



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

AWARD OR COMMENDATION

Date of occurrence: December 16, 2023

Employee Name: Alejandro Lorente

Classification: Sergeant

Unit/Division: Patrol

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Officer of the Month

The Police Department began the Holiday Toy Drive in 2009 to help families in need during the holiday season. The event has grown from 30 children to over 100 children participating in the program. Last year, the Police Department was given the incredible opportunity to have a Shop with a Cop event generously sponsored and held at Target in North Miami Beach. The 15th Annual Holiday Toy Drive (2nd annual Shop with a Cop) was once again graciously funded and held on December 16, 2023 at Target from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Each child received a \$75.00 card in which to shop. Sixty families and 129 kids had an extra special holiday and had the unique experience to shop with Police Department personnel. Sergeant Lorente along with Police Department personnel were assigned multiple families throughout the day to shop for holiday presents.

A family who arrived late due to bad weather completely missed their scheduled time and the event entirely. They approached Sergeant Lorente in the parking lot inquiring if they were still able to participate. Sergeant Lorente contacted the event coordinator, who was still onsite, advising gift cards available for the family to shop. Sergeant Lorente went above and beyond all expectations by returning to the store with the family to shop with them. To say he made the holiday special for this family is an understatement. This may seem like an ordinary gesture however to the recipients it was simply wonderful. The truly appreciative family had a unique holiday experience and left with a cart full of toys. Sergeant Lorente is commended for his altruistic actions and compassion. Despite a long day, he graciously shopped with the family until they found everything they wanted. Congratulations to Sergeant Alejandro Lorente as the recipient of the December Officer of the Month award...well deserved!