



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Dennis J. Slocumb

Phone: 1-800-247-4872

E-Mail: iupa@iupa.org

A Message from Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, I am honored to commend Sarasota County Schools School Resource Officer Haven Bivens for his heroic actions.

On April 15, 2026, at approximately 0800 hours, Officer Bivens intervened in a critical incident involving a student attempting to end her life by jumping from the exterior third floor landing. Upon arrival, he immediately engaged the distressed student, using calm communication, active listening, and rapport building techniques to gain her trust. Through his sustained efforts, he successfully de-escalated the situation and guided the student away from the ledge to a place of safety.

Officer Bivens' actions directly prevented a potential tragedy. His professionalism, composure, and skill in crisis intervention exemplify the highest standards of duty and reflect great credit upon himself and the department.

His efforts reflect the very highest traditions of this noble profession and are deservedly commended.

END

*NOTE: Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.*

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