

## **WAYNE COUNTY CORPORAL DAVID WEINMAN**

Law enforcement officers begin every shift knowing they might suddenly be faced with an emergency in the midst of performing their routine duties. On the job, unpredictability comes with the territory. But Wayne County Corporal David Weinman's scheduled shift hadn't even started his shift on March 1 of last year when he was suddenly confronted by a crisis that seemed destined to cost at least one life and had the potential to cause an even larger tragedy.

While Cpl. Weinman was on his way to work, heading east on the I-94 Expressway at 2:30 p.m., he noticed a man standing at the guardrail of the overpass above southbound Telegraph Road. Just before he drove past the location, Cpl. Weinman saw the subject place a leg over the guardrail, and instantly realized he was witnessing a suicide attempt in progress.

Without hesitation, but facing difficult obstacles, the 16-year veteran officer and member of the department's Special Response Team went into action. The first problem was that he was driving in the lane farthest from the unfolding incident. This required that he maneuver across several other lanes and past dozens of other speeding vehicles. By the time he was able to reach the opposite roadside he had traveled past the subject's location. And it was clear that if he was going to have a

chance to stop the subject from killing himself, time was a precious commodity that was in very short supply.

Cpl. Weinman also understood that the stakes were even higher than the preservation of one man's life. If the subject succeeded in leaping off of the overpass he'd be dropping into a rushing sea of traffic on Telegraph Road, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the region. This would undoubtedly cause startled drivers to veer, skid, bash into nearby vehicles and thereby trigger a chaotic chain of collisions that very easily could result in multiple deaths and numerous injuries.

Recognizing that this horrific potential might be only moments from becoming a disastrous reality, Cpl. Weinman sought to save valuable seconds by rapidly backing his car to as close to the overpass as possible. As he began in reverse, he encountered yet another obstacle – one that demonstrated the serious personal safety consequences he was risking in order to protect others.

Before he could close the distance to the overpass, his car was violently jolted to a stop when a truck rear-ended it with disabling force. Now there was no choice but to go the rest of the way on foot.

Although he was undoubtedly stunned by the crash, Cpl. Weinman quickly jumped out and raced up the expressway embankment. He headed directly for the subject, relieved to see that the man was still straddling the guardrail and had not yet taken what would certainly be a fatal leap. When the distraught man saw him

approaching, swung the other leg over the guardrail and yelled, “Don’t come any closer, I’ll jump!” Cpl. Weinman’s sense of relief instantly gave way to the life-or-death question: could he reach the subject in time to prevent that tragedy from being played out?

Cpl. Weinman sprinted the final few steps just in time to produce the answer he hoped for. He grabbed the man, pulled him back over the guardrail and handcuffed him. He then flagged down a passing truck driver who called 911. Help arrived a few minutes later and the 35-year-old subject was transported to a hospital.

In the aftermath of what was far from an ordinary drive to work for one of his officers, Wayne County Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon officially pointed out that the positive impact of Cpl. Weinman’s response to the critical situation also was far from ordinary. “Were it not for Corporal Weinman’s quick action this would have been a very different scenario that could have caused untold damage and injury, possibly death,” he declared.

Corporal David Weinman, you unhesitatingly placed yourself and your personal property in harm’s way to save the life of a disturbed man who was attempting to destroy himself. Because of your decisiveness, unrelenting determination to help and selfless bravery you accomplished that objective and,

by doing so, almost certainly protected a number of others from the threat of death and injury.

Those others most likely will never realize what your courageous action did for them, as well as for the man you saved. However, we – all of your fellow officers – DO know. And so we honor you with the POAM's highest recognition: Police Officer of the Year.

#####

