



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Long Beach

AWARD RECIPIENTS

LAWRENCE SEARS

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Lauren Fields

Mr. Sears was working as a custodian at a Green Line Metro station on June 4, 2015, when he saw a man struggling with a woman over her purse. As the man began to punch the woman in the face, Mr. Sears intervened, placing himself between the woman and her assailant. The defendant continued his assault, trying to fight off Mr. Sears while also attempting to grab the victim's purse. The man then focused on attacking Mr. Sears, who used a trash-picker to protect himself. Ultimately, Mr. Sears tackled the defendant and held onto him until a sheriff's deputy arrived at the scene.

LAURA ASTRIN, AMBER GOEBEL AND LUIS ENRIQUE VIEYRA

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Troy Davis

Ms. Astrin, Ms. Goebel and Mr. Vieyra came to the aid of a 74-year-old man who was struck in the head and knocked down by a 24-year-old man for no apparent reason. The senior, who was blind in one eye and using a walker, was walking on a Long Beach train platform on May 7, 2015, when he was attacked. Ms. Goebel and Mr. Vieyra witnessed the incident and told Ms. Astrin, who called 911 and followed the defendant. Ms. Goebel and Mr. Vieyra stayed with the victim until paramedics arrived. Officers apprehended the assailant based on information Ms. Astrin provided. Ms. Astrin, Ms. Goebel and Mr. Vieyra were crucial in securing a conviction in the case.

DEBBIE CARR AND NOELLE VAN DEURSEN

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Irene Lee

Ms. Carr and Ms. van Deursen rushed to the aid of a Long Beach woman after she was beaten in her home on Oct. 11, 2013, by a man wielding a baseball bat. The woman was the target of a murder-for-hire plot by her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend. Ms. Carr and Ms. van Deursen heard the woman's cries for help and found her severely beaten. They assisted the victim while she told them about the attack. Their quick action helped save the woman's life, and their statements helped police arrest the daughter, her boyfriend and the man hired to kill the victim.