

Bulletin

21-10

Date: October 7, 2021

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JULIO YERO

As you know, I will retire as your Chief of Police on October 31, 2021. Returning to SPD in November of 2014, where I began my law enforcement career in the 80's, is a story book ending. Serving with each of you over the past seven years has been an honor and privilege I will forever be grateful for. Your support, dedication and work has brought positive improvements in many areas of the police department. That progress is evident in the level of law enforcement service provided by our department to the community and in the support and respect for our department amongst the community, Town Administration and our partner agencies. We have worked tirelessly to keep Surfside safe and navigated through unimaginable circumstances. The Covid-19 global pandemic and devastating collapse of the Champlain Towers South disaster have forever impacted all of us and proven that together we are capable of anything while being there for each other. Captain John Healy and Captain Tony Marciante will be an integral part of the continuing excellence and further evolution of your SPD. Please continue to give them your full support and assistance while developing into the future leaders of the department. I wish everyone the best of luck, health and happiness. As I enter a new chapter in life, I look forward to time with my family, sharing new adventures and enjoying my first granddaughter, Terra. I will forever treasure the wonderful memories, fun times and teamwork shared with you. Please look out for each other, stay safe and cherish each day!

OFFICER OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2021 – DETECTIVE ANDRES MENDOZA

The Champlain Towers South building collapse catastrophe on June 24, 2021, impacted many families, the entire Town of Surfside, surrounding communities and Miami-Dade County, in unimaginable ways. The employees were called upon to serve their community in an unthinkable situation and redefined to protect and serve. The Surfside building collapse immediately became the top story on every news channel and our town received national and international coverage. On July 9, 2021, the first report of Fraud was received involving one of the victims deceased in the tragedy. Subject(s) were able to access the victim's account transferring \$2,000.00 dollars. Family members of five additional victims came forward to report fraud in their deceased family members accounts, raising the total to six victims. The subject(s) changed the victims addresses, purchased gift cards, and made high end purchases by stealing their identities. Detective Mendoza was assigned the investigation and discovered that the Aventura Police Department had also received a fraud report of a seventh victim associated with the building collapse. Detective Mendoza, Aventura Police detectives, and the State Attorney's Office collaborated in the investigation.

Detective Mendoza worked tirelessly running a thorough and meticulous investigation. As a result, Detective Mendoza successfully identified the first subject through store cameras and a witness. This was no easy task, considering the subject attempted to conceal her identity in several ways. A surveillance operation was conducted for several days. The surveillance mission yielded positive results and the necessary evidence to proceed with arrest warrants. The State Attorney's Office granted three arrest warrants and three search warrants for the subjects' vehicles and three residential locations. After a considerable amount of planning and coordination, on September 8, 2021, various local and federal partners gathered to execute the warrants. A total of four subjects were arrested, each receiving a high bond amount. Three vehicles were seized and impounded, and three residences were searched. Detectives located a plethora of personal mail with names of the victims, credit card making machines, blank credit cards and checks, narcotics, and a firearm.

Detective Andres Mendoza conducted an exceptional investigation, which led to the apprehension of the subjects who used a tragic situation to further victimize devastated families. Detective Mendoza is a dedicated professional and commended for his tenacity in conducting a comprehensive investigation that honored the victims who were brazenly victimized by callous criminals. Congratulations to Detective Andres Mendoza as the recipient of the September Officer of the Month award...well deserved!

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Officer Arch
Officer Gambirazio
Officer Hernandez
Officer Luke
Officer Saffo
Parking Enforcement Officer Perez

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS

Case Update: Fraud Arrest

09/08/2021 at 0930 hours

Champlain Towers Collapse / Various locations in Miami-Dade County

On 07/09/2021, the first report of Fraud was received. A subject fraudulently transferred \$2,000.00 dollars from the account of a deceased person, a victim of the Champlain Towers South building collapse. As the investigation progressed, six victims were identified. The Aventura Police Department also received a fraud report for another victim bringing the total to seven victims. Surfside and Aventura collaborated on the investigation, conducting surveillance and obtaining the necessary evidence. Arrest warrants were obtained for three identified subjects and search warrants were obtained for three vehicles and residential locations. On 09/08/2021, various federal and local law enforcement agencies gathered to execute the warrants. A total of four subjects were arrested, three vehicles were impounded and three residential locations were searched.

Personal mail with the names of the victims, credit card making machines, blank credit cards and checks, narcotics, and a firearm were located in the searches.

Residential Burglary

09/20/2021 at 0923 hours

9200 block of Collins Avenue

Between 09/14/2021-09/18/2021, unknown subject(s) entered an unlocked and unoccupied apartment. A paddleboard and six bottles of wine valued at \$820.00 dollars were taken from the apartment.

Hit & Run & Fleeing and Eluding an Officer

09/22/2021 at 0250 hours

200 block of 89th Street

During a speed enforcement detail, a traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle traveling southbound on Harding Avenue at a high rate of speed. The driver stopped and fled as the officer began to exit his police vehicle. The driver ran the stop sign at the intersection of 89th Street and Harding Avenue and was struck by a vehicle that was traveling southbound on Harding Avenue. The driver fled on foot, leaving behind injured passengers who were transported to the hospital. A B.O.L.O. was issued over the radio and officers searched the area but were unable to locate the driver. A search of the driver's vehicle revealed marijuana, a bottle containing five Adderall pills, \$998.00 dollars in U.S. Currency, and electronics. All items were impounded and the vehicle was towed.

Auto Burglary

09/22/2021 at 1620 hours

9100 block of Abbott Avenue

Unknown subject(s) entered an unlocked vehicle between 1330-1600 hours taking a duffle bag containing a new pair of shoes valued of \$195.00 dollars.

Residential Burglary

09/25/2021-10/01/2021

8900 block of Froude Avenue

Officers responded to a burglar alarm and observed damage to the glass of the rear door and frame while checking the property. The homeowner was out of town and the house was unoccupied. The subject(s) attempted to burglarize the house, but were scared away by the loud motion detector alarm and unable to enter the home. Crime scene was unable to process the scene due to contamination from weather conditions.

SHIFT BID

The Patrol Shift Bid process has been completed and will be effective October 18, 2021.

A Squad

Sergeant Alberto
Officer Carrasquillo
Officer Colonna
Officer Gambirazio
Officer Luke
Communications Supervisor Sperbeck

B Squad

Sergeant Lorente
Officer Donoso
Officer Hernandez
Officer Howard
Officer Ruiz
Communications Operator Burnell-McKnight

C Squad

Sergeant Torres
Officer Duran
Officer Lage
Officer Lovellette
Officer Matthews
Communications Operator Castillo

D Squad

Sergeant Pacheco
Officer Knight
Officer Mendoza
Officer Saffo
Officer Smith
Communications Operator Villar

E Squad/Traffic

Sergeant Matelis
Officer Arch
Officer Gentile
Officer Valino

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The Miami Beach Police Department conducted a DUI checkpoint on September 3rd at 12th Street and Alton Road from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Officer Gambirazio and Officer Matthews represented the Surfside Police Department and participated in this event.

The Miami-Dade Police Department DUI Unit in conjunction with the Surfside Police Department conducted a DUI checkpoint on September 10th at 93rd Street and Collins Avenue from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Officer Loxley Arch, Officer Duran, Officer Lovellette and Officer Valino participated in this event.

The annual 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance in memory of all who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks of 9/11 was held on September 11th at Tropical Park at 9:30 a.m. The local heroes including firefighters, police officers, and first responders serving our country today were honored with words of reflection, a moment of silence, and a time of community. Captain Marciante attended this poignant event.

The Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police (MDCACP) in partnership with the South Florida Police Benevolent Association hosted a training conducted by the Boulder Crest Foundation on September 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Doral, FL. The presentation provided an overview on the peer counseling program the MDCACP aspires to implement to assist the departments currently without one. Captain Marciante attended and represented the Surfside Police Department.

Code Enforcement hosted their monthly Special Master Hearing on September 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The supervisory staff meeting was September 16th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The School of Justice Advisory Committee Meeting was September 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Miami Dade College North Campus. Captain Marciante attended the meeting.

September was National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the Forces are showing up Gold. The 4th Annual Childhood Cancer Police Car Initiative Gold Ribbon Parade hosted by the Mystic Force Foundation in conjunction with the North Miami Police Department was held on September 18th. The parade showcased police vehicles from all the departments in Miami Dade County wrapped and decorated with Gold Ribbons in support of our littlest Heroes battling childhood Cancer. Attendees experienced an unprecedented show of unity and support by Law Enforcement Officers. Officer Smith participated in this momentous event and a Surfside police vehicle supporting childhood cancer awareness was proudly displayed.

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive on September 22nd from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops was September 23rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Police Training Room.

The onsite Mock Re-Accreditation assessment took place September 28th - September 29th, 2021.

OCTOBER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

The FLOW (Florida Licensing on Wheels) was October 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The Police Department proudly participated in a photographic event on October 7th along with police departments from all over Miami-Dade County for Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police is raising awareness as we show our support for a worthy cause. The photograph was taken on

the tarmac of the Miami International Airport with all the police vehicles decorated with pink ribbons in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness. Officer Luke attended and represented the Surfside Police Department.

The LEO Weekend, a non-profit organization that provides weekend getaways to the families of fallen officers, will kick off their "LEO Weekend Miami 2021" on October 8th at Bill Baggs Park in Key Biscayne. The opening ceremony is from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Police Department will participate in this event with our police vehicle decorated with Gold Ribbons which supports childhood Cancer. Officer Luke will attend and represent the Surfside Police Department.

The Police Department is hosting a presentation on Officer Involved Shooting/In-Custody Death Investigation Process and Policy training conducted by FDLE on Thursday, October 14th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. Representatives from Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Golden Beach, and Indian Creek Police Departments will attend the training.

The supervisory staff meeting is October 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Surfside Police Department will host two community blood drives on October 17th and October 21st from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The Aventura Marketing Council is hosting their annual Salute to Law Enforcement breakfast meeting on October 20th at 7:30 a.m. in Aventura. Captain Healy will attend and represent the SPD.

Code Enforcement will host their monthly Special Master Hearing on October 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Surfside PD, Aventura PD, Bay Harbor Islands PD, North Miami PD and Sunny Isles Beach PD will host a Multi-Agency Collection Day (electronics recycling, Shred-a-Thon and DEA Drug Takeback) on October 23rd at Bill Bird Marina (Haulover Park) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Surfside, Bal Harbour and Bay Harbor Islands Police Departments will host the Surf Bal Bay Night Out on October 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Bay Harbour Islands. Captain Healy, Captain Marciante, Sgt. Matelis, Officer Smith and EA Goldstein will attend this event.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops is October 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Police Department will contribute to the Parks and Recreation's Spooky Spectacular on October 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the 96th Street Park by giving out Halloween candy. Officer Duran and EA Goldstein will represent the Police Department and participate in the event.

Surfside Police officers will be stationed throughout the residential neighborhood on Halloween, October 31st handing out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER

Departmental Directive 03-02: Juveniles (PowerDMS)- All Personnel

Department Directive 03-03: Arrest Procedures (PowerDMS)- All Personnel

Departmental Directive 03-04: Arrest Procedures (PowerDMS)- All Personnel

Departmental Directive 03-04: Prisoner Processing (PowerDMS)- All Personnel

Departmental Directive 08-03: Use of Force (PowerDMS)- All Personnel

Ethical Behavior for Local Government- CEM Santos-Alborna, CEO Ruvin

Eyewitness Identification- Sgt. Cruz, Det. Gabriel, Det. Leon

Fundamentals of Code Enforcement by FACE (Florida Association of Code Enforcement) – CEO Ruvin

FCIC/NCIC Full Access Certification – Ofc. Hernandez, Ofc. Valino, CS Sperbeck, Ofc. Smith

ICS 300- Sgt. Cruz

Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents- Sgt. Cruz

Prisoner Holding Cell Training: Panic Alarm/Fire Suppression System- All Personnel

Risk Protection Orders (RPO) - All Sworn Personnel

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace- CEM Santos-Alborna

Single Officer Response to Active Threat Instructor Course – Sgt. Torres

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres

The Use and Control of Informants: A Patrol Officer's Primer- Sgt. Cruz, Det. Gabriel, Det. Leon

Trauma Informed Policing- Det. Leon