



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

AWARD OR COMMENDATION

Date of occurrence: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Employee Name: Cristhian Acosta

Classification: Parking Enforcement Officer

Unit/Division: Parking

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: 2022 Civilian of the Year

The Surfside Police Department has selected Parking Enforcement Officer Cristhian Acosta as the Surfside Police Department's Civilian of the Year for 2022. Cristhian began his remarkable career with the Town of Surfside in March of 2021. Cristhian has proven to be an invaluable and esteemed colleague exhibiting kindheartedness and respect to everyone he encounters.

PEO Acosta was selected by his peers to receive this prestigious award for his optimism, unwavering support to his Surfside family and overall performance throughout the year. He is well respected at the Police Department, Town Hall and in the community. Cristhian eagerly accepts all challenges and responsibilities requested of him with a smile. He is praised for his unsurpassed work ethic, providing the highest level of customer service, and an honorable representative of the Surfside Police Department.

PEO Acosta is a member of Parking Department which is comprised of four parking officers in total. Cristhian 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 need assistance, directions, or just community information. Parking Enforcement Officers manage six municipal parking lots and 37 multi-space pay stations. The daily assignments completed by Cristhian include monitoring and enforcement of the municipal parking lots and residential neighborhood; controlling the flow of traffic; maintenance of the multi-space pay stations; and programming the visual messaging board and speed trailer along with relocating them to pertinent areas.

On any given day, PEO Acosta 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 within the Town of Surfside, he delivers agendas and packages to the elected officials and Town committee members; transports vehicles and inoperative equipment in need of repair to various localities; retrieve uniforms and essential equipment; and assists as needed with community events for the Police Department, Parks and Recreation and the Tourist Board. The logistics for community events such as the monthly blood drives, bi-annual Multi-Agency Collection Day, Surf-Bal-Bay Community Night Out, Spooky Spectacular, Family Fun Day, Farmers Market, Third Thursdays, and Surfside Under the Stars include delivery, set-up and removal of cones and barricades as well as traffic management.



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On May 14, 2022 around 1:00 p.m., a single-engine plane crashed on the Haulover Inlet Bridge. The aircraft lost power shortly after takeoff, coming down on the bridge and striking an SUV, then bursting into flames. One person aboard the plane died upon impact while the other people involved were taken to the hospital. Even though it did not occur in Surfside, it effected the Town immeasurably. Traffic flow was severely impacted in all directions due to road closures causing massive traffic backups for several hours as fire rescue and law enforcement processed the scene. Surfside personnel including PEO Acosta provided indispensable assistance with traffic mitigation and pedestrian safety. Cristhian also graciously purchased cold beverages at his own expense for the first responders mandated to integral posts. He received recognition and gratitude from his peers for going above and beyond for the personnel working tirelessly in extreme heat. His contributions were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

This is only one example of PEO Acosta's extraordinary service to the community he proudly serves. Cristhian performs these praiseworthy actions on a daily basis and wholeheartedly fulfills any task requested of him. PEO Acosta has proven to be an enormous asset to everyone he helps and graciously accepts additional assignments. PEO Acosta embodies the Police Department's core values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence while performing his numerous work responsibilities in an exemplary manner. Congratulations to Parking Enforcement Officer Cristhian Acosta as the recipient of the 2022 Surfside Police Department Civilian of the Year Award... a well-deserved honor!

Chief of Police:

John Healy

Date:

February 2, 2023