



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

AWARD OR COMMENDATION

Date of occurrence: October 30, 2022 and February 2, 2023

Employee Name: Dianna Hernandez

Classification: Officer

Unit/Division: Patrol

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

Officer Dianna Hernandez has demonstrated in her exceptional 12 years of service with the Surfside Police Department compassion, dedication, and kindheartedness to everyone she encounters. Whether it is a call for service or routine patrol, the highest level of professionalism is exhibited by Officer Hernandez. The following are two examples of her remarkable service to the community.

On October 30, 2022, Officer Hernandez came across a homeless elderly female who was sleeping on a bench at the Publix located in Surfside. Officer Hernandez engaged the woman and listened to her story of how she felt the system had failed her. The woman expressed her frustration and feelings of hopelessness to Officer Hernandez, who listened with empathy and compassion. Despite the challenges of long waiting lists for affordable and government housing, Officer Hernandez did not allow these obstacles to prevent her from aiding. She asked the woman to give her a chance to help, and with tears in her eyes she graciously accepted Officer Hernandez's offer of support. Officer Hernandez immediately contacted homeless organizations she has worked with in the past and sent an email requesting assistance for the elderly female. Thanks to her unrelenting efforts, the female was eventually placed in a shelter where she could get the help and support she desperately needed.

On February 2, 2023, Officer Hernandez noticed an elderly homeless male sleeping on the bench outside Publix. She was aware the male used to be a resident in the Town however he lost his home after becoming ill. The male had no family and ended up homeless. Officer Hernandez went above and beyond her duty as a police officer to get the man the help he needed. She contacted homeless organizations she has worked with in the past to get him assistance. The homeless organization eventually contacted the homeless male, nonetheless he did not accept the services. Despite this setback, Officer Hernandez spoke to the homeless male again to convince him to get aid, regrettably she was unsuccessful. Officer Hernandez's determination and benevolence in attempting to help this individual are praiseworthy.

Officer Hernandez's commitment to serving the community, particularly its most vulnerable members, is a testament to her perseverance and integrity. Her determination in making a positive difference in the lives of those in need is unwavering and truly admirable. Officer Hernandez embodies the Police Department's core values each day and performs her altruistic actions in an exemplary manner. Congratulations to Officer Dianna Hernandez as the recipient of the March Officer of the Month award...well deserved!