

Bulletin

20-11

Date: November 4, 2020

OFFICER OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2020 – OFFICER BOBBY GABRIEL

On Thursday, October 15, 2020, Officer Bobby Gabriel was patrolling the 9200 block of Harding Avenue when he observed a vehicle with illegal tinted windows. While conducting a traffic stop, Officer Gabriel noticed the vehicle was bearing a temporary license plate that did not display the state to which it belonged. Officer Gabriel made contact with the driver who stated he rented the vehicle this way and later changed his story saying a friend lent him the car. As Officer Gabriel continued to investigate, he discovered the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the temporary license plate was not the same as on the vehicle.

A record check of the vehicle's VIN revealed the car had been stolen from Fort Lauderdale, FL. The driver was taken into custody, arrested and charged with Grand Theft Auto. During the inquiry, Officer Gabriel discovered the driver had \$7,500.00 in cash held together by plastic rubber bands in a backpack located in the vehicle. The money was impounded and inventoried by Officer Gabriel.

Due to Officer Gabriel's keen investigative skills, he was able to apprehend this individual and recover a stolen vehicle. This was his second Grand Theft Arrest in the past two months, impressive proactive police work conducted by Officer Gabriel. Officer Gabriel has a strong work ethic, respected by his peers and the community he proudly serves. Officer Gabriel is commended for his professionalism, initiative and dedication to the Town of Surfside. Congratulations to Officer Bobby Gabriel as the recipient of the October Officer of the Month award...well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2020 – PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WILLIAM PEREZ

On October 22, 2020, Surfside Police Officers responded to a call for service of a woman in distress at the 9200 block of Collins Avenue. Upon arrival, they located a female that was incoherent and unable to answer simple questions. Officers were unable to locate any friends or family members of the woman and determined she needed immediate medical attention. She was transported to the hospital for treatment.

That evening, Parking Enforcement Officer Perez, noticed multiple Facebook posts requesting assistance in locating a missing female (a photograph accompanied the posts) and listed she was last seen in the area of Mt. Sinai Hospital and reported missing by the Miami Beach Police Department. PEO Perez recalled the Surfside incident earlier in the day regarding a distressed female.

The next morning Parking Officer Perez informed officers who handled the incident involving the young woman in Surfside and showed them the information he discovered on the Facebook post.

The photo indeed matched the female that was transported to the hospital from Surfside. Surfside Police Officers contacted the Miami Beach Police Department and notified them of their missing person's current status and location. They were also able to provide valuable information to the hospital in reference to her complete name and bring to a close the missing person investigation.

If not for the actions of Parking Enforcement Officer Perez, this young woman could have possibly remained unidentified which could have potentially placed her in harm's way. Parking Enforcement Officer Perez is commended for his dedication to assisting others and commitment to community service. Congratulations to Parking Enforcement Officer William Perez as the recipient of the October Civilian of the Month award...well deserved!

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICER OF THE MONTH AWARD WINNER JOSEPH MATTHEWS

Officer Joseph Matthews has been awarded the prestigious Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police Miami-Dade County Officer of the Month Award for September 2020. Please join me in congratulating Officer Matthews for this special recognition.

Officer Matthews was named the Surfside Officer of the Month for September 2020 after his heroic actions when he happened upon a serious traffic accident on his way to work outside of our jurisdiction. Officer Matthews stopped to render aid when a distressed female ran towards Officer Matthews with her non-responsive infant in her outstretched arms saying "help my baby, help my baby". Officer Matthews immediately took possession of the infant, conducted a medical assessment and began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Sadly, the infant succumbed to injuries sustained in this horrible accident despite the gallant efforts taken by all first responders. We are extremely proud of Officer Mathews' valiant actions and efforts during this terrible tragedy.

Congratulations to Officer Matthews as the recipient of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police Miami-Dade County Officer of the Month Award for September 2020.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19)

The Surfside Police Department has maintained situational awareness of the COVID-19 Pandemic Incident in coordination with Local, State, and Federal partner Agencies and through continued contact and information sharing with the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Operations-Emergency Operations Center. Our Department strives to maintain operational readiness, public preparedness, safeguarding the community, and enforcement of laws-ordinances-governmental orders.

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Officer Duran
Officer Durante
Officer Lage
Officer Smith
Officer Valino
Parking Enforcement Officer Castro

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS

Auto Theft Arrest

10/02/2020 at 1100 hours

300 block of 96th Street

A B.O.L.O. was transmitted over the radio of a male driving a Jeep, who was just involved in a disturbance. A detective saw the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. A records check revealed that the Jeep had been stolen from the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department, on October 1, 2020. The vehicle was towed and the driver was arrested.

Update: Auto Burglaries and Bicycle Theft Arrest

10/02/2020 at 0700 hours

8800– 9000 block of Byron Avenue

On September 22nd, officers responded to three vehicle burglaries and a bicycle theft call for service. Detectives reviewed surveillance cameras which captured an unknown male committing the crimes. Detectives created a flyer and disseminated it to surrounding police agencies. SPD Crime Scene processed the vehicles which led to the identification of the male subject. While searching for the subject, detectives located the victim's bicycle at the residence of the subject's family member. The bicycle was recovered and returned to the victim. On October 2nd, detectives located the subject in Miami Beach. During questioning, the subject admitted to committing the crimes.

CAPTAIN PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

Lieutenant John Healy and Lieutenant Antonio Marciante were both promoted to Captain of Police in a dual promotional ceremony on October 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. Captain Healy and Captain Marciante both joined the Surfside Police Department family in 2018 and held the position of Lieutenant of Police. Congratulations to Captain Healy and Captain Marciante!

OCTOBER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

Monthly community events (Bike with the Chief and Coffee with the Cops) and monthly meetings (CIU Intel and Police/Prosecutor) were cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The supervisory staff meeting was October 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive in the Town Hall municipal parking lot and a platelet drive in the 94th Street Municipal Parking Lot on October 21st from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Surfside PD, Aventura PD, Bay Harbor Islands PD, North Miami PD and Sunny Isles Beach PD hosted a Shred a Thon and DEA Drug Take Back on October 24th at Bill Bird Marina (Haulover Park) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sgt. Lorente, Ofc. Lage and PSS Perez represented the Police Department participating in the biannual event.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

Monthly community events (Bike with the Chief and Coffee with the Cops) and monthly meetings (CIU Intel, Police/Prosecutor and Police Staff) were cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The supervisory staff meeting is November 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on November 18th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN OCTOBER

Active Shooter Response Training (FITT) – Det. Dulaney, Det. Mendoza, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Matthews

CCTA First-Responder Integrated Tactical Training – Det. Mendoza

Diversity in the Workplace (LocalGov Online Training) – All Personnel

Edged Weapons / 21 ft Rule / Video - All Sworn Personnel

Enhancing Work Relationships Course (LocalGov Online Training) – All Personnel

FCIC/NCIC Full Access Certification – Ofc. Lovellette

FCIC/NCIC Limited Access Certification – Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Torres, PPO Saffo, PEO Castro

Level 2 Security Awareness Certification – Chief Yero, PEO Perez

Sexual Harassment for Managers (LocalGov Online Training) – Sgt. Cruz, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Pacheco

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (LocalGov Online Training) – All Personnel

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres