

Bulletin

18-02

Date: February 2, 2018

OFFICER OF THE YEAR – 2017- OFFICER JOHN GENTILE

Officer John Gentile joined the Surfside Police Department in 2005 and has consistently shined. During the year 2017, Officer Gentile has continued to exemplify the highest standards of a professional police officer.

On April 25, 2017, Officer Gentile stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of the two occupants who were in possession of a total of eight firearms, over 200 rounds of ammunition, and marijuana. The driver, at the time of the stop, had an AK-47, loaded, on his lap. The driver had an extensive past out of three different states. Both occupants were arrested for various weapons charges and a narcotics charge. The firearms and ammunition were impounded and taken off the streets. Officer Gentile was awarded was recognized as Officer of the Month for April for his outstanding self-initiated police work resulting in multiple arrests and the seizure of numerous firearms and a significant amount of narcotics.

On July 09, 2017, Officer Gentile was commended for observing suspicious activity which involved three males in a vehicle, parked at the side of the road, and a male on a motorcycle, parked a short distance away in the 9100 block of Collins Avenue. Officer Gentile observed the motorcycle travel south on Collins Avenue, the wrong way, and turn on 91st Street to Harding Avenue, avoiding Officer Gentile who was parked further up the block. As the vehicle pulled away with the other three males inside, Officer Gentile conducted a traffic stop. The occupants gave conflicting stories about their activity near the motorcycle. The owner of the motorcycle lived in 9100 block of Collins Avenue and confirmed his motorcycle had been stolen. All three males were arrested for Loitering and Prowling. A BOLO was issued county wide for the motorcycle and it was recovered a few hours later by the Miami Dade Police Department. Officer Gentile received the Officer of the Month award for July for being proactive and alert while patrolling, leading to the arrest of these subjects before any further crimes could be committed.

On August 08, 2017, Officer Gentile, and his fellow squad members, investigated a suspicious incident call from a resident who observed several juveniles in his neighbor's yard. While responding to the call, the officers observed several juveniles riding bicycles away from the area. The juveniles were detained and the three bicycles the juveniles had in their possession had in fact been stolen and were returned to the homeowner. Officer Gentile and his fellow officers were able to work together at different locations to effectively investigate the incident, arrest the juveniles, and return all stolen property without allowing any further thefts.

On September 18, 2017, Officer Gentile assisted a resident who had lost her house and car keys in front of her home, close to a large pile of debris from Hurricane Irma. The resident was looking through the debris in front of her home, in the dark, and was having difficulties locating her keys. Officer Gentile drove by and offered his assistance to the woman who was frantically looking in the debris for her keys. Officer Gentile was successful in locating the keys. In a letter to the Chief of Police, the resident expressed her surprise and appreciation for the officer's random act of kindness. The resident never expected hands on assistance by a police officer and wanted to commend Officer Gentile for taking his time to assist with a non-police issue that made a lasting impression on the resident.

Officer Gentile is a Field Training Officer and considered a top instructor among his peers. His knowledge, experience and work ethic combine to be a great advantage for those he trains. Officer Gentile takes the job of instructing new hires very seriously from both the perspective of the trainee who will possibly be using the learned skills to save his life or that of another one day to the importance of developing only the best candidates to serve the Town of Surfside.

Additionally, Officer Gentile is the department's Off-Duty coordinator. In that role, Officer Gentile works closely with a large number of entities from contractors to residents requesting off-duty officers for security, traffic control and road closures. Officer Gentile schedules and manages an average of over 1000 Off-Duty shifts totaling in excess of 9800 hours yearly.

Officer Gentile's work ethic and exemplary dedication and commitment to his profession is not only noteworthy but commendable and worthy of recognition. His tireless commitment to improve and connect with the community is an extraordinary example of the essence and substantive framework that embodies the department's mission statement. Congratulations to Officer John Gentile as the recipient of Officer of the Year...well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – 2017 – PARKING OPERATIONS MANAGER ELINOR JOSEPH

Elinor Joseph is the Parking Operations Manager, Property and Evidence Custodian and Quartermaster. As the Parking Operations Manager, Joseph supervises/oversees four Parking Enforcement Officer, manages 6 municipal parking lots, 37 multi-space pay stations and the electronic single space meters. The lack of parking is a critical problem in Surfside and Mr. Joseph has been an integral part of the Town committee for parking feasibility which provides recommendations to the Town Manager and Commission to successfully mitigate and resolve this issue. He participated in numerous meetings, research studies, correspondence, and prepared reports in support of reducing the number of single space meters in favor of more efficient multi-space pay stations. Mr. Joseph's dedication to this initiative led to the Town Manager and Town Commission approving the procurement of 8 additional multi-space pay stations which were installed in early 2017. Mr. Joseph also oversees the pay-by-phone system and the residential parking permit program.

In addition to his Parking Operations Manager duties, Mr. Joseph is the Property and Evidence Unit Custodian who oversees the intake, processing, storage, and disposition of all evidence and property for court or safekeeping. Mr. Joseph handled this crucial function of the Police Department in a meticulous and accurate manner. Regular audits of the Property and Evidence Unit were conducted and everything has been accounted for and the high standards of the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) have been attained. He has also ensured that evidence and property has been disposed of in accordance with applicable Florida Law. Mr. Joseph has conducted a full inventory of the Property and Evidence Storage Areas each year in the month of January to ensure accountability of all items and the Property and Evidence Process.

Additionally, Mr. Joseph is a trained Communications Operator and he fills in at this vital position when department needs or staffing needs dictate. He also assists officers and detectives with language translation duties as he is fluent in three foreign languages: Creole, French, and Spanish. Mr. Joseph has been on call 24/7 for the Police Department and he has done an exceptional job in support of Police Department initiatives regardless of the scope or complexity. Mr. Joseph's strongest quality is the high level of customer service he provides to the community and fellow employees within the Town. He is professional, respectful, empathetic, and dedicated to his mission and all persons he comes into contact with. He has been able to resolve any problem or challenge he comes across and provides outstanding and exemplary support to the Surfside Police Department. Congratulations to Elinor Joseph as the recipient of Civilian of the Year...well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2018- PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JOSUE CASTRO

On Wednesday January 31, 2018, while on bicycle patrol in the 9000 block of Abbott Avenue, Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro observed a suspicious looking male walking onto residential properties. The male was looking through garbage at which time Parking Officer Castro immediately contacted Surfside Communications and gave an excellent description of the suspicious male. In addition, he advised the location of the male and gave his direction of travel, all while keeping an eye on him until police units arrive.

A records check of male revealed an extensive criminal past. The male is homeless and currently frequents the area of Miami Beach. Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro displayed alertness while patrolling the residential area and took initiative regarding a potentially dangerous situation for the public. Parking Enforcement Officer Castro is commended for his professionalism and dedication to the community. Congratulations to Josue Castro as the recipient of Civilian of the Month...well deserved!

JANUARY SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS**Narcotics Arrest**

01/17/2018 at 1518 hours

700 block of 96th Street

During a traffic stop, the officer smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. All three occupants stepped out of the vehicle at officer request and the driver advised that he had a bag of marijuana in the trunk of the vehicle. The bag containing 31 grams of marijuana was located in the trunk. The driver then fled on foot from the officers. A B.O.L.O was disseminated and officers from nearby agencies saturated the area, attempting to locate the driver. A small bag of marijuana was also located under the front passenger seat containing 15 grams of marijuana. The passenger was arrested. Another occupant was a juvenile who was released to her mother. Detectives positively identified the driver of the vehicle and a probable cause to arrest flyer was distributed to surrounding agencies.

Aggravated Assault and Simple Battery

01/20/2018 between 2300 - 2345 hours

8900 block of Collins Avenue

The victim was dropping off his friend at home when he noticed that his friend's ex-boyfriend was sitting at the doorway holding a knife. In an attempt to protect his friend, he approached the ex-boyfriend who charged at him while swinging the knife, but did not stab him. As the victim backed away, the subject slapped him on the face several times. The victim left the area out of fear. This case is currently under investigation.

Auto Burglary

01/21/2018 from 1000 hours to 2300 hours

9400 block of Abbott Avenue (alley way)

An unknown subject(s) entered a vehicle parked in the alley way. When the victim returned to his vehicle he discovered that his driver's side door was unlocked and the glove compartment was open and its contents were laying on the front passenger seat. The screen on his radio was cracked and the rear view mirror was missing along with a bottle of \$40.00 dollar cologne. There were no signs of forced entry to the vehicle.

Update: Medical Practice without a License Arrest

01/25/2018 at 1310 hours

9400 block of Harding Avenue

Surfside detectives, in collaboration with the MDPD Medical Crimes Unit and the Florida Department of Health Miami-Dade Office arrested the owner of Lemel Med Spa. The investigation began back in November of 2017 with an anonymous complaint to the Florida Department of Health regarding procedures such as botox having been performed without proper licensing. On November 15, 2017 the first subject was arrested for practicing without a license. Follow up investigation led detectives to the Spa Owner who is not licensed to perform medical procedures in the State of Florida. The investigation revealed she had administered Botox and Juvederm injections to patients. She was arrested and charged with one count of Practicing Medicine without a License (Felony).

Auto Burglary

1/30/18 between 1609 and 1622 hours

9400 block of Collins Avenue

An unknown subject(s) entered a vehicle parked in the Post Office parking lot by smashing the front driver side window. A bag containing an Apple Mac laptop valued at \$2,000.00 was taken from the front passenger floor. This case is currently under investigation.

HIGH ACHIEVERS – JANUARY 2018

Officer Arch

Officer Durante

Officer McGavern

Officer Valino

Parking Enforcement Officer Acosta

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES DAVID AUDIT

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles will conduct a DAVID Audit on site visit to ensure the Surfside Police Department is complying with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 28th at 9:30 a.m.

SPECIAL INFORMATION/COMMUNITY INITIATIVES/LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

Chief Allen will attend the Cleared Chiefs Briefing at the FBI Headquarters on February 6th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Chief Daniel Oates and the Miami Beach Police Department will host a Unity Bike Ride-A Taste of Miami Beach on February 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Chief Allen will participate.

The Dolphins Cancer Challenge bicycle ride will be on February 10th coming through Surfside between 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Surfside officers will staff the event.

The Surfside Police Department will host a Mobile Department of Motor Vehicles event for residents to apply for and renew their driver's licenses on February 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The supervisory staff meeting is February 15th at 5:00 p.m. in the training room.

The Third Thursday event is February 15th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The set up will begin at 2:00 p.m. and the breakdown will end by 11:00 p.m. Two officers on overtime will be assigned.

The North Bay Village Police Department will host the Northeast Community Traffic Safety Programs (CTST) meeting on February 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to discuss the FDOT Drive Safe – Aggressive Driving Awareness Campaign and begin scheduling multi-agency education/enforcement operations for the next three months. An on duty officer will be assigned.

The monthly Starbucks – Coffee with the Cops is February 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Residents, business persons, and visitors can meet with the Chief and his staff over coffee to discuss community issues or provide feedback on the Police Department.

The Surfside Police Department will host the Regional Criminal Investigations Unit intelligence meeting on February 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Sgt. Cruz and Detectives Dulaney and Gambirazio will attend.

The Parks and Recreation Department will host their annual Beach 5K Run Event on February 25th. The race begins at 8:00 a.m. One officer will work an overtime detail from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The first Inter-agency Police Department visit to the Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach will occur on February 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Holocaust Memorial will arrange for Holocaust survivors to meet the officers and a special presentation for the attendees. Three police officers from SPD will attend the event and represent the Police Department.

The monthly Bike with the Chief Ride is February 28th at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN JANUARY

Four Day SWAT Training - Sergeant Torres
FCIC/NCIC Full Access Certification- Sgt. Cruz
Handcuff Techniques Training- Officer Donoso
Weapon Retention Techniques Training- Officer Donoso

TRAINING IN FEBRUARY

SWAT Training - Sergeant Torres
All in one training (Sexual Harassment, Customer Service, Violence in the Work Place, Bullying) for new personnel- CO Castillo, Officer Donoso