

## POLICE BEAT



### Officer Joseph Matthews Honored by Miami-Dade County Chiefs

Surfside Officer Joseph Matthews has been awarded the prestigious Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police Miami-Dade County Officer of the Month Award for September 2020.

Officer Matthews was also the Surfside Officer of the Month for September 2020 after his heroic actions when he came upon a serious traffic accident outside of our jurisdiction (see the full story in the November Gazette, page 5).

Officer Matthews began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on an unresponsive infant while sending information to the en route Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. Tragically, the infant succumbed to injuries in this horrible accident despite the incredible efforts of all first responders. Congratulations to Officer Matthews.

### OCTOBER OFFICER OF THE MONTH - BOBBY GABRIEL

On October 15, 2020, while patrolling the 9200 block of Harding Avenue Officer Gabriel observed a vehicle with illegal tinted windows and noticed the vehicle was bearing a temporary license plate that did not display the state to which it belonged.



He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver who stated he rented the vehicle and later changed his story saying a friend lent him the car. As Officer Gabriel continued to investigate, he discovered the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the temporary license plate was not the same as on the vehicle. A record check of the vehicle's VIN revealed the car had been stolen from Fort Lauderdale, FL. The driver was taken into custody, arrested and charged with Grand Theft Auto. During the inquiry, Officer Gabriel discovered the driver had \$7,500.00 in cash in the vehicle. Due to Officer Gabriel's keen observations and investigative skills, he was able to apprehend this individual and recover a stolen vehicle. This was his second Grand Theft Arrest in the past two months. Officer Gabriel has a strong work ethic, is respected by his peers and committed to the community he proudly serves. Congratulations as the October Officer of the Month!

### OCTOBER CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH - WILLIAM PEREZ

On October 22, 2020, Surfside Police Officers responded to a call for service of a woman in crisis at the 9200 block of Collins Avenue. Upon arrival, they located a female that was incoherent. Officers determined she needed immediate medical attention.



She was transported to the hospital for evaluation/treatment. That evening Parking Enforcement Officer Perez noticed multiple Facebook posts requesting assistance in locating a missing female reported by the Miami Beach Police Department. The next morning Parking Officer Perez informed officers who handled the incident involving the young woman what he discovered on the Facebook post. The photo indeed matched the female that was transported to the hospital from Surfside. Surfside officers contacted the Miami Beach Police Department and notified them of their missing person's current status and location. They were also able to provide valuable information to the hospital in reference to her complete name. If not for the actions of Parking Officer Perez, this young woman could have possibly remained unidentified and potentially exposed to harm. Congratulations as the October Civilian of the Month!