



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

*Courageous
Citizen Awards
Ceremony*

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Northridge

AWARD RECIPIENTS

JOLIE WIRTH and AUGUSTINE LOPEZ

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer

On the afternoon of March 9, 2016, Augustine Lopez saw a 9-month-old girl inside a locked car in the parking lot of a gentlemen's club in North Hills. The baby appeared to be hot and sweaty and was crying uncontrollably. Mr. Lopez told people nearby that the child needed help. Jolie Wirth and another person rushed to the car to provide aid. A cracked window allowed the Good Samaritans to open the car door. The child was removed and given water. When the father came out of the club, he tried to take his daughter. But Ms. Wirth refused to hand over the baby. The father left and called 911, telling the dispatcher that his baby and car were being held hostage. When police arrived, the father was arrested. Video footage later recovered from the club revealed the father left the child unattended for more than 40 minutes.

MAX MILLER and ELIJAH LEE WILLIAMS

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Ranna Jahanshahi

A man called his girlfriend on June 19, 2016, to invite her to his place. When she arrived, he grabbed her by the hair and put her in his car. He told her to apologize for giving him "attitude." She did so but soon got out of the car in North Hollywood and ran away. Elijah Lee Williams heard the woman's cries and opened the door of a café to let her in. The assailant forcefully pushed his body against the closed door, knocking Mr. Williams to the floor. Max Miller, a café patron, tried to stop the assailant as he dragged the woman to the exit but the assailant punched him. The commotion drew attention from other strangers, who stopped to help. The attacker finally released the woman after being surrounded and detained until police arrived.

BEN A. HOBBS, DOMINIC KALMETA, BRANDON FENOGLIO and SHERWIN SANTIAGO

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Jon Hatami

A 15-year-old girl was walking home alone on the evening of May 6, 2015, when a man drove up, identified himself as a police officer and ordered her to get into his car. The girl reluctantly complied. The man drove the teen to an abandoned trailer in a deserted area of Lancaster and strip-searched her. He forced her into the trailer and sexually assaulted her. When the assailant turned around, the girl ran out of the trailer and toward a church. He chased the girl as she screamed for help. Hearing her cries, Ben A. Hobbs, Brandon Fenoglio, Dominic Kalmeta and Sherwin Santiago called 911 and left the church in an attempt to detain the man, chasing him on foot. But the man drove off into the desert. He soon crashed his car into a ditch and later was arrested.