

Bulletin

15-2

Date: February 3, 2015

OFFICER OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2015 – OFFICER TONY MESA

On January 14, 2015, Officer Tony Mesa was flagged down at the corner of 95 and Harding Avenue by a waitress from Flanigan's restaurant. She informed the officer that a man had skipped out on his bill at the restaurant. When she confronted him about the bill, in Big Daddy's liquor store, he pushed her and ran. She gave the officer a good description of the subject and direction of flight. The subject was located by officer Mesa about a block away at 95 and Collins Avenue. The victim positively identified the subject and informed Officer Mesa that he had also skipped out on his bill at Flanigan's on Monday, on January 12, 2015. The subject was placed under arrest for strong arm robbery and defrauding an innkeeper. He was transported to TGK without further incident.

Officer Mesa reacted quickly and utilized the information given to him by the victim to track down the subject within minutes. His diligence and effort should be noted and recognized.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR – 2014 – OFFICER BOBBY GABRIEL

During 2014 Officer Bobby Gabriel received and Officer of the Month Award, two Police Department letters of commendation, and eight letters of appreciation from the community or other law enforcement agencies. He led the Police Department in 2014 for arrests, traffic citations, and traffic warnings. He was recognized each month in 2014 on the Chief's High Achiever list for top productivity.

Bobby also volunteered to work and gain experience with other police agencies. He is eager to learn and become a better police officer. He teamed with the Aventura Police Department's Crime Suppression Team, the Northeast Wolf Pack Detail targeting violent criminals, and the Miami-Dade Police Department Multi-Agency Gang Task Force during 2014. Bobby is also a member of the regional Surfside, Bal Harbour, and Bay Harbor Islands Crime Suppression Team.

Bobby always gives back to the community. He has participated with the Citizens Police Academy, the Police Teen Summer Camp, and the regional Police Explorer Program. Although he is a young officer, Bobby has been with Surfside since he was a teen as a police explorer, a Parks and Recreation Department staff adviser, a police communications operator and ultimately reached his career goal – a Surfside Police Officer.

Most important, Bobby exemplifies what a Surfside Police Officer should be. He is proactive police officer but respectful and courteous to all. His positive attitude makes him a favorite with police and Town employees as well as residents, tourists, and business persons. He enjoys coming to work every day and being a police officer. I am proud to have him as one of my finest officers!

POLICE CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – 2014 – EA DINA GOLDSTEIN

This letter is to nominate Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein for the 2014 Police Civilian of the Year. She manages the administrative functions of the Police Department by herself. Her job responsibilities are numerous and critical to the overall operation of the police department. She is an important part of the development of three budgets each year: Public Safety, Municipal Parking, and Forfeiture/ Confiscation. She also undertakes the most complicated payroll in Town Hall as well as the off duty detail payroll. She is a one person office manager for the Police Department and responsible for the ordering, purchasing, and billing for all items. Dina also administers the business parking permit program. She compiles the monthly, biannual, and annual crime and enforcement statistics. She is the liaison for the police link to the website and Channel 77 and creates public flyers for the community. In addition, Dina represents the Chief's Office at many Town meetings and law enforcement and community events. Whatever new challenge she is given, and there have been many, she establishes a plan and always completes it in a professional, meticulous and timely manner.

Dina has developed and implemented many programs that enhance public safety and provide a safer environment for our citizens in Surfside. Dina managed our 13th Citizens Police Academy, the annual Halloween Safety Night block party, the annual Police Department Holiday Toy Drive and Party, the Town Take your Children to Work Day, the Summer Police Teen Camp, a crime awareness class for women, and a self-defense class for women. She hosts regularly scheduled on-site programs in Surfside for community blood drives, community outreach for the State Attorneys' Office, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles mobile DMV, and DEA Prescription Drug Drop Off Days. She is responsible for the bicycle registration, dog identification and dog registration programs and the annual Miami-Dade Chiefs of Police dinner. She is the Town's representative for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life project. On most of these events she volunteers her own time.

Her work ethic, dedication, and commitment to the Town, her fellow employees, and residents of Surfside are remarkable. Most important is that Dina is not only a great employee but also a great person and well respected by all!

HIGH ACHIEVERS – JANUARY 2015

Officer Gabriel
Officer Carrasquillo
Officer Ruiz/ Officer Hidalgo
Officer Lorente
Officer Gentile



Officer McGavern
Officer Lovellette
Officer Colonna
Officer Smith
Officer Campbell
Officer Luke
Officer Mesa
Parking Officer Acosta
Parking Officer Melendez

Thanks for the good work!

NEW POLICE CARS

The new Ford Explorers have arrived and are being striped and outfitted with equipment. These vehicles will be assigned to patrol supervisors. This will allow each squad 24/7 to have a SUV available for storms, flooding, and emergencies on the beach.

BYRON AVENUE TRAFFIC INITIATIVE

In response to the increased traffic congestion in the Town of 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 volume of vehicular traffic there when drivers are looking for alternate routes to navigate as Collins Avenue and Harding Avenue become backed up. Patrol Operations has developed traffic details in which officers are positioned strategically on Byron Avenue at key intersections and areas where speeders have been reported during morning and evening rush hours. In addition to using on duty personnel, an Overtime Detail has been implemented to supplement staffing. Two officers are working from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. assigned strictly to traffic control on Byron Avenue. They are targeting 88 Street & Byron Avenue where drivers often violate the traffic control devices and 95 Street & Harding Avenue where the traffic attempting to reach 96 Street funnels causing excess volume and impatient drivers. We have also placed a Video Message Sign on Byron Avenue reminding drivers of the 20 MPH speed limit. In just the past three weeks officers have issued 241 violations and given 182 warnings. With each traffic stop, officers are explaining the importance of safe driving in a residential community with no sidewalks where children play close to the street and pedestrians often walk to the beach, parks and local businesses. Town officials are working closely with State and County Traffic Agencies in attempts to establish more permanent traffic control devices to further reduce the volume of traffic and curtail violations within the residential roadways. In addition to the aforementioned, the Parking Department will implement a pilot residential parking permit program for the 9400 and 9500 blocks of Byron Avenue. The program will be 90 days and re-evaluated. Only residents and their guests will be allowed to park on these two blocks. The purpose of the program is to mitigate the daily problem of workers, beach goers and others parking on these two blocks. The Police Department

has also held two Community Meetings to gain input and suggestions from our residents. The Police Department is conducting Temporary Road Closures on Byron Avenue at 90 and 94 Streets 4:30 to 6:30pm, to eliminate direct travel south to north. Traffic will be evaluated weekly and modification will occur as needed. Further meetings will be needed to discuss more permanent solutions.

SPECIAL INFORMATION COMMUNITY/INITIATIVES LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

Lt. Williams attend the Miami-Dade County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) meeting on February 3 at 10:00 am.

The Police/ Prosecutor meeting is February 18 at 2:00 pm. Sgt. Matelis will assign a detective to attend.

Lt. Williams will attend the FDOT Local Area Network (LAN) on February 18, at 10:00 am at North Miami PD.

The regional Criminal Investigations Unit intelligence meeting is February 19 at 10:00 am at SPD in the training room.

SPD will host a mobile Department of Motor Vehicles visit on February 19, 9:30-2:30 in the training room. Residents will be provided a variety of services including license renewal.

The Bike with the Chief Ride is February 25, at 5:00 pm. All are welcome to participate.

The monthly Starbucks – Coffee with the Cops is February 27 at 10:00 am. 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.

TRAINING

Senior Leadership Course – Lt. Williams

Crime Prevention Commercial Applications – NRO Hernandez

Rifle Qualifications – certain sworn officers