

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY DECORATION (N.Z.B.D.)

Benjamin Patrick TURNER Constable, New Zealand Police

Date of action: 25 August 2014

Date of award: 1 August 2016

Citation

On 25 August 2014 in Hamilton a van was stolen by an offender with a history of violent crime and methamphetamine use. The Police pursued the vehicle, knowing that the offender had a propensity to carry firearms and deeming it an unacceptable risk to allow the van into the central city. Police pursued the van to a supermarket carpark, where it collided with a civilian vehicle. The offender then left the van carrying a loaded sawn-off shotgun. Constable Ben Turner arrived at the supermarket carpark in a Police dog van and observed the offender attempt to take another vehicle at gunpoint from an elderly woman at the supermarket's petrol pumps. Fearing for the woman's safety Constable Turner rushed over and grabbed the offender and dragged him away from her car. Knowing the offender had the shotgun in his right hand, he swung the offender around by his left arm to keep him moving and off balance. At that point Constable Blair Spalding arrived and assisted Turner by holding the offender's right arm. Both barrels of the shotgun went off at this time and Constable Spalding suffered a number of puncture wounds to his left foot and leg, while the offender caught ricochet pellets to his leg and torso. A Police dog handler arrived and set his dog on the offender, before supplying Constable Turner with handcuffs to restrain the violently struggling offender.