

Bulletin

19-02

Date: February 4, 2019

OFFICER OF THE YEAR - 2018 - OFFICER MICAH SMITH

Officer Micah Smith was named the Police Department's 2018 Officer of the Year by the FOP Awards Committee. Officer Micah Smith joined the Surfside Police Department in 2003 as a Public Service Aide and proudly became a police officer in 2008. Throughout his career in Surfside, Officer Smith has consistently excelled. During the year 2018, Officer Smith continued to exemplify the highest standards of a professional police officer.

A clear example of Officer Smith's high level of performance is evident in the following case: From February 23, 2018 to February 27, 2018, the Town of Surfside was struck by three residential burglaries that occurred in the 9000 block of Carlyle Avenue, 9100 block of Byron Avenue and the 9400 block of Bay Drive. Subjects ransacked the homes and stole electronics, jewelry, alcohol bottles, and perfumes. The total loss between all the victims was approximately \$8,745.00. Detectives conducted an area canvass and located two nearby homes with surveillance cameras. Upon review of the video surveillance, detectives obtained images of the subjects walking in the area on the days of the burglaries. This information also confirmed that the subjects were committing the burglaries during the morning hours. An information flyer was distributed to our officers, surrounding agencies, and the community.

On Friday, March 2, 2018, Officer Micah Smith was working an off-duty detail in the Town. While he was driving to set up the lane closure, he observed three juvenile males walking on Harding Avenue and one in particular grabbed his attention for matching the description of the subject in the flyer. Officer Smith stopped the juveniles, separated them and requested that a detective respond to his location. A detective responded and had all three juveniles transported to the station and interviewed. The juveniles gave sworn and recorded statements confessing to their involvement in all three burglaries. The juveniles described how they entered the homes and identified the items they took. Furthermore, they also admitted to being in the area to commit additional burglaries. In their possession they had items that belonged to the burglary victims. The juveniles were arrested and each was charged with three counts of unoccupied burglary and one count of loitering and prowling.

Officer Smith analyzed the burglary flyer disseminated and his alertness and keen observation skills immediately triggered the identification of a possible burglary subject. He acted on his instincts and subsequently prevented these subjects from committing additional burglaries in our community.

In addition to his exceptional patrol practices, Officer Smith has received several recognition letters from citizens he has assisted. From going above and beyond in assisting a motorist stranded with a disabled vehicle in the middle of the night to simply providing information to disoriented tourists, Officer Smith exemplifies the strong community policing philosophy that is a standard of the Surfside Police Department.

Officer Smith was named SPD Officer of the Month for March 2018 and also nominated for the prestigious 2018 L.E.O. Award in the Uniform Services Category for which he has been chosen as a finalist. The winners will be named in the L.E.O. Gala Awards Ceremony on March 2, 2019. Congratulations to Officer Micah Smith as the recipient of the 2018 Officer of the Year...well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR - 2018 - EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF DINA GOLDSTEIN

Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein was named the Police Department's 2018 Civilian of the Year by the FOP Awards Committee. Dina is the only full-time administrative person in the Police Department. She successfully manages the many administrative functions of the Police Department. Her job responsibilities are numerous and critical to the overall operation of the Police Department. Dina tracks three budgets annually. She also undertakes the most complicated payroll system in Town Hall as well as the voluminous off duty detail payroll.

Dina single-handedly serves as the office manager for the Police Department and is responsible for the ordering, purchasing, and billing for 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, police Town Manager's report and the police information for the Gazette. She is the liaison for the police link to the website and handles the distribution of public flyers for the community. In addition, Dina represents the Chief's Office at Town meetings and law enforcement and community events.

Dina's workload has changed substantially as the department has converted to a more efficient operation through technology. Additionally, with the retirement of past Chief David Allen and my appointment to Chief of Police, along with new Command Staff members, Dina has shown a remarkable ability to adapt and adjust quickly and efficiently. She has been a crucial part of the smooth transition.

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 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 Citizens Police Academy, the Halloween Safety Night, the Holiday Toy Drive and Party, and the Summer Police Teen Camp. She hosts regularly scheduled on-site programs in Surfside for community blood drives, community outreach for the State Attorneys' Office, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles mobile DMV, 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, dedication, and commitment to the Town, her fellow employees, and residents of Surfside are unparalleled. Most importantly, Dina is not only a wonderful employee, she is a kind, compassionate, and a loyal person. Congratulations to Dina as the recipient of the 2018 Civilian of the Year...well deserved!

OFFICER OF THE MONTH /CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2019 - OFFICER JOSE VALINO AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JOSUE CASTRO

A Bal Harbour Police Officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic infraction in the vicinity of the Bal Harbour Shops however the vehicle refused to stop and fled southbound on Harding Avenue. Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro advised over the police radio he observed a vehicle driving recklessly and had entered the 94th Street Municipal Parking Lot. PEO Castro saw five (5) black male occupants exit the vehicle and run southbound. Bal Harbour advised over the radio a vehicle fled matching the description of the vehicle PEO Castro observed. Officer Valino responded to the area and noticed two black male subjects running south bound on Abbott Avenue from 93rd Street. Officer Valino pursued and took both subjects into custody without incident. Officers from Bal Harbour and Surfside canvassed the area and located the other three subjects. All subjects were apprehended and arrested. The Bal Harbour and Aventura Police Departments are investigating multiple frauds that occurred in the Bal Harbour Shops and the Aventura Mall committed by these individuals. Officer Jose Valino and PEO Josue Castro are commended for their professionalism, quick actions and dedication to the community which led to the apprehension of five subjects who were committing crimes throughout Miami-Dade County. Congratulations to Officer Jose Valino as the recipient of Officer of the Month and to Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro as the recipient of Civilian of the Month ...well deserved!

HIGH ACHIEVERS – JANUARY 2019

Officer Donoso
Officer Durante
Officer Knight
Officer Valino
Parking Enforcement Officer Saffo

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS

Residential Burglary

01/04/2019 at 1300 hours - 01/06/2019 at 1745 hours

600 block of 88th Street

Unknown subject(s) pried open a sliding glass door on the west side of the residence. The home was discovered in disarray. The victim reported approximately \$4,050.00 dollars' worth of jewelry missing. The home is not equipped with surveillance cameras and the alarm system was not activated. Miami Beach Crime Scene responded and processed the scene for evidence.

Investigation

01/26/2019 at 0230 hours

9418 Collins Avenue - Grand Beach Hotel West

A small mattress was delivered to the hotel room as requested by the guest. After it was delivered to the room, she noticed two swastika symbols drawn on the mattress cover.

Residential Burglary

01/20/2019 at 1800 hours - 02/02/2019 at 0948 hours

9300 block of Carlyle Avenue

Officers responded to a residential burglary and discovered the north side window was pried open and off the hinges (point of entry) and a door facing west (point of exit) was unlocked. Foot prints were found on top of a chair next to the open window. The bedrooms were found ransacked. The home owner reported that no items are missing. Miami Beach Crime Scene responded and processed the scene.

THIRD THURSDAY EVENTS

The first Third Thursday event for the season is set for February 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The set up will begin at 2:00 p.m. and the breakdown will end at 11:00 p.m. The other dates are March 21st and April 18th.

The Police Department will assist with the following:

- Block parking on the 200 block of 95th Street
- Block entire "Shul" parking lot
- Close the 200 block of 95th Street to traffic 2:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. while keeping the alley pass through open

Local businesses and The Shul will be notified that the area will be closed to traffic by utilizing the message board. The Business District Officer will assist with the notifications.

**SPECIAL INFORMATION/COMMUNITY INITIATIVES/LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS
IN JANUARY**

The supervisory staff meeting was January 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Detective Dulaney attended the Police/ Prosecutor meeting on January 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Detective Dulaney attended the Regional Criminal Investigations Unit Intelligence meeting at the Coral Gables Police Department on January 18th at 10:00 a.m.

The monthly Bike with the Chief Ride was January 30th at 3:00 p.m.

The monthly Starbucks – Coffee with the Cops was January 31st at 10:00 a.m.

**SPECIAL INFORMATION/COMMUNITY INITIATIVES/LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS
IN FEBRUARY**

The Officer and Civilian of the Year Awards ceremony will be held on February 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The supervisory staff meeting is February 12th at 5:00 p.m.

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on February 13th from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Police/ Prosecutor meeting is January 20th at 2:00 p.m.

The Miami Beach Police Department will host the Regional Criminal Investigations Unit intelligence meeting on February 21st at 10:00 a.m.

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 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The monthly Bike with the Chief Ride is February 27th at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

The monthly Starbucks – Coffee with the Cops is February 28th 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.

TRAINING COMPLETED IN JANUARY

SWAT Training - Sergeant Torres

FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Training – Sgt. Cruz and Ofc. Lorente

Legal Note 2019-01, Removal of Transient from Residential Property- All Sworn Personnel

Revised Administrative Directive 08-03 “Use of Force” - All Sworn Personnel

Revised Administrative Directive 08-01 “FIREARMS” - All Sworn Personnel

Revised Administrative Directive 04-06 “CASE DISTRIBUTION” - All Sworn Personnel

Revised Administrative Directive 03-04 “PRISONER PROCESSING” - All Sworn Personnel