

POLICE

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH - JUNE 2021

CAPTAIN JOHN HEALY, OFFICER CRAIG LOVELLETTE, OFFICER KEMUEL GAMBIRAZIO, OFFICER ARIOL LAGE AND OFFICER JOSEPH MATTHEWS



On Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 1:20 a.m., Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Champlain Towers South condominium. Officers Lovellette, Gambirazio and Lage encountered what seemed like smoke-filled air, but no smell of burning or flames. They quickly discovered a surreal and unbelievable sight. The Champlain Towers South Condominium had partially collapsed. These first responding officers entered a very dangerous zone without hesitation to assist anyone they could. Their bravery and selflessness are admirable.

Acting Sergeant Lovellette assumed command, rapidly calling for additional resources. Officers Lage and Gambirazio coordinated with the first responding units of the Miami-Dade Fire Department and police units from neighboring jurisdictions, securing a hot zone perimeter and hurriedly evacuating the nearby buildings.

Captain Healy arrived immediately, his experience as a police commander was a notable asset on this chaotic scene. He established command and control, ensured our officers' safety and ensured the Community Center was opened for survivors and evacuees.

Officer Joseph Matthews was assigned to the dispatch center when the first calls for help were received. Officer Matthews was calm and professional while assisting desperate loved ones and citizens asking questions. At the same time he was relaying critical information to officers on the scene and coordinating additional personnel response.

All SPD personnel worked under unimaginable circumstances with poise, courage and compassion. The dedication and commitment exhibited in response to the worst tragedy ever suffered by Surfside will forever be appreciated.

Congratulations to Captain John Healy, Officers Kemuel Gambirazio, Ariol Lage, Craig Lovellette and Joseph Matthews as the recipients of the June 2021 Officers of the Month Award!

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OFFICER RONALD DONOSO

Officer Ronald Donoso was patrolling the residential area when he saw two men loitering near a home. When they saw Officer Donoso approaching, they began to travel on bicycles and failed to stop at the stop sign. The subjects were read their Miranda Warnings. The subjects said they were hired to work at the Surfside building collapse site. The Miami-Dade Command Post verified they did not request or hire anyone to work there. One of the men consented to a search of the backpack and was



carrying and revealed bolt cutters. After the investigation, they were arrested for Loitering and Prowling and Possession of Burglary Tools.

Officer Donoso's actions and proactive patrolling prevented a crime. When the homeowner reviewed her video surveillance, it showed one of the men at the rear door of the home. Officer Donoso is commended for his commitment to the community. Congratulations to Officer Donoso as the recipient of the July Officer of the Month award!

SGT. PACHECO RECEIVES 20-YEAR PIN



Police Department staff and Town Manager congratulate Sgt. Jose Pacheco, Jr. for receiving his 20-year pin. (L-R) Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Chief Julio Yero, Sgt. Pacheco, Officer Donovan Saffo, Dispatcher Jorge Villar and Officer Juan Duran.