



# SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *AWARD OR COMMENDATION*

**Date of occurrence: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

**Employee Name: Ronald Donoso**

**Classification: Police Officer**

**Unit/Division: Patrol**

**Award/Commendation type and recommendations: 2022 Officer of the Year**

The Surfside Police Department has selected Officer Ronald Donoso as the Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2022. Officer Donoso began his commendable career with the Town of Surfside in July of 2017 as a Community Service Aide and was rapidly promoted to the position of Police Officer in December of 2017. In his five-year tenure with the Police Department, Officer Donoso has received four officer of the month awards along with accolades from the community.

Officer Donoso was selected by his peers to receive this prestigious award for his overall performance throughout the year, his positive outlook, and his unrelenting support to his Surfside family. Officer Donoso is praised for his dedication, levelheaded patrol practices, and strong work ethic demonstrated on a daily basis. Furthermore, Officer Donoso's yearly enforcement statistics were the highest amongst patrol officers.

On March 21, 2022 at 0830 hours, Officer Donoso was inside the Publix Supermarket in Surfside with another officer. While in the store, he noticed a male placing items inside a bag that he had placed in a shopping cart and a female accompanying the male. Both individuals began exhibiting behavior changes when they saw both officers in the store. As Officer Donoso approached the checkout area, he observed the male and female approach the registers and walk past all the point of sales without paying for the items attempting to exit the store. Officer Donoso informed Officer Ruiz of his suspicions attempting to stop the subjects before they exited the store ultimately apprehending them in the parking lot. The store manager advised the male had been in the store the past few mornings. Officer Donoso was commended for his alertness which resulted in the apprehension of two subjects that have possibly committed multiple thefts at Publix. Officer Donoso was awarded the March Officer of the Month award for his proactive measures.



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On May 14, 2022 around 1:00 p.m., a single-engine plane crashed on the Haulover Inlet Bridge. The aircraft lost power shortly after takeoff, coming down on the bridge and striking an SUV, then bursting into flames. One person aboard the plane died upon impact while the other people involved were taken to the hospital. Even though it did not occur in Surfside, it effected the Town immeasurably. Traffic flow was severely affected in all directions due to road closures causing massive traffic backups for several hours as fire rescue and law enforcement processed the scene. Surfside personnel including Officer Donoso provided indispensable assistance with traffic mitigation and pedestrian safety near the site. His contributions were instrumental in the overall operation and he was commended by peers for his actions in the aftermath of the crash.

In addition to his daily responsibilities, Officer Donoso is a distinguished member of the Honor Guard serving as an official representative of the Surfside Police Department. Honor Guard officers must have the strength to withstand overwhelming emotions when they're called upon to serve in times of tragedy. Each year, the Honor Guard performs in dozens of high visibility and high profile ceremonies in Miami-Dade County and throughout Florida representing the Police Department as members of multijurisdictional Honor Guard Teams. They also perform ceremonial duties in Town special events such as the Parks and Recreation Department's annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. Officer Donoso is also a member of the inaugural Auxiliary Marine Patrol Officer (AMPO) Program established in March 2022.

Officer Donoso has earned the upmost respect from his colleagues and his accomplishments are indicative of the level of character and training he possesses. He embodies the Police Department's core values and performs his significant responsibilities with integrity and in an exemplary manner. Officer Donoso demonstrates the highest standards of conduct and professionalism as he proudly serves the Surfside community. Congratulations to Officer Ronald Donoso as the recipient of the 2022 Surfside Police Department Officer of the Year Award...a well-deserved honor!

Chief of Police:

John Healy

Date:

2/2/23