

Resolution The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County

Honoring Ventura County Sheriff Deputies Julian Fergerson & Keleigh Mckaig-Marquez In Recognition of their Act of Heroism and Exemplary Public Service

Whereas, during the late hours of August 28, 2021, Deputy Julian Fergerson was patrolling the Oak View community when his attention was drawn to a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction as he could hear a woman screaming in distress from the open trunk of the vehicle. Deputy Fergerson made an immediate U-turn and attempted to stop the vehicle; and

Whereas, the vehicle stopped on a dead-end street and a frightened woman leaped from the trunk and ran to Deputy Fergerson for help stating she had been kidnapped. Meanwhile, the suspect who was driving, exited the vehicle and ignored Deputy Ferguson's commands to stop. The suspect then fled on foot with Deputy Fergerson in pursuit through a side yard of a residence and over fences. He tried to stop the suspect using his taser, but it was unsuccessful. The suspect armed himself with a metal pipe and aggressively yelled at Deputy Ferguson to kill him. Deputy Fergerson tried to de-escalate the situation by trying to communicate with the suspect, but the suspect was too agitated and refused to comply; and

Whereas, Deputy Ferguson then attempted to stop the suspect by deploying pepper spray and gave chase once again when the spray failed to stop the suspect, during which Deputy Fergerson got tangled up in a fence and was then exposed to the mist of pepper spray he had deployed earlier. Deputy Fergerson was able to broadcast that the suspect was armed with a metal pipe and was possibly making his way back to his vehicle. Deputy Fergerson did not stop and continued to pursue the suspect; and

Whereas, Deputy Keleigh Mckaig-Marquez arrived on the scene and subsequently confronted the suspect, ordered him to stop and to get on the ground. The suspect refused to comply and attempted to run away. After not gaining the suspect's compliance, Deputy Mckaig-Marquez deployed his taser to prevent his escape. Deputy Fergerson arrived within seconds and assisted Deputy Marquez in taking the suspect into custody without any other force; and

Whereas, Deputy Fergerson and Deputy Mckaig-Marquez each reacted quickly and strategically to the rapidly unfolding situation they were faced with. They took the necessary actions and placed themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of the victim, the community, and to apprehend the suspect who subsequently was identified as registered sex offender. They utilized their training and experience under an extremely stressful situation to bring this incident to a safe conclusion and likely saved the life of the victim.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to Deputies Fergerson and Mckaig-Marquez for their heroic actions on August 28th 2021. Our community should take great pride in the actions of their officers and their commitment to the safety of its citizens.

Presented on this 12th day of October 2021

Linda Parks, Supervisor 2nd District

Robert O. Huber, Supervisor 4th District