

POLICE BEAT

AUGUST OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Sgt. Jay Matelis Helps to End a Rash of Bicycle Thefts



Sgt. Jay Matelis (L) with Police Chief Julio Yero.

On August 31, 2020, Surfside police officers responded to a bike theft on 91st Street. It was one of a rash of bicycle thefts that the Town has recently experienced. While working an off-duty detail, Sgt. Jay Matelis assisted the patrol officers as they canvass the area. Following his police sense, Sgt. Matelis drove south on Harding Avenue and checked side streets and pedestrians. At 69th Street he spotted someone on a bicycle that matched the description. The subject was arrested and Officer Dianna Hernandez realized the subject matched the description from prior bicycle thefts. Detective Mendoza interviewed the subject and was able to clear a prior bicycle theft by the same subject.

With his initiative and observation skills, Sgt. Matelis curtailed a crime trend in Surfside. The outcome of this arrest prevents a repeat offender from committing further crimes. Sgt. Matelis leads by example through his work ethic and positive nature. Congratulations to Sergeant Jay Matelis as the recipient of the August Officer of the Month award. Well deserved!

SURFSIDE POLICE GIVE OUT TICKETS AND SAFETY ADVICE

Surfside Police Officers are cracking down on speeders and those who violate traffic laws in the residential neighborhoods and on Harding and Collins Avenues. Several police agencies assisted Surfside Police on September 9, making over 100 traffic stops during a multi-agency educational/enforcement event coordinated by Surfside PD and the Florida



Department of Transportation Channel 7 News' Sheldon Fox joined Sgt. Jay Matelis to cover the crackdown. "We're here to not punish people," Matelis said. "We're here to change behavior."

Drivers should be alert at all times and avoid actions that can cause accidents, including driving too closely or running a traffic light. Recently, a 14-year-old boy was fatally struck by a car while riding his bicycle in Bal Harbour. There are several ways for bicyclists to safely share the road with drivers, too. See the bike safety tips and print out and complete a crossword puzzle in the Town website www.townofsurfsidefl.gov under the Parks and Recreation Department.

PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY - SHRED IMPORTANT PAPERS

Surfside Police Department will join agencies for the annual Multi-Agency Shred-a-thon and DEA Prescription Drug Takeback on Saturday, October 24, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm at Bill Bird Marina (at Haulover Park) 10800 Collins Avenue.

There is a three-box limit for shredding and no CDs, DVDs, binders, X-rays or plastic will be accepted. For more information, contact Dina Goldstein at (305) 861-4862 or dgoldstein@townofsurfsidefl.gov.



**MULTI-AGENCY Shred-A-Thon
& DEA PRESCRIPTION
DRUG TAKEBACK**

