



**Date of occurrence:** 2018

**Employee Name:** Micah Smith

**Classification:** Police Officer

**Unit/Division:** Patrol

**Award/Commendation type and recommendations:** Officer of the Year 2018

**Narrative:**

This letter is to recognize Officer Micah Smith as the FOP Awards Committee selection for Surfside Police Department's 2018 Officer of the Year award. Officer Micah Smith joined the Surfside Police Department in 2003 as a Public Service Aide and proudly became a police officer in 2008. Throughout his career in Surfside, Officer Smith has consistently excelled. During the year 2018, Officer Smith continued to exemplify the highest standards of a professional police officer.

A clear example of Officer Smith's high level of performance is evident in the following case: From February 23, 2018 to February 27, 2018, the Town of Surfside was struck by three residential burglaries that occurred in the 9000 block of Carlyle Avenue, 9100 block of Byron Avenue and the 9400 block of Bay Drive. Subjects ransacked the homes and stole electronics, jewelry, alcohol bottles, and perfumes. The total loss between all the victims was approximately \$8,745.00. Detectives conducted an area canvass and located two nearby homes with surveillance cameras. Upon review of the video surveillance, detectives obtained images of the subjects walking in the area on the days of the burglaries. This information also confirmed that the subjects were committing the burglaries during the morning hours. An information flyer was distributed to our officers, surrounding agencies, and the community.

On Friday, March 2, 2018, Officer Micah Smith was working an off-duty detail in the Town. While he was driving to set up the lane closure, he observed three juvenile males walking on Harding Avenue and one in particular grabbed his attention for matching the description of the subject in the flyer. Officer Smith stopped the juveniles, separated them and requested that a detective respond to his location. A

detective responded and had all three juveniles transported to the station and interviewed. The juveniles gave sworn and recorded statements confessing to their involvement in all three burglaries. The juveniles described how they entered the homes and identified the items they took. Furthermore, they also admitted to being in the area to commit additional burglaries. In their possession they had items that belonged to the burglary victims. The juveniles were arrested and each was charged with three counts of unoccupied burglary and one count of loitering and prowling.

Officer Smith analyzed the burglary flyer disseminated and his alertness and keen observation skills immediately triggered the identification of a possible burglary subject. He acted on his instincts and subsequently prevented these subjects from committing additional burglaries in our community.

In addition to his exceptional patrol practices, Officer Smith has received several recognition letters from citizens he has assisted. From going above and beyond in assisting a motorist stranded with a disabled vehicle in the middle of the night to simply providing information to disoriented tourists, Officer Smith exemplifies the strong community policing philosophy that is a standard of the Surfside Police Department.

Officer Smith was named SPD Officer of the Month for March 2018 and also nominated for the prestigious 2018 L.E.O. Award in the Uniform Services Category for which he has been chosen as a finalist. The winners will be named in the L.E.O. Gala Awards Ceremony on March 2, 2019.

Congratulations to Officer Micah Smith as the recipient of the 2018 Officer of the Year...well deserved!

**Chief of Police:** Julio Yero

**Date:** January 17, 2019