

# POLICE BEAT

## TEENS HAVE FUN AT SURFSIDE'S POLICE SUMMER CAMP

The 11th Annual Police Teen Summer Camp held its graduation on Thursday, August 1. July classes included Crime Scene Investigations and visits to the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami and the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, Station 25 at Opa-Locka Executive Airport.



## POLICE & FDOT JOIN FORCES FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Members of the Surfside Police Department and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recently distributed safety tips and information from the Alert Today, a campaign that focuses on promoting pedestrian safety and to reduce future traffic incidents. Residents and visitors received educational materials and prizes for citizens using sidewalks and crosswalks.

The five areas covered went from the 93rd Street and Collins Avenue to the business district. Local business owners were also provided with educational materials to distribute to visiting customers. Approximately 350 pieces of educational materials were distributed. Many citizens expressed their gratitude for the initiative. Special thanks to Jeanette Gorgas and Isis Sotolongo for organizing the FDOT team. For additional information on public safety, contact Sgt. Jay Matelis at (305) 861-4862 or email [jmatelis@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:jmatelis@townofsurfsidefl.gov).



### SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIFORM CRIME REPORT JANUARY-JUNE 2019

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement Uniform Crime Report for January to June 2019 has been released. The numbers reinforce that Surfside is a very safe community. Violent Offenses and Property Offenses are compared to the first six months of 2018. Total Violent offenses decreased from 4 to 2. Total Property Offenses increased from 37 to 65. The increase in property offenses is related to a number of bicycle thefts early in the year. Detectives made an arrest in connection with the bicycle thefts and the trend stopped. The SPD clearance rate for all Index Crimes increased by 3.2%.

VIOLENT OFFENCES	2018	2019	% CHANGE
Murder	0	0	
Rape	0	1	
Robbery	0	0	
Aggravated Assault	4	1	-75%
Violent Offences Total	4	2	-50%
PROPERTY OFFENCES	2018	2019	% CHANGE
Burglary	9	9	-
Larceny	37	65	75.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	1	-66.7%
Property Offence Total	49	75	53.1%
Total Index Offenses	53	77	45.3%
Clearance Rate for Index Crimes	22.6	23.4	3.2%

## JULY OFFICER & CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH

### Acting Sgt. Campbell Takes Charge of Critical Incidents

On July 18, 2019, officers responded to a male on a construction site who was possibly electrocuted. Acting Sergeant Tammy Campbell was the supervisor on duty and immediately assumed command. Despite the best efforts of Miami Dade Fire rescue the victim was pronounced deceased on scene. Acting Sergeant Campbell ensured witnesses were isolated from other workers, summoned detectives to the scene for interviews, and made sure OSHA was notified of the incident and responding.

Minutes later, a second call for service was broadcasted in reference to a suicidal male armed with a handgun. The information received was a male was on the telephone with a crisis counselor and parked in a vehicle in the area of 94th Street and Collins Avenue. Acting Sergeant Campbell cleared the construction accident scene and immediately responded to the area of the male in crisis.

After locating the vehicle, Acting Sergeant Campbell coordinated communication via the dispatcher to give the male specific instructions prior to exiting his vehicle. After a few minutes, the male began to exit the vehicle. Acting Sergeant Campbell directed officers on scene and issued verbal commands to the male, who was taken into custody without incident. Officers located a loaded firearm in the vehicle. The male Was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.

The following day, the male wanted to retrieve his firearm. Officers discovered the subject had additional firearms in his vehicle that was parked at the police station. Acting Sergeant Campbell established a good rapport with the male who subsequently made the decision to turn over all his firearms. These events are examples of Acting Sergeant Campbell's leadership and calmness in times of crisis. She managed two critical incidents back to back seamlessly and priori-



(L-R) Captain John Bambis, Parking Enforcement Officer Donovan Saffo, Chief Julio Yero, Officer Tammy Campbell and Lt. John Healy.

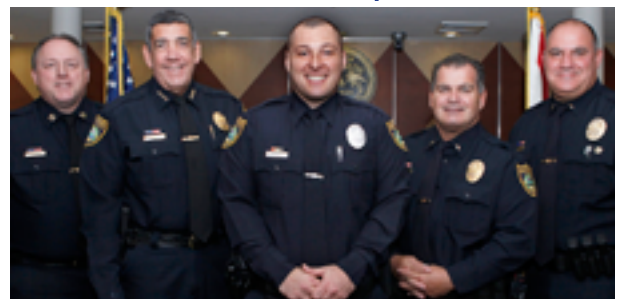
tized her responsibilities. Acting Sergeant Campbell is commended for her ability to supervise multiple critical incidents simultaneously. Her leadership, professionalism and experience are a true asset to the SPD. Congratulations to Acting Sergeant Tammy Campbell as the recipient of Officer of the Month. Well deserved!

### Parking Enforcement Officer Honored

Parking Enforcement supervisors and Police Department officers have observed that Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) Donovan Saffo has been performing to a high standard while displaying a strong work ethic in recent months. He has been repeatedly on the Police Chief's High Achievers monthly acknowledgment list during 2019 for the quantity and quality of work he has performed. PEO Saffo has established excellent working relationships with his coworkers and supervisors. The Police Department has received emails from citizens regarding the appropriate and professional manner in which PEO Saffo has handled parking and traffic issues. PEO Saffo was selected as the July 2019 Civilian of the Month for performing his duties consistently at the highest level. Congratulations to Parking Enforcement Officer Donovan Saffo as the recipient of Civilian of the Month. Well deserved!

### Officer Andres Mendoza Joins Surfside Police Department

Andres Mendoza was recently sworn in as the newest police officer for the Surfside Police Department. Since 2008, he has been an officer for the Doral Police Department, where he was one of the founding members of the Crime Suppression Team. In 2004, Andres worked as a reserve officer while working full-time as a Corrections Officer. He graduated from the Police Academy in 2003 as one of the top three of his class. Born in Colombia, Andres graduated from American Senior High School in 1995 and received his Associates Degree from Miami-Dade College in 1998. Welcome to the Surfside Police Department family!



(L-R) Captain John Bambis, Chief Julio Yero, Officer Andres Mendoza, Lt. John Healy and Lt. Antonio Marciante.