

POLICE BEAT

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH - JULY 2017

Officer Hernandez Solves A Prickly Crime

While patrolling in the residential area, Officer Dianna Hernandez observed a vehicle parked askew at 90th Street and Abbott Avenue. The driver was securing a large cactus to the roof of the vehicle. He stated he found the cactus in the middle of the road. The cactus appeared to have been freshly cut and a hand saw with wood debris was laying on the front passenger seat. After searching the area, a large cactus was found at a home planter with debris leading to the street. The homeowner said he did not cut his cactus or authorize anyone to trim the plant. The driver was arrested. Officer Hernandez was also able to return the stolen plant to the owner. Officer Dianna Hernandez is commended for her professionalism and dedication to the community.



Officer Hernandez, Lt. John Bambis

Officer Gentile's Efforts Lead to Arrests and Recovery of Motorcycle



Officer Gentile (R) with Captain Julio Yero.

In the early morning hours, Officer John Gentile saw a vehicle with three occupants parked on the side of the road in the 9100 block of Collins Avenue and a person on a motorcycle nearby. The person on the motorcycle drove in the wrong direction on Collins Avenue to avoid Officer Gentile. As the car left, Officer Gentile stopped the vehicle for an equipment violation. The occupants gave conflicting stories about their activities. Two BB guns, a bolt cutter and a baseball bat were inside the car as well as a motorcycle tag registered to a nearby address. The owner was contacted and verified the motorcycle was stolen. The three subjects were arrested for loitering and prowling. Two juveniles were issued civil citations and released to their parents. The adult and was charged with possession of a stolen tag and burglary tools. Within hours, the motorcycle was recovered by the Miami-Dade Police Department. Officer Gentile is commended for being proactive and alert and for his investigative ability.

Jose Feliz Honored for Support of Police Department



Captain Julio Yero, Lt. John Bambis, Jose Feliz and Chief David Allen

Systems Support Specialist Jose Feliz provides information technology needs for all the departments in Surfside. On August 9, 2017, he was honored by the Surfside Police Department Command Staff for his unwavering level of commitment, dedication to his duties, his exemplary work ethic and his strong support for Surfside and the law enforcement community. Jose received an award plaque from Chief David Allen. Congratulations Jose!

STATE UNIFORM CRIME STATISTICS

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement Uniform Crime Report for January to June 2017 has been released.

Surfside had a significant reduction in Total Crimes, Violent Crimes and Property Crimes as compared to the first six months of 2016.

There were decreases in most Part 1 Crimes including aggravated assault, burglary and larceny. Motor vehicle theft remained the same at three.

Part 1 Crimes are murder, sexual battery, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. More significantly, our clearance rate increased from 27.5% to 45.5%.

SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT JANUARY-JUNE 2017 CRIME TRENDS

	INDEX		VIOLENT CRIME		PROPERTY CRIME	
	TOTAL CRIMES	% CH	CRIME	% CH	CRIME	% CH
2013	69	-15.9	5	-37.5	64	-13.5
2014	88	27.5	2	-60	86	34.4
2015	60	-31.8	5	60	55	-36
2016	91	51.6	9	80	82	49
2017	55	-39.6	5	-44.4	50	-39

Of the crimes committed, many have been cleared by arrests. Arrests for Part 1 Total Crimes increased by 4.2%. Overall arrests for all incidents decreased from 117 in 2016 to 56 from January to June 2017. The reduction is most notable in narcotic and traffic arrests.