POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER AND CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Officer John Gentile

Family members join Off. John Gentile and Chief Allen

For the second consecutive year, Officer John Gentile has been selected by his peers as Police Officer of the Year. He is a consistent a high achiever, leading the Department in enforcement statistics for the past two years. During 2012, he recorded 431 traffic citations, 252 traffic warnings and 30 arrests. John was nominated along with his squad for the Miami-Dade LEO Award for Uniform Services in 2012. He was the Officer of the Month for September 2012 and received ten departmental commendations and/or citizen letters of appreciation. He serves as an acting supervisor, Field Training Officer and Off Duty Detail Coordinator. Congratulation on being Surfside Officer of the Year!

Elinor Joseph

(L-R) Chief David Allen, Elinor Joseph, Mayor Daniel Dietch

In 2012, Elinor Joseph was promoted to a new position, Parking Operations Manager. His new duties include overseeing the Parking Department and supervising four Parking Enforcement Officers and one Public Service Aide. He manages the multi-space pay station system, coin single space meters, credit card accepting meters and eight municipal lots. He is on call 24/7. Joseph also works closely with the Code Compliance Director and issues warnings for violations. He is the administrator of the Property and Evidence Unit which collects and stores all evidence for court or safekeeping. Under his leadership, citations and revenue increased substantially in 2012. Congratulations!

October Officers of the Month

While working a special detail to combat auto burglaries, Sgt. Jose Pacheco observed a suspicious vehicle and notified Officer Les Ruis to pull over the car. Inside were three men, all with criminal records. They were arrested for prowling and detained. One of the subjects was identified as comitting a residential burglary the same night in Bay Harbor Islands. Congratulations for preventing crime in Surfside and solving a crime in a neighboring town.

(L-R) Chief David Allen, Off. Les Ruis, Sgt. Jose Pacheco, Mayor Daniel Dietch

(L-R) Chief David Allen, Dina Goldstein, Mayor Daniel Dietch

Dina Goldstein Named Civilian of the Month

In November and December of 2012, Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein organized a holiday toy drive on behalf of more than 40 needy families, including collecting the toys and coordinating a party in the Commission Chambers. She recruited employees to dress in holiday attire, had the Miami Dade Fire Department bring Santa in a ladder truck and provided refreshments. She was recognized as Civilian of the Month for her efforts on behalf of disadvantaged children.