



Employee Name: Josue Castro

Classification: Parking Enforcement Officer

Unit/Division: Parking Department

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Civilian of the Year 2019

Narrative:

The Surfside Police Department FOP Awards Committee is honored to announce Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro as the 2019 Surfside Police Department Civilian. Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro has been employed by Surfside Police Department since November 2012 and his dedication to the police department, parking enforcement section, and the community are unparalleled. Surfside community members know Josue on a first name basis and often call on him for assistance as he is always willing to lend a hand. On any given day, PEO Castro has a multitude of responsibilities and is assigned a variety of tasks as is common in a police agency like SPD. Even though his primary role is enforcement of parking violations, PEO Castro has a keen eye and has observed criminal activity while performing his regular duties. In 2019, PEO Castro issued over 2200 parking citations. He is often at the top of the Chief's Monthly High Achiever category among the parking enforcement officers. In February 2019, PEO Castro was awarded the Civilian of the Month for his awareness and quick decision-making ability. PEO Castro witnessed a vehicle driving recklessly and enter the Municipal Parking Lot at 94th Street and Harding Avenue at a high rate of speed. He then saw five (5) male subjects quickly exit the car and running. PEO Castro immediately broadcasted his observations over the police radio. Unbeknownst to him, moments earlier a Bal Harbour Officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic infraction and the vehicle fled southbound on Harding Avenue. A Bal Harbour Police dispatcher broadcasted over the radio that a vehicle fled matching the description of the vehicle PEO Castro observed. Surfside Police Officers quickly responded to the area and observed two subjects running from 93rd Street. Officers pursued and took both subjects into custody without incident. Officers from surrounding agencies continued to canvass the area and located the additional three subjects. The Bal Harbour Police Department and Aventura Police Departments were investigating multiple frauds involving these same subjects. If not for the alert and quick actions demonstrated by PEO Castro, these wanted felons would have possibly escaped capture.

PEO Castro is a critical link between the police department and the community. This relationship is paramount in the day-to-day operations of the police department and even more imperative when residents and tourists alike are in need of assistance, directions, or just community information. This was evident in a letter of appreciation received from a tourist that was visiting our community. His credit card was stuck in a parking pay station and PEO Castro went to great lengths to retrieve the credit card. In November 2019, we also received a letter of appreciation from a citizen who was extremely grateful when his vehicle broke down and PEO Castro stopped to make sure he was safe and assisted him in getting back on the road. PEO Castro's genuine, kind

and giving nature drive him to consistently volunteer to participate in community events. He is also a great DJ and in 2019 he kept the spirits high in the 11th Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway event. As the 90 children anxiously awaited Santa and his crew's arrival, Josue played holiday music entertaining the crowd and once inside continued the festivities. Josue created an exciting and festive atmosphere for the children and parents' enjoyment. PEO Castro's strongest quality is his overall caring, compassion and dedication to the Town of Surfside and all persons he comes into contact with.

PEO Castro was nominated for the prestigious 2019 Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) Award in the Support Services Category for which he has been chosen as a finalist. The winners will be named in the LEO Gala Awards Ceremony on March 7, 2020. A high honor to be chosen as a finalist and recognized by the LEO Awards Committee among the top law enforcement professional in Miami-Dade County. Congratulations Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro as the recipient of the 2019 Surfside Police Department Civilian of the Year Award...well deserved!

Chief of Police: Julio Yero

Date: January 31, 2020