



Date of occurrence: February 11th, 2021

Employee Name: Diana Leon

Classification: Detective

Unit/Division: Criminal Investigations Unit

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

Narrative:

On January 28, 2021, two male subjects entered the Publix supermarket located at 9400 Harding Avenue and stole 81 cans of baby formula. The store's surveillance cameras captured the subjects taking a total of \$1,740.09 dollars' worth of formula. The subjects fled in a gray, four door sedan. After reviewing the surveillance cameras, Detective Leon created and disseminated a "Need to Identify" flyer to surrounding police agencies. The Publix manager advised Detective Leon that the same subjects have been captured shoplifting baby formula at other Publix locations throughout Miami-Dade County. Detective Leon contacted the North Miami Police Department and the Miami-Dade Police Department to collaborate efforts. Detective Leon also contacted a Publix Loss Prevention Officer who informed her that one of the male subjects was trespassed from a Publix supermarket located in North Miami, FL. The name of the subject was given to Detective Leon who was able to quickly obtain his driver's license. Furthermore, Detective Leon discovered the subject owned a 2009, gray, Hyundai Sonata which matched the description of the vehicle in which the subjects fled from the incident in Surfside. Detective Leon requested a record's search of the License Plate Readers (LPR) from nearby police agencies which revealed the subject's vehicle was in the area during the timeframe of the theft.

On February 3, 2021, a victim reported that he paid a male \$20.00 dollars to drive him to a bank ATM. After being dropped off at home, the victim noticed that his wallet was missing and thought that he may have dropped it in the male's vehicle. The male was contacted, but denied the wallet was in his vehicle. Shortly after, the victim was notified of a fraudulent transaction made on his bank account. The victim suspected the male who

had provided him a ride. Detective Leon became suspicious when the victim described the vehicle that the male was driving as a gray, Hyundai Sonata. Detective Leon responded to the Home Depot where the fraudulent transaction occurred in order to review their surveillance cameras. Detective Leon determined the two cases were connected. The footage captured the same male subject from the theft at Publix committing fraud/theft at Home Depot. Video surveillance showed the subject utilizing the victim's credit card to purchase a drill for \$212.93 dollars. The victim positively identified the subject providing Detective Leon with probable cause needed to make an arrest.

Detective Leon coordinated a joint surveillance with Miami-Dade Police and North Miami Police detectives, who also had active cases involving the subject. During the early morning hours of February 11, 2021, the detectives set up surveillance at the subject's house and followed him for a few hours. During that time, subjects were observed shoplifting at several supermarkets throughout Miami-Dade County. Detectives apprehended two subjects. Detective Leon charged one of the subject's with Retail Theft with prior conviction, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Credit Card Theft, and Petit Theft. The Miami-Dade Police Department and the North Miami Police Department also submitted multiple charges on the subjects.

Detective Leon's tenacity and good detective work led to the arrest of two serial criminals and cleared multiple cases in Surfside and neighboring jurisdictions. She is dedicated to her profession and commended for her exceptional work ethic. Congratulations to Detective Diana Leon as the recipient of the February Officer of the Month award...well deserved!