

# Bulletin

# 22-02

Date: February 9, 2022

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2021- OFFICERS KEMUEL GAMBIRAZIO, ARIOL LAGE, CRAIG LOVELLETTE AND JOSEPH MATTHEWS**

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 to an unforeseen and horrific incident. The Champlain Towers South collapse catastrophe impacted many families, the entire Town of Surfside, surrounding communities and Miami-Dade County, in unimaginable ways. The 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 hurriedly evacuated 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 arranged for the facility to be opened. The first responding officers directed the many dazed and confused citizens to safety.

Officer Joseph Matthews was assigned to Communications when the first calls for help in this incident were received. As the telephone lines rang nonstop and the police radio transmissions described the severity of this disaster, Officer Matthews' calm and professional manner was vital in helping desperate loved ones and citizens asking questions, while at the same time he was relaying critical information to officers on the scene and coordinating additional personnel response.

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 years 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!

#### **CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR 2021 – EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF DINA GOLDSTEIN**

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 and proficiently undertakes the most complicated payroll system in Town Hall.

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, 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.

# **SURFSIDE POLICE**

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 Citizens Police Academy, the Police Teen Summer Camp program and the annual Holiday Toy Giveaway Event. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the toy event 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/Electronics Drop Off/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. 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!

## **HIGH ACHIEVERS**

Officer Donoso  
Officer Duran  
Officer Gentile  
Officer Mendoza  
Officer Valino  
Parking Enforcement Officer A. Acosta

## **SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS/INCIDENTS**

Burglary Arrest  
01/10/2022 at 1030 hours  
9300 block of Collins Avenue  
Officers responded to a call for service reference a possible squatter. Upon arrival, a male was observed inside the property. After making contact, he admitted to entering the apartment through a kitchen window. He said that he thought the building was abandoned and that he is homeless. The subject had a warrant for driving under the influence and was subsequently arrested.



Auto Burglary

01/11/2022 at 0035 hours

9100 block of Collins Avenue

An unknown subject(s) entered an unlocked vehicle. The vehicle was ransacked however no items were missing. An SPD Detective and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene.

### **COMMISSION FOR FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE**

Chief Rogelio J. Torres Jr., Captain John Healy and Accreditation Manager Jill Smith will represent the Police Department at the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) conference in St. Augustine, Florida on February 24, 2022. They will appear in front of a Panel Review along with the team of CFA assessors that conducted our onsite Re-Accreditation assessment December 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The assessors examined all aspects of the Surfside Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services proclaiming the PD complied with more than 250 standards in order to receive reaccredited status. The assessors will be recommending re-accreditation status for the fourth consecutive cycle with no conditions.

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

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive on January 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

Code Enforcement hosted their monthly Special Master Hearing January 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops/Meet the New Chief was January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks.

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

The Surfside Police Department hosted a community blood drive on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall municipal parking lot.

The supervisory staff meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Training Room.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six in conjunction with the Golden Beach Police Department will host a multi-agency traffic safety enforcement and educational detail on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Law enforcement will be focusing primarily on aggressive driving (as part of the Drive Safe campaign), distracted driving, red-light running, speeding, seatbelt use, move-over law compliance, bike/pedestrian safety compliance and general traffic safety. Sergeant Matelis, Officer Arch and Officer Valino will participate in this event.

Code Enforcement will host their monthly Special Master Hearing February 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

The monthly Coffee with the Cops is February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks.

### **TRAINING COMPLETED IN JANUARY**

10 Ways to Avoid Phishing Scams – Chief Torres

Adult Sex Crimes – Det. Gabriel

ASP Re-Certification/Less Lethal Shotgun/OC Re-Certification/ Taser Re-Certification- Capt. Marciante, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Matelis, Sgt. Torres, Ofc. Colonna, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Lovellette, Ofc. Matthews

Bomb Response SOP – Sgt. Torres, Ofc. Duran, Ofc. Lage, Ofc. Lovellette, Ofc. Matthews

Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops- Sgt. Pacheco, Det. Gabriel, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Hernandez

Diversity in the Workplace (LocalGov) – Chief Torres, Capt. Healy, Capt. Marciante, Sgt. Lorente, Sgt. Pacheco, Sgt. Torres, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Gambirazio, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Hernandez, Ofc. Howard, Ofc. Knight, Ofc. Luke, Ofc. Matthews, Ofc. Mendoza, Ofc. Ruiz, Ofc. Saffo, Ofc. Smith, CO Villar

Domestic Violence – Sgt. Pacheco, Det. Gabriel, Ofc. Donoso, Ofc. Gentile, Ofc. Hernandez

FCIC/NCIC Full Access Certification – Ofc. Saffo

Juvenile Sex Offender Investigations Training- Sgt. Pacheco, Det. Gabriel, Ofc. Donos, Ofc. Hernandez

Level 2 Security Awareness Certification – Chief Torres

Local Agency Security Officer (LASO) Certification- Ofc. Campbell

Misuse of Electronic Databases – Captain Healy, Sgt. Alberto, Sgt. Cruz, Sgt. Matelis, Det. Gabriel, Det. Leon, Ofc. Duran

NRA Firearms Instructor Course- Sgt. Torres

Public Employee Safety in the Community – CCO Ruvin

Sexual Harassment for Managers- Chief Torres

Shaping an Ethical Workplace Culture- Chief Torres

SWAT Training- Sgt. Torres