



*CONTACT: Lieutenant Kurt Boshart
Harrisonburg Police Department
540-607-0208
kurt.boshart@harrisonburgva.gov*

For Immediate Release:

Harrisonburg Police Department Stops Person from Suicide Attempt

Four Harrisonburg police officers were credited this morning (12/9/15) with preventing a man from jumping off an overpass spanning Interstate 81 to the roadway below.

The officers had responded at about 9:40 a.m. to a report of a man acting erratically in the area of the Regal Cinemas on Evelyn Byrd Avenue. He later was seen running on Reservoir Street, where he climbed over the guard rail of the bridge over I-81 and threatened to jump into traffic.

Master Police Officer Craig R. Martin arrived on the scene within three minutes and engaged the man in discussion. Shortly thereafter, Officer John R. Hancock, Corp. Christopher Terrell, and Patrol Commander Lt. Rod Pollard joined Martin.

At about 9:55 a.m., the four officers distracted the man and were able to grab him and remove him from the overpass. The man was taken to Sentara RMH for evaluation.

"I'm very proud of our officers and their actions to save the life of a man who obviously was a danger to himself and posed a danger to motorists," says Police Chief Stephen Monticelli. "Their ability to devise a strategy and implement it quickly with success is the essence of exemplary police work."

Martin has been an officer for 7 years. Hancock joined the department in 2011. Terrell has been with the HPD since 1997 and Pollard since 1998.

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