

Bulletin

14-2

Date: February 10, 2014

POLICE OFFICER OF YEAR – 2013

During the year 2013, Officer Bryant Luke was a top performer for the Surfside Police Department. He was a consistent high producing officer who issued 481 traffic citations, 35 parking citations, 224 traffic warnings, completed 24 arrests, issued 830 red light camera violations and participated in 9 community events. Officer Luke also serves as a member of the Police Honor Guard, is a field training officer and is always willing to take on new assignments when asked. He is dependable, rarely misses work and has an overall upbeat and positive attitude. Luke also made the Chief's high achievers list 12 months in a row during the year 2013.

In addition to the Officer Luke's high productivity he was also nominated for a LEO award in the area of uniform services and received letters of commendation for his participation with the 5th Annual Police Teen Summer Camp Program and Bring Your Child to Work Day. Officer Luke was also commended by Fire Chief Downey of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue for assisting fire rescue officers with a serious extrication of a child's hand that was stuck in an exercise machine. Chief Downey added that his actions went above and beyond the scope of his training and should be commended for his life saving assistance.

Officer Luke is also well respected by his peers, town hall staff and he is professional, polite and always willing to help anyone. His police reports are well written and detailed as well any other correspondence he submits.

Officer Bryant Luke is recommended for the Officer of the Year 2013 for his excellent work ethic and his achievements during the year 2013.

POLICE CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – 2013

Parking Enforcement Officer Alain Acosta issued 3660 parking citations in 2013. Most impressive is that even with this number of citations he not only did not receive a complaint but was praised many times for his assistance to our residents. Alain is proactive, professional and is always willing to help our citizens in the community. Each day he checks the pay stations and the single space meters to ensure that they are working properly. Alain is visible in the residential neighborhoods and business district on foot as well as on the Segway and T3. He played an integral part in our efforts to reduce the number of commercial vehicles parked in Surfside.

He was recognized as the Police Civilian of the Month for April and September 2013. He received commendations for volunteering his time for Kiwanis charity car wash, supervising the children on Bring Your Child to Work Day, and directing traffic and distributing candy during the Halloween Safety Block Party. Alain also provides support and security to the volunteers who trap the cats for the Town's Feral Cat Trap, Neuter, and Release Program.

Parking Enforcement Officer Alain Acosta is recommended for Police Civilian of the Year 2013 for his outstanding effort and professionalism.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2014

On January 23, 2014, at 4:14 pm, undercover Sunny Isles detectives requested assistance from surrounding agencies regarding stopping an occupied stolen vehicle heading south from their city on Collins Ave. Officer Gabriel was working an off duty detail in Surfside and upon receiving the clearance from his supervisor, Officer Gabriel responded to the area of 97 St and Collins Ave where Sunny Isles detectives were following the stolen vehicle containing two occupants. With the assistance of Officer Gabriel, the stolen vehicle was stopped and both occupants were arrested without further incident. The vehicle also contained drug paraphernalia which the occupants were charged with. Officer Gabriel was the first backup unit to arrive and two criminals were arrested with minimum risk to the public due to his quick response and willingness to assist his fellow officers. Officer Gabriel is an example of a professional police officer whose alertness and quick response kept a potentially dangerous situation under control. Congratulations Bobby!

HIGH ACHIEVERS – JANUARY 2014

Officer Micah Smith
Officer Bryant Luke
Officer Tony Mesa
Officer Tammy Campbell
Officer John Gentile
Officer Ed Carrasquillo
Officer Ian Leonard
Officer Joe Matthews
Officer Alberto Knight
Parking Officer Angel Melendez
Parking Officer JC Castro

Thanks and good work by all!

2013 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING STATISTICS

The preliminary UCR statistics have been completed and submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Total crimes decreased from 167 in 2012 to 123 in 2013 (-26%). Nonviolent crimes decreased from 152 in 2012 to 116 in 2013 (-24%). Violent crimes decreased from 15 in 2012 to 7 in 2013 (-53%). This is outstanding police work! Thanks for keeping the community safe!

CRIME PREVENTION/ COMMUNITY INITIATIVES/ LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The awards ceremony to honor 2013 Police Officer of the Year Bryant Luke and Police Civilian of the Year Alain Acosta on Tuesday February 12th at 1:00pm in the Commission Chambers. There will be a luncheon immediately following the ceremony. Congratulations to both recipients!

The Surfside Police Department is scheduled for the third phase of the radio deployment on February 14th from 0500-1600hrs and February 18th from 0500-1600hrs. Cooper General will have a team at our station to update the mobile and portable radios. The process will take approximately 15 minutes. This is mandatory for all personnel.



The Third Thursday's event is February 20, 2014 this month. Lt. Matelis will be responsible to staff the events.

Officer Bryant Luke will be honored as the surfside Police Officer of the Year at the Rotary Club Breakfast at the Sea View Hotel on February 20, 2014 at 8:00 am.

The Bike with the Chief Ride is February 26, 2014, at 5:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

SPD will host the regional Criminal Investigations Units for intelligence sharing on February 27, 2014 at 10:00 am in the training room. Sgt. McKenna is responsible for this meeting.

The monthly Starbucks – Coffee with the Cops is February 28, 2014 at 10:00am. Residents, business persons, and visitors can meet with the Chief and his staff over coffee to discuss community issues or provide feedback on the Police Department.

2013 TRAFFIC CRASH/ TRAFFIC CITATION STATISTICS

Traffic crashes decreased in Surfside from 251 in 2012 to 204 in 2013. 118 traffic crashes occurred on Collins or Harding Avenues in 2013 with the most common causes as improper passing and careless driving. There were 140 in 2012. The intersection with the most crashes was 96 Street and Harding with 9 accidents. The business district experienced 65 crashes in 2013 and 69 in 2012. The residential neighborhoods had 26 crashes in 2013 and 34 in 2012. Hit and Runs decreased from 34 in 2012 to 25 in 2013. Traffic crashes at the five red light camera intersections decreased from 16 in 2012 to 6 in 2013. Red Light Camera violations decreased from 7517 in 2012 to 5028 in 2013.

Traffic enforcement citations increased from 4879 in 2012 to 5604 in 2013. The most frequent violations cited were speeding (1888), driver license violations (671), expired tags (590), no insurance (504) and no seatbelt/ child restraint (428). Parking citations also increased from 15400 in 2012 to 18700 in 2013.

JANUARY TRAINING

- Rapid Response – Officer Gabriel
- Counter Terrorism Workshop – Lt. Williams
- Leadership in Police Organizations – Lt. Matelis