

## Detective Diana Leon Officer of the Month

On January 28, 2021, two men entered the Surfside Publix and stole 81 cans of baby formula worth \$1,740. Detective Diana Leon created a "Need to Identify" flyer to police agencies. The Surfside Publix manager said the same subjects have been captured on surveillance cameras shoplifting at other Publix stores. Detective Leon contacted other police departments and a Publix Loss Prevention Officer. She told Detective Leon one of the men was trespassed from a North Miami Publix. This enabled Detective Leon to quickly obtain his driver's license. The subject's car matched the gray Hyundai Sonata that fled from the incident in Surfside.

Less than a week later, a victim reported that he paid a man \$20 to drive him to a bank ATM. He later could not find his wallet and believed he left it in the man's vehicle. The man denied he had the wallet, but shortly after the victim was notified of a fraudulent transaction. Detective Leon noticed the subject coincidentally drove



a gray Hyundai Sonata. She quickly went to the Home Depot where the fraud occurred to see the surveillance cameras. It showed the same man from the theft at Publix now attempting to purchase a drill for \$212.93 with the victim's credit card.

Detective Leon coordinated a joint surveillance at the subject's house with Miami-Dade Police and North Miami Police detectives. The detectives followed him and another subject as they were seen shoplifting at supermarkets throughout Miami-Dade.

They both were apprehended. The subject was charged with Retail Theft with prior conviction, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Credit Card Theft, and Petit Theft. The other departments also submitted multiple charges.

Detective Leon's tenacity and exceptional detective work led to the arrest of two serial criminals and cleared multiple cases in Surfside and neighboring jurisdictions. She is a dedicated law enforcement professional committed to serving Surfside. Congratulations Diana!

## PASSOVER SAFETY MEETING AT SURFSIDE



Chief Julio Yero and the Surfside Police Department hosted a Passover Safety Meeting on March 18, 2021 with neighboring police departments in preparation for the upcoming holiday. Rabbi Mark Rosenberg was the guest speaker with members of the command staff from the Aventura, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Miami Beach, North Miami Beach and North Bay Village Police Departments.



## POLICE HONOR GUARD SERVE AT OFFICER'S MEMORIAL

Sergeant Alejandro Lorente and Officer Ronald Donoso proudly represented the Surfside Police Department as members of a multi-agency Honor Guard participating in the Memorial Service for a fallen Miccosukee Police Officer who passed away in the line of duty. The memorial was held at Florida International University.