

POLICE BEAT

11th Annual Toy Giveaway Brings Holiday Cheer



Children of all ages greeted Mr. and Mrs. Claus as they arrived at Town Hall on a shrieking fire rescue truck from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Station 76 at the 11th Annual Surfside Police Department's Holiday Toy event. With seasonal music playing, Santa and his team of elves (all Town staff in costume) danced on the sidewalk and led the children into Town Hall where a mountain of donated toys awaited. The children selected age-appropriate toys that brightened their holiday season. The Office of Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman donated a skateboard which was raffled off during the event. A special thanks to all the supporters, the Police Department and Town staff who participated.



OFFICERS OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2019

During the holidays, Surfside Officers Ronald Donoso, Marianne Durante and John Gentile responded to a call of a depressed woman who left her friends' house after saying she wanted to commit suicide by drowning in the ocean. The officers saturated the area of the beach search-



(L-R) Officers Marianne Durante, Ronald Donoso and John Gentile; Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein and Police Chief Julio Yero.

ing for the suicidal woman. Officer Donoso obtained a photograph showing the area where the woman was located. Officers Durante and Gentile quickly located the woman on the beach. The officers held back the woman as she tried to run into the water, saying she wanted to die. She was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital. The officers displayed alertness, compassion and invaluable police instincts. Their professionalism and dedication led to locating the victim unharmed. Congratulations as recipients of the December 2019 Officer of the Month. Well deserved!

CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2019

During the past month, Executive Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein oversaw the 11th annual Police Department's Holiday Toy Drive as she has the previous 10 years. This event includes advertisements for hundreds of donated new toys, sorting and displaying the toys, vet-

ting and inviting needy families to the toy giveaway party and coordinating, managing and organizing of the event and pre-event meetings. The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department again drove Santa and his crew to Town Hall on the fire truck. Thanks also goes to Town personnel who were recruited to assist with the event for registration, set-up, decoration and cleanup of the Commission Chambers and the training room. Congratulations to Dina Goldstein as the recipient of the December 2019 Civilian of the Month. Well deserved!