



## **Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin, Constable**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

March 2, 2020

On Saturday, February 29, 2020 at approximately 10:09 AM, Deputies with Constable Phil Sandlin's Office were dispatched to a male subject reportedly standing on the outside retaining wall of the S Sam Houston PW eastbound entrance ramp over the Gulf Freeway. Precinct 8 Deputy E. Rojas was the first to arrive on the scene and met with a female citizen who had stopped and was speaking with the man in an attempt to talk him down. Deputy Rojas initiated communication with the subject, a 40 year old white male of League City, who told the Deputy he was distraught over his relationship with his wife and children and he was intent on committing suicide.

Members of the Precinct 8 Crisis Negotiation Team were called out to the scene as was the Houston Police Department's SWAT and Hostage Negotiation Team. Deputy Rojas continued talking with the man until Precinct 8 Sergeant B. Covey, a trained member of our Crisis Negotiation Team, arrived on scene and after some time took over as lead. Sgt. W. Gerrish, Deputy J. Wingfield and Deputy B. Claunch also arrived a short time later and the team continued negotiating with the man. As the team continued to work together trying to talk the man down, Sgt. Jones acted as the overall scene coordinator and maintained organization and facilitated information gathering for the Crisis Negotiation Team through Deputy Claunch.

At Approximately 1:15 PM, Sgt. Covey was able to convince the man to come down and he was safely taken into custody. According to the League City Police Department, the man had allegedly severely beaten his wife to unconsciousness earlier in the morning at his residence in League City, took a phone from his child who was dialing 911 and broke it before fleeing the scene. The man was transported to Southeast Memorial Hospital for psychiatric evaluation. He was later released to the custody of the League City Police Department after they obtained an arrest warrant for Aggravated Assault of a Family Member.

We are thankful this situation ended with no loss of life. Our Crisis Negotiation Team and patrol personnel, the Houston Police Department's SWAT and HNT team as well as the Houston Fire Department all did an outstanding job in coordinating efforts to make that happen. The roadway was re-opened at approximately 1:30 PM.

Jason Finnen, Chief Deputy  
Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office