

CIVILIAN
OF THE
YEAR

The Surfside Police Department has selected Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein as the Surfside Police Department's Civilian of the Year for 2021. Dina began her career with the Town of Surfside in 2008 after graduating from the second Citizens Police Academy class as a resident. Dina has come full circle as she currently oversees and has coordinated the Citizen Police Academy program for 10 years. Dina is the only full-time civilian administrative person in the Police Department and successfully manages the many administrative functions within the Police Department. Her job responsibilities are numerous and critical to the overall operation of the Police Department. Dina tracks three budgets annually, single-handedly serves as the office manager for the Police Department and is responsible for the ordering, purchasing, and billing of all items.

Dina also administers the business parking permit program. She compiles the monthly, biannual, and annual crime and enforcement statistics as well as the monthly police bulletin, the Police Department's section of the Town Manager's monthly report, weekly updates and submits the Police Department material to the Gazette. In addition, Dina represents the Chief's Office at law enforcement and community events.

In 2021, Dina was given the responsibility of managing and organizing the Police Department's training files. Her role is integral in keeping the training files up to date both electronically and in the employee files. Dina also distributes the training certificates to Human Resources for documentation. This is an important aspect in order to efficiently complete employee evaluations. She eagerly accepted this challenge and completes it with ease.

Dina took on the daunting task of reviewing and revising the ICS FEMA forms in reference to the Champlain Towers South Building Collapse on June 24, 2021. Dina worked closely with the consulting company hired by the Town to ensure the proper and pertinent information was submitted to FEMA. Due to her diligence, the forms were turned in ahead of time and the Surfside Police Department's ICS forms were used as an example for other police departments.



Dina has and continues to work on many programs that enhance public safety and provide a more secure environment for citizens in Surfside. These programs include the Police Teen Summer Camp and the annual Holiday Toy Giveaway. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the toy event was revamped for the safety of the children, families and participating personnel. She hosts regularly scheduled on-site programs in Surfside such as community blood drives, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles mobile DMV, and biannual Shred-A-Thons and DEA Prescription Drug Drop Off Days. Dina also works on the bicycle registration, dog identification and registration programs, and the annual Miami-Dade Chiefs of Police dinner.

Executive Assistant Dina Goldstein's work ethic, kindheartedness, and dedication to the Town, her fellow employees, and residents of Surfside are unparalleled. Dina is available evenings and weekends when needed and is always on call. She is the first to help others with their job functions and duties. She is well respected at the Police Department, Town Hall and in the community. Dina was selected by her peers to receive this prestigious award, a high honor. Congratulations to Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein as the recipient of the 2021 Surfside Police Department Civilian of the Year Award...well deserved!

BIKE WITH THE
Chief of Police

Last Wednesday of the Month

BEGINS AT
Town Hall | 5:00 p.m.

OFFICERS

OF THE

YEAR

The Surfside Police Department has selected Officer Kemuel Gambirazio, Officer Ariol Lage, Officer Craig Lovellette and Officer Joseph Matthews as the Surfside Police Department's Officers of the Year for 2021. Officers Gambirazio, Lage, Lovellette and Matthews were the first responding officers when the first calls for help in this incident were received. As the Champlain Towers South collapse catastrophe. The telephone lines rang nonstop and the police radio transmissions employees were called upon to serve their community in an unthinkable situation and redefined to protect and serve.

On Thursday, June 24, 2021, Police Officers responded to 8777 Collins Avenue in reference to a general fire alarm at the Champlain Towers South condominium. Upon arrival, Officers Gambirazio, Lage and Lovellette encountered what seemed like smoke-filled air, but no smell of burning or flames were observed. They quickly discovered a surreal and unbelievable sight. The Champlain Towers South Condominium had partially collapsed. Officers heard screams for help, but could barely see through the dust-filled air making it difficult to even breathe. Despite the treacherous conditions, 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 on this tragic early morning call, rapidly calling for additional resources. Officers Gambirazio and Lage coordinated with the first responding units of the Miami-Dade Fire Department and police units from neighboring jurisdictions securing a hot zone perimeter and hurried to evacuate the nearby buildings. This action prevented further disaster in what potentially could have been an additional collapse of the remaining portion of the condominium. The Town of Surfside Community Center was designated as the staging location for survivors and other evacuees to gather safely and the

In the aftermath of the building collapse, the search and rescue mission was extensive requiring additional personnel to secure the perimeter; providing security at the Family Reunification Center; ensure pedestrian safety; and manage traffic control throughout the Town of Surfside. Officers Gambirazio, Lage, Lovellette and Matthews continued to work tirelessly providing this essential support performing exceptionally in extreme heat and inclement weather. The years of experience of these officers range from three to 17 years and their poise, courage and compassion was exhibited in response to the worst tragedy ever suffered by the Town of Surfside. These exceptional individuals demonstrated the highest standards of conduct and professionalism as they proudly served their community while embodying the Surfside Police Department's core values. They also received the highest honor of being recognized for their heroism by President Joe Biden during his visit to the Town. Congratulations to Officers Kemuel Gambirazio, Ariol Lage, Craig Lovellette and Joseph Matthews as the recipients of the 2021 Officer of the Year Award!

critical information to officers on the scene and coordinating additional personnel response.



From left: Officers Craig Lovellette, Joseph Matthews, Ariol Lage and Kemuel Gambirazio, who received the surfside Officers of the Year Award for their response to the Champlain Towers South collapse in June 2021.