

2014 Valor Awards — Knife Wielding Suspect

On August 11, at approximately 4:45 p.m., officers were called to the 3900 block of Vermont Avenue for reports of a suicidal subject armed with a knife. Officer Jordan Young was the first to arrive at the scene. She met with the subject's niece who stated her uncle was suicidal and had left on foot in an unknown direction armed with a knife and a bag full of medication.

Officer Young took a description of the subject. She and other responding officers established a perimeter and began to search for the subject. While officers continued their search, Officer Young attempted to reach the subject on his cell phone to no avail. Several units circulated the area, but were unable to locate the subject. A request was made for the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) to “ping” the subject's phone in attempt to locate him. The phone was shown to be at a park on Taney Avenue.

Officer Young and Officer John Brattelli went to the park and quickly located the subject sitting on a park bench facing away from them. The officers began to approach the subject. Upon seeing the officers, the subject stood and reached for an unknown object in his waistband. The officers drew their weapons and told the subject to show them his hands. Instead, the subject drew a knife and pointed it at his right side. Both officers shouted to the subject to drop the knife and attempted to reassure him that everything would be okay. In a panic, the subject stabbed himself in the abdomen. Officers quickly approached the subject and told him to show his hands. The subject complied at which time the officers noticed the knife still in the subject's abdomen. The officers handcuffed the subject in order to prevent him from causing further harm to himself or others and began rendering first aid until medics arrived. The subject was transported to Inova Alexandria Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The officers showed great restraint in a highly stressful and charged situation, expressed empathy for the victim's mental illness and provided first aid care to the injured suicidal victim.

Officers Jordan Young and John Brattelli are awarded Bronze Medals.



Jordan Young



John Brattelli