

# Bulletin

# 21-05

Date: May 4, 2021

**OFFICER OF THE MONTH – APRIL 2021 – DETECTIVE ANDRES MENDOZA**

Detective Andres Mendoza joined the Criminal Investigations Unit February 17, 2020, contributing eight years of investigative experience from the Doral Police Department to the Surfside Police Department. The Covid-19 Pandemic brought many new challenges to law enforcement nevertheless Detective Mendoza met each one with tremendous success. His calm and professional demeanor were vital during these demanding times. Detective Mendoza cleared many cases with arrests however, two particular cases deserve special recognition for the extensive investigative work accomplished.

Detective Mendoza was assigned a Fraud case in June 2020, involving a male posing as a licensed contractor who defrauded a Surfside resident of \$2,400.00 dollars. The subject was hired by the victim to fix the roof of the residence and payment was issued upon completion of the work. However, it was later discovered the repair was not completed properly and the subject did not respond to the resident's calls in reference to the unfinished repair job. Detective Mendoza utilized investigative resources to identify the subject, who was using a fictitious name, discovering the male had victimized other individuals in Miami-Dade County. Although it took months and many hours of investigative work, Detective Mendoza gathered enough evidence to prove that the subject had committed the crime in Surfside. He presented the case to the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, who after reviewing the case, approved an Arrest Warrant for the subject. Detective Mendoza searched for the subject tirelessly, checking past and current addresses to no avail. On April 8, 2021, the subject was subsequently arrested on the warrant.

Detective Mendoza was assigned a Hit and Run investigation in September 2020, involving a male driver who fled and eluded Surfside Police Officers. Prior to fleeing on foot, the driver struck a bicyclist, who was thankfully not injured. The subject abandoned the vehicle he was driving at a nearby loading dock. A B.O.L.O. was broadcasted over the police radio however the subject was unable to be located. Detective Mendoza interviewed witnesses on-scene and canvassed for surveillance video. Review of surveillance videos produced an image of the driver which led to obtaining intelligence on the driver as well as the hotel where he was residing. Unfortunately, the subject was already back home in New York. Detective Mendoza embraced the challenge of gathering sufficient evidence to prove the subject committed these crimes. After months of working tirelessly and several communications with the Assistant State Attorney, an arrest warrant was issued with full extradition in February 2021. Detective Mendoza contacted the New York Police Department's Warrants Division in March 2021, in an effort to locate the subject. The subject was located, arrested by the New York Police Department and extradited to Miami-Dade County, FL.

Detective Andres Mendoza conducted two exceptional investigations, his determination to solve these cases led to arrests in both offenses. He is dedicated to his profession, commended for his exceptional work ethic and commitment to the Town of Surfside and the community he proudly serves. Congratulations to Detective Andres Mendoza as the recipient of the April Officer of the Month award...well deserved!

### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19)**

The Surfside Police Department has maintained situational awareness of the COVID-19 Pandemic Incident in coordination with Local, State, and Federal partner Agencies and through continued contact and information sharing with the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Operations-Emergency Operations Center. Our Department strives to maintain operational readiness, public preparedness, safeguarding the community, and enforcement of laws-ordinances-governmental orders.

### **HIGH ACHIEVERS**

Officer Donoso  
Officer Gambirazio  
Officer Knight  
Officer Luke  
Officer Valino  
Parking Enforcement Officer Perez

### **SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS**

Aggravated Assault with a Firearm & Battery by Strangulation-Domestic Violence Arrest  
04/01/2021 at 1539 hours

9100 block of Collins Avenue

The victim reported her husband has battered her and threatened her with his firearm on three separate occasions beginning 03/22/2021 and she had visible bruises all over her body. Her husband was not on scene, but detectives have been actively searching for him. A flyer was generated and submitted to surrounding police agencies. On 04/08/2021, the husband surrendered himself at the Surfside Police Department and subsequently arrested.

### **NATIONAL POLICE APPRECIATION WEEK**

May is the month where the Nation celebrates Memorial Day and National Police Appreciation Week. The National Police Appreciation Week is celebrated annually and will take place this year from May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. National Police Appreciation Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15<sup>th</sup> as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world traditionally converge on Washington, D.C. to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Decades later, the event, more commonly known as National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the in-person events in Washington, D.C. to honor fallen officers from 2019 and 2020 have been rescheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Locally there are several events to honor the men and women of law enforcement.

The Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was established in 1980 to honor fallen officers from every police department and law enforcement agency within Miami-Dade County. In 2001, four black granite walls were erected; etched with the names of the gallant men and women who died serving the citizens of their community.

### **LIFESCAN**

Life Scan testing will take place June 1<sup>st</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The patient packets and LabCorp locations have been provided to the participants and the sign in sheet is available to reserve your time slot.

### **APRIL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS**

The Annual Dolphins Cancer Challenge (DCC) bicycle ride took place on April 10<sup>th</sup> with Surfside police officers assisting with bicycle and traffic direction on Collins Avenue from 87<sup>th</sup> Terrace to 95<sup>th</sup> Street between 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as 500-600 bicycle riders traveled through the Town of Surfside to reach their final destination the Hard Rock Stadium.

The Surfside, Bal Harbour and Sunny Isles Beach Police Departments hosted a multi-agency Education/Enforcement Operation as part of the Florida Department of Transportation's District Six's on-going Put it Down – Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Village of Bal Harbour

The supervisory staff meeting was April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room

The Surfside, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, and Indian Creek Village Police Departments hosted a Bicycle Safety Rodeo on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the 95<sup>th</sup> Street park in Bay Harbor Islands. Officer Smith represented the SPD at this event.

Surfside PD, Aventura PD, Bay Harbor Islands PD, North Miami PD and Sunny Isles Beach PD hosted a Multi-Agency Collection Day (electronics recycling, Shred-a-Thon and DEA Drug Takeback) on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Bill Bird Marina (Haulover Park) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Officer Hernandez and PEO Castro represented the Police Department at the event.

The Surfside Police Department hosted two community blood drives on April 25<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The Town of Surfside resumed as a COVID-19 vaccination site when the Florida Department of Health administered the second-dose of the vaccine on April 14<sup>th</sup> to the Surfside residents who received their first-dose on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The vaccinations took place in Town Hall with Police Department and Parking Enforcement personnel assisting once again with site security, crowd and traffic control.

### **MAY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES / LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS**

The North Miami Police Department honored their fallen police officers Sergeant Carl W. Mertes, Detective Sergeant Steven E. Bauer and Sergeant Lynette Hodge with a Memorial Ceremony on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the North Miami Police Department. Captain Healy participated in this significant event and Ofc. Luke proudly represented the Surfside Police Department as a member of a multijurisdictional Honor Guard Team participating in the ceremony.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami-Dade Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Tropical Park. Captain Marciante will attend this event. Sgt. Lorente and Ofc. Durante will proudly represent the Surfside Police Department as members of a multijurisdictional Honor Guard Team participating in the ceremony.

The North Miami Beach Police Department is honoring their fallen police officers Lieutenant James Hyre, Detective Sergeant Orestes Lorenzo and Officer Miguel Acevedo with a Memorial Ceremony on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the North Miami Beach Police Department. Capt. Marciante will participate in this poignant event. Sgt. Lorente, Ofc. Donoso, and Ofc. Luke will proudly represent the Surfside Police Department as members of a multijurisdictional Honor Guard Team participating in the ceremony.

The supervisory staff meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room

The Surfside Police Department will host a community blood drive on May 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a virtual Memorial Day event on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Sgt. Lorente, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Duran and Ofc. Durante will participate as members of the Honor Guard in honor of Memorial Day.

**TRAINING COMPLETED IN APRIL**

Annual Firearms Qualifications/Tactical Shooting –Chief Yero, Capt. Healy, Sgt. Cruz, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Matelis, Sgt. Torres, Ofc. Campbell, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Durante, Ofc. Gambirazio, Ofc. Knight, Ofc. Luke, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Saffo

“Artifacts”: The Role Training- or Lack of Training-Plays in Poor Decisions – Capt. Marciante, Det. Mendoza

Autism Training – Det. Mendoza

Biased Police Training (PowerDMS) - All Personnel

Body Worn Cameras 03-28 (PowerDMS) - All Personnel

Departmental Directive 03-30 Situations Involving Persons with Autism (PowerDMS) - All Personnel

Field Training Officer (FTO) – Ofc. Gabriel, Ofc. Lage

Florida Use-of-Force Data Collection Training - Sgt. Cruz, Det. Leon

How Training Can Lead to Poor Decisions in Law Enforcement (Webinar) - Det. Mendoza

Miami-Dade Waterways “At-Risk” Vessels Task Force Training – Sgt. Matelis

Patrol Rifle Qualifications- Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Torres, Det. Mendoza, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Gambirazio, Ofc. Lage, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Smith

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres