



Date of occurrence: April 27, 2021

Employee Name: Detective Andres Mendoza

Unit/Division: Criminal Investigations Unit

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Officer of the Month

Narrative:

Detective Andres Mendoza joined the Criminal Investigations Unit February 17, 2020, contributing eight years of investigative experience from the Doral Police Department to the Surfside Police Department. The Covid-19 Pandemic brought many new challenges to law enforcement nevertheless Detective Mendoza met each one with tremendous success. His calm and professional demeanor were vital during these demanding times. Detective Mendoza cleared many cases with arrests however, two particular cases deserve special recognition for the extensive investigative work accomplished.

Detective Mendoza was assigned a Fraud case in June 2020, involving a male posing as a licensed contractor who defrauded a Surfside resident of \$2,400.00 dollars. The subject was hired by the victim to fix the roof of the residence and payment was issued upon completion of the work. However, it was later discovered the repair was not completed properly and the subject did not respond to the resident's calls in reference to the unfinished repair job. Detective Mendoza utilized investigative resources to identify the subject, who was using a fictitious name, discovering the male had victimized other individuals in Miami-Dade County. Although it took months and many hours of investigative work, Detective Mendoza gathered enough evidence to prove that the subject had committed the crime in Surfside. He presented the case to the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, who after reviewing the case, approved an Arrest Warrant for the subject. Detective Mendoza searched for the subject tirelessly, checking past and current addresses to no avail. On April 8, 2021, the subject was subsequently arrested on the warrant.

Detective Mendoza was assigned a Hit and Run investigation in September 2020, involving a male driver who fled and eluded Surfside Police Officers. Prior to fleeing on foot, the driver struck a bicyclist, who was thankfully not injured. The subject abandoned the vehicle he was driving at a nearby loading dock. A B.O.L.O. was broadcasted over the police radio however the subject was unable to be located. Detective Mendoza interviewed witnesses on-scene and canvassed for surveillance video. Review of surveillance videos produced an image of the driver which led to obtaining intelligence on the driver as well as the hotel where he was residing. Unfortunately, the subject was already back home in New York. Detective Mendoza embraced the challenge of gathering sufficient evidence to prove the subject committed these crimes. After months of working tirelessly and several communications with the Assistant State Attorney, an arrest warrant was issued with full extradition in February 2021. Detective Mendoza contacted the New York Police Department's Warrants Division in March 2021, in an effort to locate the subject. The subject was located, arrested by the New York Police Department and extradited to Miami-Dade County, FL.

Detective Andres Mendoza conducted two exceptional investigations, his determination to solve these cases led to arrests in both offenses. He is dedicated to his profession, commended for his exceptional work ethic and commitment to the Town of Surfside and the community he proudly serves. Congratulations to Detective Andres Mendoza as the recipient of the April Officer of the Month award...well deserved!