

POLICE BEAT

Police Address Byron Avenue Traffic

In response to the increased traffic congestion in Surfside and surrounding communities, the Surfside Police Department is directing available resources toward traffic control, educating the public and enforcement of traffic violations.

The primary focus is concentrated on Byron Avenue due to the increased traffic when drivers seek alternate routes as Collins and Harding Avenues become backed up. Patrol Operations has positioned officers strategically on Byron Avenue at key intersections and where speeders have been reported during morning and evening rush hours. In addition, an Overtime Detail has been implemented to supplement staffing. Two officers are working from 4:30–7:30 p.m., assigned strictly to traffic control on Byron Avenue. They are targeting 88 Street and Byron Avenue where drivers often violate the traffic control devices and at 95 Street and Harding Avenue. We have also placed a video message sign on Byron Avenue reminding drivers of the 20 m.p.h. speed limit. In the past three weeks, officers have issued 241 violations and given 182 warnings. With each traffic stop, officers stress

the importance of safe driving in a residential community with no sidewalks.

Town officials are working closely with State and County Traffic Agencies to establish more permanent traffic control devices to reduce the volume of traffic and curtail violations. Additionally, the Parking Department will implement a pilot residential parking permit program for the 9400 and 9500 blocks of Byron Avenue. Only residents and their guests will be allowed to park on these two blocks. The program will be re-evaluated after 90 days. The purpose is to mitigate the problem of others parking on these two blocks. The Police Department has also held two Community Meetings to gain input from residents.

The Police Department will be conducting Temporary Road Closures on Byron Avenue at 90 Street and 94 Street, Monday–Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., to eliminate direct travel from south to north. This study will be in place for several weeks. Traffic will be evaluated weekly and modifications will occur as needed.

Department Adds Locator System for Police Cars

In the ongoing efforts to enhance service, accountability and efficiency within the organization, the Surfside Police Department has begun the acquisition and implementation of an Automated Vehicle Locator System (AVLS) for the entire police fleet. The locator capabilities provide a magnificent instrument



regarding officer safety. In the tragic event that an officer is injured and unable to communicate, police dispatchers can immediately identify the vehicle location saving precious moments in sending help and can be the difference between life and death. This AVLS system will enhance efficiency by providing data for developing patrol and operational plans. This will aid in quicker response times and increased officer visibility in Surfside. The AVLS system data will also assist in budgeting fuel costs and vehicle maintenance. The AVLS system was paid for through the Police Confiscation Fund.

December Civilian of the Month

During the past month, Dina Goldstein managed the Police Department's Sixth Annual Holiday Toy Drive as she has the previous five years. This event requires much time, effort and commitment. The collection begins with advertisements for donations of new toys. The needy children are vetted and individually invited to attend the Toy Giveaway Party. Hundreds of toys were donated, purchased and stored (see page 8).

The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue and the Miami-Dade Police Aviation Unit were scheduled to participate.



Town personnel were recruited to assist with the set-up, decoration, and cleanup of the Commission Chambers and the training room. Police Officers were needed for an escort, a street closure and traffic direction. Parking Enforcement Officers were necessary for room security. A professional photographer and DJ volunteered their services. Plaques for sponsors were ordered. A pre-event meeting was held to give out assignments, duties and responsibilities.

The event was spectacular and went off without a problem. It was a very special day for the children and all of those who attended. I thank and praise all who helped but Dina certainly deserves the most credit and recognition. This has become another event that makes Surfside look great. I can't thank her enough for an amazing job well done!