liberty County Sheriff's Office

For more information, please contact Whitney Morris-Reed at wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org or 912.408.3569.

ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:

The [City of Hinesville](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit [cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org).