

Bulletin

21-03

Date: March 4, 2021

OFFICER OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2021 – DETECTIVE DIANA LEON

On January 28, 2021, two male subjects entered the Publix supermarket located at 9400 Harding Avenue and stole 81 cans of baby formula. The store's surveillance cameras captured the subjects taking a total of \$1,740.09 dollars' worth of formula. The subjects fled in a gray, four door sedan. After reviewing the surveillance cameras, Detective Leon created and disseminated a "Need to Identify" flyer to surrounding police agencies. The Publix manager advised Detective Leon that the same subjects have been captured shoplifting baby formula at other Publix locations throughout Miami-Dade County. Detective Leon contacted the North Miami Police Department and the Miami-Dade Police Department to collaborate efforts. Detective Leon also contacted a Publix Loss Prevention Officer who informed her that one of the male subjects was trespassed from a Publix supermarket located in North Miami, FL. The name of the subject was given to Detective Leon who was able to quickly obtain his driver's license. Furthermore, Detective Leon discovered the subject owned a 2009, gray, Hyundai Sonata which matched the description of the vehicle in which the subjects fled from the incident in Surfside. Detective Leon requested a record's search of the License Plate Readers (LPR) from nearby police agencies which revealed the subject's vehicle was in the area during the timeframe of the theft.

On February 3, 2021, a victim reported that he paid a male \$20.00 dollars to drive him to a bank ATM. After being dropped off at home, the victim noticed that his wallet was missing and thought that he may have dropped it in the male's vehicle. The male was contacted, but denied the wallet was in his vehicle. Shortly after, the victim was notified of a fraudulent transaction made on his bank account. The victim suspected the male who had provided him a ride. Detective Leon became suspicious when the victim described the vehicle that the male was driving as a gray, Hyundai Sonata. Detective Leon responded to the Home Depot where the fraudulent transaction occurred in order to review their surveillance cameras. Detective Leon determined the two cases were connected. The footage captured the same male subject from the theft at Publix committing fraud/theft at Home Depot. Video surveillance showed the subject utilizing the victim's credit card to purchase a drill for \$212.93 dollars. The victim positively identified the subject providing Detective Leon with probable cause needed to make an arrest.

Detective Leon coordinated a joint surveillance with Miami-Dade Police and North Miami Police detectives, who also had active cases involving the subject. During the early morning hours of February 11, 2021, the detectives set up surveillance at the subject's house and followed him for a few hours. During that time, subjects were observed shoplifting at several supermarkets throughout Miami-Dade County. Detectives apprehended two subjects. Detective Leon charged one of the subject's with Retail Theft with prior conviction, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Credit Card Theft, and Petit Theft. The Miami-Dade Police Department and the North Miami Police Department also submitted multiple charges on the subjects.

Detective Leon's tenacity and good detective work led to the arrest of two serial criminals and cleared multiple cases in Surfside and neighboring jurisdictions. She is dedicated to her profession and commended for her exceptional work ethic. Congratulations to Detective Diana Leon as the recipient of the February Officer of the Month award...well deserved!

2020 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement annually and biannually. The FBI uses UCR to track crime nationwide. The Town of Surfside PD Uniform Crime Report for January – December 2020 reinforces Surfside is a very safe community with a total of three violent offenses reported.

Violent Offenses	2019	2020	% Change
Murder	0	0	
Rape	1	1	0.0%
Robbery	0	0	
Aggravated Assault	5	2	-60.0%
Violent Offense Total	6	3	-50.0%
Property Offenses	2019	2020	% Change
Burglary	11	8	-27.3%
Larceny	113	115	1.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	6	0.0%
Property Offense Total	130	129	-0.8%
Total Index Offenses	136	132	-2.9%
Clearance Rate for Index Crimes	16.2	31.8	96.7%

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 Donoso
Officer Knight
Officer Luke
Officer Matthews
Officer Saffo
Parking Enforcement Officer Acosta

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS

Auto Burglary

02/04/2021 at 0751 hours

9500 block of Abbott Avenue

Unknown subject(s) entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence. An HN America handgun valued at \$1,300.00 dollars was taken from inside the vehicle and entered into FCIC/NCIC as stolen.

Residential Burglary Arrest

02/10/2021 at 2145 hours

9500 block of Collins Avenue

The victim left her front door open while she went to the lobby to pick up her daughter. When she returned, her neighbor oddly opened her front door informing her that she had left her door open. The victim noticed two purses and a bracelet missing from her home (total value of \$13,500.00 dollars). A detective responded to the scene, made contact with the neighbor who confessed to taking the victim's items which were located inside his apartment. The property was recovered, returned to the victim and the neighbor was ultimately arrested.

Attempted Auto Theft and Hit and Run

02/14/2021 at 0155 hours

1100 block of 88th Street

The victim was woken up by his neighbor at approximately 0200 hours, informing him that she heard a loud bang and someone running from his driveway. The victim's vehicle was discovered backed into another vehicle. Additionally, the center console was open, but nothing was missing. The keys were left inside the cup holder of the unlocked vehicle.

Auto Theft and Recovery

02/16/2021 between 1700-2000 hours

9500 Block of Byron Avenue

Unknown subject(s) stole an unlocked vehicle (keys located inside) parked in the driveway of a residence. The vehicle was entered into FCIC/NCIC and an area canvass was conducted for witnesses and surveillance cameras. On 02/18/2021, the vehicle was located in North Miami Beach, FL, unoccupied and in good condition. The vehicle was processed by Crime scene and returned to the owner.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

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

The Surfside Police Department hosted 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.

Sergeant Lorente and Officer Donoso proudly represented the Surfside Police Department as members of a multi-agency Honor Guard participating in the Memorial Service for a fallen Miccosukee Police Officer who passed away in the line of duty on February 21, 2021. The service to honor Officer Marcelo Londono was held on February 27th at Florida International University in Miami.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Heyman, the Miami-Dade Police Department and the North Miami Police Department in partnership with neighboring Police Departments including Surfside, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Biscayne Park, Miami Beach, North Miami Beach and Sunny Isles Beach hosted a Safer Communities Gun Buy Back event on February 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ronald Book Athletic Stadium in North Miami. Officer Juan Duran proudly represented the Surfside Police Department at this significant event.

MARCH COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The supervisory staff meeting is March 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on March 17th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY

ASP/Less-Lethal Shotgun/OC/Taser Re-Certification Training – Sgt. Cruz, Ofc. Arch, Ofc. Carrasquillo, Ofc. Lovellette, Ofc. Luke, Ofc. Matthews, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Smith
Career Professionalism (LocalGov Online Training) – PM Joseph
Developing Effective Communications Skills (LocalGov Online Training) – Chief Yero, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Matelis, Sgt. Pacheco, PM Joseph
Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops – All Sworn Personnel

Diversity at the Workplace (LocalGov Online Training) – Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Gambirazio,
CO Burnell-McKnight

Domestic Violence Training – All Sworn Personnel

Juvenile Sexual Offender Investigations Training – All Sworn Personnel

Murder and Extremism in the U.S.: Trends an Analysis Webinar Training – Det.
Mendoza

Level 4 Security Awareness Certification – Ofc. Campbell

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres