

Surfside Police Department



Award and/or commendation

Date of occurrence: April 10, 2019

Employee Name: Acting Sergeant Tammy Campbell and Officer Jose Valino

Unit/Division: Patrol

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Letter of Commendation/ Officer of the Month Nomination

Narrative:

On Wednesday April 10, 2019, Bay Harbor Islands officers responded to a call for service in their jurisdiction reference a missing autistic juvenile. The only information provided by the Bay Harbor Islands officer on scene was that the juvenile was a nine (9) year old boy who was refusing to go to school and may be walking towards Miami Beach where his father resides. Acting Sergeant Campbell immediately coordinated a detailed response by having available Surfside Officers and Criminal Investigation Unit Detectives assigned to specific roadways and defined areas to avoid a duplication of efforts in the search for the juvenile. Acting Sergeant Campbell was also able to obtain additional information regarding the juvenile and the address of the father's residence in Miami Beach. Surfside personnel were also assigned to check the north-end of Miami Beach and the information regarding the missing juvenile was provided to the Miami Beach Communications Unit for dissemination to their police officers. Detective Gambirazio was assigned to meet with the missing boy's father who was outside his residence in the north-end of Miami Beach. The search was active for almost twenty minutes when Officer Valino observed the juvenile walking in the 8200 block of Collins Avenue and he began to run from Officer Valino. Officer Valino's experience and CIT training enabled him to calm the juvenile, at which time the juvenile's mother arrived at the location with a Bay Harbor Islands Police Officer. Detective Gambirazio brought the father to the location and the entire family was safely reunited.

Acting Sergeant Campbell, Officer Valino, and the other police personnel on this search displayed professional excellence in their handling and response to this incident. Acting Sergeant Campbell and Officer Valino are to be commended for their dedication, compassion and commitment to bringing this incident to a safe and successful conclusion. Congratulations to Acting Sergeant Tammy Campbell and Officer Jose Valino as recipients of Officer of the Month...well deserved!