**Security Officer of the Year (Public Safety Officer Bubba Morin BayCare)**

**Officer of the Year Trophy and $200 Amazon Gift Card**

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On June 8th at approximately 0745 hrs. an unknown subject pulled into the valet lane at the West Entrance of Mortin Plant Hospital in Clearwater. He immediately handed his ID to the valet on duty and said “here’s my ID I am organ donor and I am going to kill myself so I want to make sure the teams are close.” The man then took off in his vehicle into the adject parking lot and parks at the furthest point. He is not observed exiting the vehicle at this time.

Security is called to the West entrance in reference to a subject that was threatening suicide but no weapons were seen. Public Safety Officer Bob “Bubba” Morin arrived to the west entrance just a short time later. He was advised of the vehicle description and what was said, but again at that time no weapons were seen and CPD was enroute. Officer Morin then rode into the parking lot to attempt to make contact with the subject. Once Officer Morin found the subjects vehicle, the subject hopped out of the truck with a gun in his hand. He began waving the gun around causing team members to scatter and run for cover. At the same time 911 was called and the police were told it was an active shooter event.

Officer Morin was less than 10 feet from the subject who made eye contact with him, and then immediately put the gun to his head. Officer Morin is an unarmed officer and had no way to defend himself if this subject turned on him. He also was in a part of the lot where he did not have any cover or anywhere to run. However, Officer Morin maintained a calm demeaner and started to dialog with the individual. The subject keep insisting that the officer get the medical team so he could donate his organs. Officer Morin still maintained his dialog with the subject and was trying to convince him to put the gun down and let’s go inside for the team to help you. This continued for almost three minutes of back and forth where the subject eventually listened to the Officer Morin and put the gun down from his head and put it by his side. At that same moment, a CPD officer was on scene and came running to the scene in “active assailant response” with his gun drawn and yelling for the subject to drop the gun. The subject was still standing directly in front of Officer Morin and put the gun to his head and ended his life.

Even though the incident ended in tragedy, Officer Morin was selfless and courageous for his actions and ability to establish a dialog with the subject to keep him calm while at the same time helping keep our team members safe. He was faced with danger immediately as he arrived at the scene, but he still acted with bravery and professionalism to help de-escalate the subject as best as he possibly could. All while putting his own life at risk to help protect the patients, visitors, and staff of the hospital! For his heroism and bravery, Public Safety Officer Bubba Morin is hereby awarded the 2023 IAHSS West Central Florida Chapter Security Officer of the Year. Congratulations!