



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bulletin

23-02

Date: February 13, 2023

OFFICER OF THE YEAR – 2022 – OFFICER RONALD DONOSO

The Surfside Police Department selected Officer Ronald Donoso as the Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2022. Officer Donoso began his commendable career with the Town of Surfside in July of 2017 as a Community Service Aide and was rapidly promoted to the position of Police Officer in December of 2017. In his five-year tenure with the Police Department, Officer Donoso has received four officer of the month awards along with accolades from the community.

Officer Donoso was selected by his peers to receive this prestigious award for his overall performance throughout the year, his positive outlook, and his unrelenting support to his Surfside family. Officer Donoso is praised for his dedication, levelheaded patrol practices, and strong work ethic demonstrated on a daily basis. Furthermore, Officer Donoso's yearly enforcement statistics were the highest amongst patrol officers.

On March 21, 2022 at 0830 hours, Officer Donoso was inside the Publix Supermarket in Surfside with another officer. While in the store, he noticed a male placing items inside a bag that he had placed in a shopping cart and a female accompanying the male. Both individuals began exhibiting behavior changes when they saw both officers in the store. As Officer Donoso approached the checkout area, he observed the male and female approach the registers and walk past all the point of sales without paying for the items attempting to exit the store. Officer Donoso informed his colleague of his suspicions attempting to stop the subjects before they exited the store ultimately apprehending them in the parking lot. The store manager advised the male had been in the store the past few mornings. Officer Donoso was commended for his alertness which resulted in the apprehension of two subjects that have possibly committed multiple thefts at Publix and consequently awarded the March Officer of the Month award for his proactive measures.

On May 14, 2022 around 1:00 p.m., a single-engine plane crashed on the Haulover Inlet Bridge. The aircraft lost power shortly after takeoff, coming down on the bridge and striking an SUV, then bursting into flames. One person aboard the plane died upon impact while the other people involved were taken to the hospital. Even though it did not occur in Surfside, it effected the Town immeasurably. Traffic flow was severely affected in all directions due to road closures causing massive traffic backups for several hours as fire rescue and law enforcement processed the scene. Surfside personnel including Officer Donoso provided indispensable assistance with traffic mitigation and pedestrian safety near the site. His contributions were instrumental in the overall operation and he was commended by peers for his actions in the aftermath of the crash.



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In addition to his daily responsibilities, Officer Donoso is a distinguished member of the Honor Guard serving as an official representative of the Police Department. Honor Guard officers must have the strength to withstand overwhelming emotions when they're called upon to serve in times of tragedy. Each year, the Honor Guard performs in dozens of high visibility and high profile ceremonies in Miami-Dade County and throughout Florida representing the Police Department as members of multijurisdictional Honor Guard Teams. They also perform ceremonial duties in Town special events such as the Parks and Recreation Department's annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. Officer Donoso is also a member of the inaugural Auxiliary Marine Patrol Officer (AMPO) Program established in March 2022.

Officer Donoso has earned the upmost respect from his colleagues and his accomplishments are indicative of the level of character and training he possesses. He embodies the Police Department's core values and performs his significant responsibilities with integrity and in an exemplary manner. Officer Donoso demonstrates the highest standards of conduct and professionalism as he proudly serves the Surfside community. Congratulations to Officer Ronald Donoso as the recipient of the 2022 Surfside Police Department Officer of the Year Award...a well-deserved honor!

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – 2022 – PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CRISTHIAN ACOSTA

The Surfside Police Department selected Parking Enforcement Officer Cristhian Acosta as the Police Department's Civilian of the Year for 2022. Cristhian began his remarkable career with the Town of Surfside in March of 2021. Cristhian has proven to be an invaluable and esteemed colleague exhibiting kindheartedness and respect to everyone he encounters. PEO Acosta was selected by his peers to receive this prestigious award for his optimism, unwavering support to his Surfside family and overall performance throughout the year. He is well respected at the Police Department, Town Hall and in the community. Cristhian eagerly accepts all challenges and responsibilities requested of him with a smile. He is praised for his unsurpassed work ethic, providing the highest level of customer service, and an honorable representative of the Surfside Police Department.

PEO Acosta is a member of Parking Department which is comprised of four parking officers in total. Cristhian 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 and even more imperative when residents and tourists alike need assistance, directions, or just community information. Parking Enforcement Officers manage six municipal parking lots and 37 multi-space pay stations. The daily assignments completed by Cristhian include monitoring and enforcement of the municipal parking lots and residential neighborhood; controlling the flow of traffic; maintenance of the multi-space pay stations; and programming the visual messaging board and speed trailer along with relocating them to pertinent areas.



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On any given day, PEO Acosta 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 within the Town of Surfside, he delivers agendas and packages to the elected officials and Town committee members; transports vehicles and inoperative equipment in need of repair to various localities; retrieve uniforms and essential equipment; and assist as needed with community events for the Police Department, Parks and Recreation and the Tourist Board. The logistics for community events such as the monthly blood drives, bi-annual Multi-Agency Collection Day, Surf-Bal-Bay Community Night Out, Spooky Spectacular, Family Fun Day, Farmers Market, Third Thursdays and Surfside Under the Stars include delivery, set-up and removal of cones and barricades as well as traffic management.

On May 14, 2022 around 1:00 p.m., a single-engine plane crashed on the Haulover Inlet Bridge. The aircraft lost power shortly after takeoff, coming down on the bridge and striking an SUV, then bursting into flames. One person aboard the plane died upon impact while the other people involved were taken to the hospital. Even though it did not occur in Surfside, it effected the Town immeasurably. Traffic flow was severely impacted in all directions due to road closures causing massive traffic backups for several hours as fire rescue and law enforcement processed the scene. Surfside personnel including PEO Acosta provided indispensable assistance with traffic mitigation and pedestrian safety. Cristhian also graciously purchased cold beverages at his own expense for the first responders mandated to integral posts. He received recognition and gratitude from his peers for going above and beyond for the personnel working tirelessly in extreme heat. His contributions were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

This is only one example of PEO Acosta's extraordinary service to the community he proudly serves. Cristhian performs these praiseworthy actions on a daily basis and wholeheartedly fulfills any task requested of him. PEO Acosta has proven to be an enormous asset to everyone he helps and graciously accepts additional assignments. PEO Acosta embodies the Police Department's core values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence while performing his numerous work responsibilities in an exemplary manner. Congratulations to Parking Enforcement Officer Cristhian Acosta as the recipient of the 2022 Surfside Police Department Civilian of the Year Award...a well-deserved honor!

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Officer Arch
Officer Gabriel
Officer Knight
Officer Smith
Officer Valino
Parking Enforcement Officer A. Acosta



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SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS

Auto Burglary

01/02/2023

8900 block of Bay Drive

Two subjects were captured on video surveillance checking the doors of the vehicle's parked in the driveway, entering one which was unlocked. The subject's fled the area in an unknown vehicle. Nothing was reported missing from inside the vehicle and a flyer was disseminated to surrounding police agencies

JANUARY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

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

The Surfside Under the Stars event was January 7th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on 93rd Street between Collins and Harding Avenue. The Police Department assisted the Tourist Board with traffic control, street closures and pedestrian safety from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Calvary Chapel Miami hosted their annual Law Enforcement Appreciation luncheon on January 9th at 12:00 p.m. at the Calvary Chapel in Miami. Chief Healy, Captain Marciante and Sergeant Cruz attended this event.

The Mesivta Yeshiva Elementary in Miami Beach hosted their annual Career Week January 9th to January 13th, 2023. The Police Department participated once again on January 9th with a law enforcement presentation and police equipment demonstration from Officer Valino.

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

The Town of Surfside Parks and Recreation Department hosted their annual Family Fun Day event on January 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Police Department assisted with traffic control and pedestrian safety. Chief Healy, Officer Duran, Officer Valino and EA Goldstein including Station Dog "Officer Mike" participated in the event.

The Police Department hosted a Multi-Agency Traffic Detail on January 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Law enforcement personnel were stationed Townwide primarily focusing on aggressive driving, distracted driving, red-light running, speeding, seatbelt use, move-over law compliance, bike/pedestrian safety compliance and general traffic safety. Bal Harbour and Bay Harbor Islands Police Departments participated in this event along with Sergeant Matelis and Officers Arch and Valino. In addition, Parking Enforcement Officers enforced double parking in the business district.



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The Town of Surfside's Third Thursday event took place January 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 9500 Collins Avenue (200 block of 95th Street). Three police officers/or parking enforcement officers assisted with the street closures and pedestrian safety from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A Human Trafficking Forum was held on January 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center in Miami. Detective Leon and Detective Lage attended the seminar.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops was January 26th at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks.

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive on January 29th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

One of Surfside's younger residents personally invited Surfside Police Officers along with Officer Mike to attend his 7th birthday party on February 5th at 1:00 p.m. in which they graciously accepted and fulfilled his birthday wish.

The Officer and Civilian of the Year luncheon was held on February 6th at 12:30 p.m. in the Police Training Room. Officer Ronald Donoso and Parking Enforcement Officer Cristhian Acosta were honored as the recipients of these prestigious awards.

The Swearing in Ceremony for Chief John Healy was held on February 10th at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The Surfside Under the Stars event was February 11th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on 93rd Street between Collins and Harding Avenue. The Police Department assisted the Tourist Board with traffic control, street closures and pedestrian safety from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on February 15th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The supervisory staff meeting is February 16th at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Town of Surfside's Third Thursday event will take place February 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on 93rd Street between Collins and Harding Avenue. Three police officers/or parking enforcement officers will assist with the street closures and pedestrian safety from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.



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Pembroke Pines Police Officer Charlie Herring was tragically killed in the line of duty in a motorcycle crash on February 9, 2023. A public Full Honors Funeral Service will be held on February 20th at 1:00 p.m. at the Charles F. Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines. Sergeant Lorente and Officer Luke will proudly represent the Surfside Police Department as members of a multijurisdictional Honor Guard Team participating in the ceremony.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops is February 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks.

The Dolphins Cancer Challenge XIII (DCC XIII) bicycle ride will take place on February 25th. This momentous event signifies the 13th year of commitment and support of funding innovative cancer research at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, a part of UHealth – the University of Miami Health System. Surfside police officers will assist with bicycle and traffic direction on Collins Avenue from 87th Terrace to 96th Street between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as thousands of bicyclists travel through the Town of Surfside to reach their final destination the Hard Rock Stadium.

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on February 26th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN JANUARY

Diabetic Emergency and Officer Response - All Sworn Personnel

Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Domestic Violence – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Elder Abuse Investigations Training – All Sworn Personnel

Eyewitness Identification – Det. Lage

Juvenile Sexual Offender Investigations – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Identify and Investigate Human Trafficking- Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Level 4 Security Awareness Certification – Ofc. Campbell

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

Meeting the Leadership Challenges of Law Enforcement “First Line Supervision” -Ofc. Campbell

Misuse of Electronic Databases – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Low Light Shooting and Flashlight Techniques – Sgt. Torres

1410 Recognizing Head Injuries in Infants and Children – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith

Risk Protection Orders – Det. Lage

Successful Customer Interactions – CS Sperbeck

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres

The Use and Control of Informants: A Patrol Officer’s Primer – Det. Lage

Victims of Sexual Offenses – Sgt. Matelis, Det. Lage, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Smith



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