

Commissioner's Unit Citation

On June 28, 2022, at approximately 2045 hours, a high-angle rescue was dispatched for 118 Richmond Street, District 3. On arrival, companies reported an agitated man in his twenties on the third floor fire escape balcony. He was yelling at several police officers in the street and appeared intoxicated. As more units arrived on scene, he continued acting in a hostile and unpredictable manner towards anyone who attempted to make contact with him. Emergency personnel made entry into the building and a police officer stationed himself on the fourth floor balcony above the man, while members of Engine 10 and Engine 8 made entry onto the third floor balcony. Once out on the balcony, fire personnel attempted to engage the man in conversation but he became agitated, pulled a knife, and brandished it at the firefighters who backed away. The police officers on scene shouted for him to drop the knife and, after making several more threats, he eventually placed the knife back into his pocket. Captain Michael Feeney of Engine 10 and Lieutenant Edward Matthews of Engine 8 tried to reengage him in conversation to calm him, but he began reaching for his knife again.

It was then Captain Feeney quickly lunged forward and held onto him until Firefighter Joshua Coleman of Engine 10 and Lieutenant Matthews joined in to help restrain the man, while Firefighter on Probation Gary Yeung also of Engine 10 confiscated the knife. Fire Department members then assisted the police with placing restraints on the man and removed him from the building and onto an EMS stretcher.

The actions of these members were performed at great risk to their personal safety and resulted in successfully subduing an irrational and highly agitated individual before he could harm himself or others.

Therefore, the Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department, acting on the recommendation of the Board of Merit, hereby orders the Commissioner's Unit Citation be awarded to:

Fire Captain
Michael P. Feeney
Engine Company 10

Fire Lieutenant
Edward J. Matthews
Engine Company 10

Firefighter
Joshua M. Coleman
Engine Company 10

FFOP
Gary Yeung
Engine Company 10