

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Two Correctional Officers Save Life of Jail Inmate

Two Lake County Sheriff's Correctional Officers saved the life of a 28-year-old inmate who attempted to harm himself.

On August 9, 2021, at approximately noon, Correctional Officers Garrett Parsell and Matthew Bellavia were escorting the inmate from a jail pod's recreational area back to the inmate's cell. The recreational area is located on the on the mezzanine level of the pod. While walking back, the inmate hurled himself over the railing and attempted to throw himself onto the floor below, from the upper level.

Officers Parsell and Bellavia, who were close behind the inmate, immediately jumped into action, grabbing ahold of the man and pulled him back to safety, even as the inmate struggled and continued his attempt to fall to the ground. The inmate was uninjured and is now under self-harm prevention protocols.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Officer Garrett Parsell and Officer Matthew Bellavia undoubtedly saved the life of this inmate and they are heroes in my book. They, along with their correctional staff colleagues, consistently go above and beyond to keep our inmates safe. I am incredibly proud of our correctional employees and the hard work they put in each and every day."

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