

Bulletin

21-02

Date: February 5, 2021

OFFICER OF THE YEAR – 2020 – OFFICER BOBBY GABRIEL

Bobby Gabriel began with the Surfside Police Department at the age of 16 years old as a Police Explorer. Officer Gabriel officially joined the SPD family in 2011 as a Communications Operator and entered the ranks as a Police Officer in 2013. Officer Gabriel demonstrates the highest standards of conduct and professionalism on a daily basis. He is dedicated to serving and protecting the Town of Surfside residents and its visitors. Officer Gabriel is the ultimate colleague and a true team player for all Town staff.

In August 2020, Detective Gabriel was transferred to uniform patrol from the South Florida Financial Crimes Strike Force. Detective Gabriel began his assignment in the Strike Force in January 2017, receiving high praise for his work. Detective Gabriel's primary responsibility in the Strike Force was the investigation of narco drug organizations involved in money laundering. Countless hours of surveillance, investigations, and processing of evidence led to a seizure of approximately \$3.5 million dollars from 2019 to 2020. In addition, Detective Gabriel also investigated unlawful gold smuggling which led to seizures of gold and illegal funds obtained from criminal activity. As a result, the Town of Surfside was awarded a portion of the seizures from the illicit activity. The knowledge Detective Gabriel gained from the Strike Force is invaluable to his overall career development and a benefit to the agency and the town he serves.

Shortly after Officer Gabriel returned to uniform patrol, it did not take long for him to excel. On September 10, 2020, Officer Gabriel was conducting routine patrol and received a BOLO broadcasted over the police radio with regards to a stolen vehicle traveling south bound on Collins Avenue from 158th Street. A few minutes later Officer Gabriel spotted a vehicle that fit the description of the stolen vehicle. Officer Gabriel initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and confirmed it to be stolen. Two subjects were taken into custody as a result of the stop. The male who was driving was currently on inmate release status awaiting trial for charges of aggravated battery on a police officer with a deadly weapon and fleeing and eluding police. The female passenger in the vehicle was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Both subjects were arrested without incident. Officer Gabriel was nominated for the September Officer of the Month for his work during this incident. Due to Officer Gabriel's astute actions, this incident was rapidly ended, preventing any potential safety issues to the community.

In October 2020, Officer Gabriel was awarded the Officer of the Month for his keen observation skills which lead to an arrest and recovery of another stolen vehicle. On October 15, 2020, Officer 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 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, 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. Due to Officer Gabriel's investigative skills, he was able to apprehend this individual and recover a stolen vehicle. This was Officer Gabriel's second Grand Theft Arrest in two months and exemplifies the impressive proactive police work conducted by Officer Gabriel.

Officer Bobby Gabriel has a strong work ethic, is highly respected by his peers and is devoted to the community he proudly serves. We commend Officer Gabriel for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to serving the Town of Surfside. Congratulations Bobby... well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – 2020 – PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WILLIAM PEREZ

Parking Enforcement Officer William (Willy) Perez began his commendable 25-year career with the Surfside Police Department in 1996 and his longevity with this organization is the epitome of stability and service. On any given day, PEO Perez has a multitude of responsibilities and is assigned a variety of tasks as is common in a police agency like SPD. Even though his primary role is enforcement of parking violations, he will assist with traffic control; handle town administration correspondence and packages; deliver and pick-up equipment (radios, lasers and radars) in need of repair or certification; transporting vehicles that require repair and maintenance to various vendor locations in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties; and numerous logistical matters for the operational effectiveness of the police department.

In October 2020, Parking Enforcement Officer Perez was awarded the Civilian of the Month for his dedication to assisting others and commitment to community service. 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. They located a female that was incoherent and in crisis. Officers were unable to locate friends or family members of the woman. She was transported to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. That evening, PEO Perez, noticed multiple Facebook posts requesting assistance in locating

a missing female (a photograph accompanied the posts). PEO Perez recalled the Surfside incident earlier in the day regarding a distressed female. The next morning PEO 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 transported to the hospital from Surfside. Surfside officers contacted Miami Beach PD and notified them of the incident in Surfside which led to the closure of their missing person case. If not for the actions of PEO Perez, this young woman could have possibly remained unidentified and delayed the proper care.

PEO Perez also received a commendation in December for his work in the 12th Annual Holiday Toy Drive. The Surfside Police Department traditionally hosts an annual Holiday Toy Giveaway Party. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the event was revamped for the safety of all involved. The toys collected were distributed over two days to 26 grateful families in need (over 45 children excited children). PEO Perez contacted each family and coordinated delivery dates and times. The day of delivery, he provided valuable instructions including anticipated times of arrival to the anxiously awaiting families. His assistance was instrumental in the success of the event and effectively kept us on schedule.

PEO Perez is a critical link between the police department and the community. This relationship is paramount in the day-to-day operations of the police department's effectiveness. We commend PEO William Perez for his dedication to service. He is a respected professional and committed to the Surfside Police Department and the community he serves. Congratulations Willy... well deserved!

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 Carrasquillo
Officer Duran
Officer Gambirazio
Officer Lage
Officer Luke
Parking Enforcement Officer Acosta

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS**Motor Vehicle Burglary**

01/02/21 at 1632 hours

200 block of 95th Street

Unknown subject(s) entered a vehicle by smashing the rear passenger window. Luggage, jewelry, an iPad, identifications, and personal belongings (total value \$4,096.00 dollars) were taken. The victim had recently arrived into MIA from Texas, rented a car and stopped in Surfside to have lunch.

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon Arrest

01/04/2021 at 1523 hours

8800 block of Harding Avenue

An argument began between a landlord and tenant who is renting an apartment at the rear of the residence led to the landlord grabbing a knife and threatened the victim. The victim was not injured and the landlord/subject was arrested.

Auto Theft

Between 01/08/2021 at 1922 – 01/09/2021 at 0900 hours

8800 block of Byron Avenue

Unknown subject(s) stole a motorcycle parked in the carport of a residence. The motorcycle is valued at \$15,000.00 dollars

UPDATE: Auto Burglary

01/11/2021 at 0901 hours

8900 block of Carlyle Avenue

On 07/09/2019, unknown subject(s) entered a vehicle and stole a Ruger .380 handgun located in the glove box. The handgun was entered into FCIC/NCIC as stolen. On 01/11/2021, the Collier County Sheriff's Office reported that the victim's handgun was located under the seat of an unoccupied rental vehicle. The handgun was cleared from the system and the victim was notified.

Auto Theft

01/16/2021 at 1958 hours

9000 block of Froude Avenue

An unlocked vehicle with the keys inside was stolen. Detectives began their investigation and with the assistance of the victim's vehicle tracking application, the vehicle was located within a few hours. Detectives coordinated with the Miami Dade Police Department which resulted in the vehicle being recovered and two subjects arrested.

JANUARY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The supervisory staff meeting was January 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive on January 13th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The supervisory staff meeting is February 11th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department will host two community blood drives on February 14th and February 24th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN JANUARY

ASP/Less-Lethal Shotgun/OC/Taser Re-Certification Training – Capt. Healy, Capt. Marciante, Sgt. Cruz, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Matelis, Sgt. Pacheco, Sgt. Torres, Det. Leon, Det. Mendoza, Ofc. Arch, Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Durante, Ofc. Gabriel, Ofc. Gambirazio, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Hernandez, Ofc. Knight, Ofc. Lage, Ofc. Lovellette, Ofc. Luke, Ofc. Matthews, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Saffo, Ofc. Smith, Ofc. Valino

Diabetic Emergency and Officer Response Training – Capt. Healy, Sgt. Cruz, Sgt. Lorente, Det. Leon, Det. Mendoza, Ofc. Arch, Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Carrasquillo, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Durante, Ofc. Gambirazio, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Hernandez

Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops – Sgt. Lorente, Ofc. Arch, Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Durante, Ofc. Gambirazio

Domestic Violence Training – Sgt. Lorente, Ofc. Durante, Ofc. Gambirazio

Enhancing Work Relationships Course (LocalGov Online Training) – Sgt. Pacheco, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Knight, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Smith

FCIC/NCIC Full Access Certification- ofc. Arch, Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Lage

FDLE Mandatory Retraining – Sgt. Cruz

Juvenile Sexual Offender Investigations Training - Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Durante

Less Lethal Weapons 08-02 on PowerDMS – All Personnel

Local Agency Security Officer (LASO) Certification – Ofc. Campbell

Science of Employee Engagement Course (LocalGov Online Training) – Sgt. Pacheco, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Knight, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Smith

Supervisor Skills Course (LocalGov Online Training)- Sgt. Pacheco, Ofc. Ruiz

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres