

Kirkwood Police Department

Distinguished Service

Award for Valor

Officer Thomas O'Brien

On 8/23/2017 at 01:41 on the above date, Officer O'Brien heard 2 gunshots from the area of Ohlman Ave and Gordon Place. Officer O'Brien relayed that information to other officers and dispatch while heading toward the area in his patrol vehicle. While driving onto Gordon from Fillmore, Officer O'Brien heard another volley of gunshots coming from the same area, now within 150 yards of his position. O'Brien then heard a female screaming that she had been shot.

Officer O'Brien exited his vehicle in the 200 block of Gordon and approached, on foot, the area where he believed the shots and screams had originated from. Coming upon the intersection of Gordon and Ohlman, Officer O'Brien entered a scene in which two subjects were visibly injured from gunshot wounds, lying in the street and nearby grass area. O'Brien also noted a subject walking in the front yard of 945 Ohlman and ordered him to stop. That subject refused and disappeared between the residences of 941 and 945 Ohlman.

One of the injured subjects, a female, began to follow Officer O'Brien, pleading for help, as he assessed the scene. That subject was bleeding from gunshot wound to her face/head and O'Brien convinced her to stop and lay down in the roadway. O'Brien was immediately approached by another subject, running toward him, carrying a handgun. Officer O'Brien ordered that subject, at gunpoint, to drop his weapon and kneel on the ground. That subject immediately complied and was secured by Officer O'Brien and Officer Evers, 369, who had responded to the scene to assist. Officer O'Brien secured a loaded Taurus 9mm pistol that the subject had dropped. That subject was later found not to be involved in the shooting but had responded to the area in fear for the safety of his relatives.

Having secured/stabilized the scene so that paramedics could respond and treat the victims, O'Brien saw that the original subject he had ordered to stop had now returned to the scene. O'Brien ordered that subject to assume a prone position on the ground, which he did. One of the injured subjects immediately identified him as the person who had shot them. That subject was placed under arrest without incident and transported from the area.

When the scene was secured O'Brien was able to direct responding Officers and Detectives to items of evidence from the shooting, including the handgun used in the assault. This further attests to O'Brien's level-headed response to the scene of an active, armed assault. Officer O'Brien's self-initiated response to an active shooting scene represents the highest standards in law enforcement. His ability to control a chaotic, active scene, even while being approached by an armed subject, and with the armed suspect still in the area, was truly remarkable.

THROUGH THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THIS COMMANDING OFFICER, YOU ARE PRESENTED THIS AWARD ON THIS DATE

November 16, 2017



Commanding Officer