

On the night of July 10, 2018, Officer Kenneth Morales and his partner, assigned to Mission Area, were on routine patrol when observed plumes of smoke coming from a residence. Upon arrival, neighbors advised Officer Morales the resident was a hoarder and may still be inside.

Officer Morales forced open a rusted gate that led to a side yard. Anguished by the radiating heat from the intense flames from the house, Officer Morales continued through into the backyard, ignoring all pain and risk to himself. Through the sliding glass doors, Officer Morales saw thick smoke from floor to ceiling. In efforts to locate the victim, Officer Morales used his flashlight and baton to hit the wall until he heard a low groan from the incapacitated victim inside.

Officer Morales broke the sliding glass door with his baton to vent out some of the smoke. Unfortunately, the intense heat, thick black smoke, and uneven ground from the volume of hoarded items forced Officer Morales to stumble. Officer Morales was forced to exit the house choking and heaving from the toxic material that entered his lungs. Officer Morales continued to communicate with the victim to ensure he was alive and not to lose hope.

Officer Morales and his partner were joined by two other officers who broke a window adjacent to the sliding glass door where the heat and gasses could vent. One officer utilized a water hose to cool the lower portion of the room and push the gasses out of through the broken window. Without regard to his own safety, Officer Morales made a second entry into the burning house full of heated gas and smoke. Officer Morales found the victim trapped under a pile of heavy debris, preventing the victim's escape. As Officer Morales struggled under the considerable weight of the victim, the smoke began to choke him. With the added strength from his fellow officers, Officer Morales lifted the victim and moved him to the back yard where he could finally breathe.

Though they were outside and away from the heat and flames, they were still surrounded by dangerously flammable material. With tremendous strength, Officer Morales carried the victim through the gates past the searing wall of flames to the front lawn where they were safe. The Los Angeles Fire Department arrived and contained the fire. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he eventually recovered. Officer Morales was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation, scorched eyes, and screened for toxin exposure. Officer Morales returned to work the following day.

Officer Morales is commended for his heroic and decisive actions, and for sacrificing his own safety that resulted in the saving of a human life which would have been lost without his direct involvement. Officer Morales' ability to function under the most stressful, chaotic and perilous conditions embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his valiant actions in the highest tradition of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Kenneth Morales

On the night of July 10, 2018, Officer Luis Lopez and his partner, assigned to Mission Area, were on routine patrol when they observed plumes of smoke coming from a residence. Upon arrival, neighbors advised Officer Lopez the resident was a hoarder and may still be inside.

Officer Lopez forced open a rusted gate that led to a side yard. Anguished by the radiating heat from the intense flames from the house, Officer Lopez continued through into the backyard, ignoring all pain and risk to himself. Officer Lopez gained access to the back yard only to find it full of clutter that blocked his entry. Thru the sliding glass doors, Officer Lopez saw thick smoke from floor to ceiling. In efforts to locate the victim, Officer Lopez knocked on the wall with his flashlight and baton until he heard a low groan from the incapacitated victim inside.

Officer Lopez broke the sliding glass door with his baton vent out some of the smoke. Unfortunately, the intense heat, thick black smoke, and uneven ground from the volume of hoarded items forced Officer Lopez to stumble. Officer Lopez was forced to exit the house to choking and heaving from the toxic material that entered his lungs. Officer Lopez continued to communicate with the victim to ensure he was alive and not to lose hope.

Officer Lopez and his partner were joined by two other officers who broke a window adjacent to the sliding glass door where the heat and gasses could vent. One officer utilized a water hose to cool the lower portion of the room and push the gasses out of through the broken window. Without regard to his own safety, Officer Lopez made a second entry into the burning house, full of heated gas and smoke. Officer Lopez found the victim trapped under a pile of heavy debris, preventing his escape. As Officer Lopez struggled under the considerable weight of the victim, the smoke began to choke him. With the added strength from his fellow officers, Officer Lopez lifted the victim and moved him to the back yard where he could finally breathe.

Though they were outside and away from the heat and flames, they were still surrounded by dangerously flammable material. With tremendous strength, Officer Lopez carried the victim through the gates past the searing wall of flames to the front lawn where they were safe. The Los Angeles Fire Department arrived and contained the fire. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he eventually recovered. Officer Lopez was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation, scorched eyes, and screened for toxin exposure. Officer Lopez returned to work the following day.

Officer Lopez is commended for his heroic and decisive actions, and for sacrificing his own safety that resulted in the saving of a human life which would have been lost without his direct involvement. Officer Lopez' ability to function under the most stressful, chaotic and perilous conditions embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his valiant actions in the highest tradition of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Luis Lopez

On the night of July 10, 2018, Officer Jose Moya, assigned to Mission Area, was working routine patrol when he and his partner responded to a backup call for a structure fire. Upon arrival, Officer Moya observed violent flames coming from the roof of a single-family residence and black smoke pouring out of the open front door. Neighbors advised Officer Moya the resident was a hoarder and may still be inside.

Officer Moya began to circumnavigate the structure to locate an opening to rescue the victim. Officer Moya gained entry to a side yard bypassing the radiating heat from the intense flames. Ignoring the pain and risk to himself, Officer Moya gained access to the back yard only to find it completely cluttered, blocking his entry. Thru the sliding glass doors, Officer Moya saw thick smoke from floor to ceiling.

Officer Moya and his partner found two fellow officers choking and coughing from smoke inhalation who were forced to exit the house due to the intense heat and thick black smoke. While his partner a water used a hose to cool the lower portion of the room pushing the gasses out of through the broken window, Officer Moya made a second entry into the burning house full of heated gas and smoke. Officer Moya found the victim trapped under debris and dug him out from under. As Officer Moya struggled under the considerable weight of the victim, the smoke began to choke him. With the added strength from his fellow officers, Officer Moya lifted the victim and moved through the threshold and into the back yard where for the first time in the ordeal he could finally breathe.

Though they were outside and away from the heat and flames, they were still surrounded by dangerously flammable material. Officer Moya used tremendous strength to carry the victim through the gates and past the searing wall of flames to the front lawn where they were safe. The Los Angeles Fire Department arrived and contained the fire. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he eventually recovered. Officer Moya was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation, scorched eyes, and screened for toxin exposure. Officer Moya returned to work the following day.

Officer Moya is commended for his heroic and decisive actions, and for sacrificing his own safety that resulted in the saving of a human life which would have been lost without his direct involvement. Officer Moya's ability to function under the most stressful, chaotic and perilous conditions embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For his valiant actions in the highest tradition of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Jose Moya

On the night of July 10, 2018, Officer Cristina Shente, assigned to Mission Area, was working routine patrol when she and her partner responded to a backup call for a structure fire. Upon arrival, Officer Shente observed violent flames consuming the roof of a single-family residence and black smoke pouring out of the open front door. Neighbors advised Officer Shente the resident was a hoarder and may still be inside.

Officer Shente began to circumnavigate the structure to locate an opening to rescue the victim. As she gained entry to a side yard the radiating heat from the intense flames was overwhelming. Ignoring the pain and risk to herself, Officer Shente gained access to the back yard only to find it completely cluttered, blocking her entry. Thru the sliding glass doors, she saw thick smoke from floor to ceiling.

Officer Shente and her partner found two fellow officers choking and coughing from smoke inhalation, forcing them to exit the house due to the intense heat and thick black smoke. Officer Shente used a water hose to cool the lower portion of the room, pushing the gasses out through the broken window. This allowed the officers to make a second entry into the burning house full of heated gas and smoke. The officers found the victim, trapped under a pile of debris and dug him out from under. As the officers struggled under the considerable weight of the victim, the smoke began to choke them.

The officers lifted the victim and moved him through the threshold into the back yard where they could finally breathe. As soon as the officers were out of the residence, Officer Shente gave up her vigil by the door. The Los Angeles Fire Department arrived and contained the fire. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he eventually recovered. Officer Shente was transported to a local hospital where she was treated for smoke inhalation, scorched eyes, and screened for toxin exposure. Officer Shente returned to work the following day.

Officer Shente is commended for her heroic and decisive actions, and for sacrificing her own safety that resulted in the saving of a human life which would have been lost without his direct involvement. Officer Shente's ability to function under the most stressful, chaotic and perilous conditions embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department. For her valiant actions in the highest tradition of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Cristina Shente