



Date of occurrence: January 30, 2020

Employee Name: Diana Dulaney

Unit/Division: Detective

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

Narrative:

On January 13th, 2020, a 90-year-old victim reported that she suspected her caregiver stole credit cards and cash from her apartment, an approximate total value of \$11,896.37 dollars in theft. Detective Dulaney was assigned as the lead investigator and did not delay in gathering evidence, knowing that time is of the essence with fraud investigations.

Detective Dulaney obtained the elderly victim's credit card statements and visited all the department stores where the fraudulent charges occurred, obtaining receipts and video surveillance from most of the stores. Detective Dulaney discovered the caretaker was in fact responsible for committing the fraudulent transactions and went on a shopping spree at Burlington Coat Factory, Macy's, Walmart, Victoria's Secret, and Publix to name a few.

On January 30th, surveillance was set up at the caretaker's residence and place of employment. Within a few hours, the caretaker was taken into custody and transported to the station for questioning.

During questioning, at first the caretaker attempted to deny that she committed the theft and fraudulent charges. However, faced with a plethora of evidence the caretaker finally admitted and confessed to committing the fraudulent charges. The caretaker stated that she took the elderly victim's credit cards and would later return them back to her thinking the elderly woman would never notice. At the conclusion of the interview, the caretaker was apologetic and offered to return the money to the elderly victim. The caretaker was arrested and charged with two counts of fraudulent use of credit card, one count of exploitation of the elderly, and one count of theft from the elderly.

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle sent out a Press Release to the news media outlets praising the actions of the Surfside Police Department who worked swiftly with the prosecutors to bring this investigation to a speedy close.

Detective Diana Dulaney's thorough investigation and tireless dedication to bring to justice a caretaker who preyed on her elderly and vulnerable patient for her own financial gain is a clear example of how this exceptional detective performs with each case assigned to her. Congratulations to Detective Diana Dulaney as the recipient of the January Officer of the Month...well deserved!