



Vol. 33, No. 2

"Committed to Excellence"

April/June 2017



Director's Message

*Juan J. Perez
MDPD Director*

During the last few months, tragedies have impacted our south Florida law enforcement family. The need for donated blood became an urgency during early May 2017. Miami-Dade Police Department's Public Information and Education Bureau coordinated blood drives and our personnel, along with supportive community members, donated blood at numerous locations throughout Miami-Dade County. The Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Miami Police Department also rose to the occasion of giving. Combined, these drives yielded overwhelming results. This outpouring of support, along with professional unity and coordination, is what makes our community strong. Thank you and God bless all of you.

Congratulations to Premier Personnel!



May Haitian Heritage Month



*Front row, seated: Retired Ofc. Louis Narcisse.
Center row, left to right: Comms. Daniella L. Cava and Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Maj. Garry Jeanniton, Sgt. Daniel Narcisse (son of Louis Narcisse), Lts. Angelique Guerrier and Viviane Louis, and Asst. Director Alfredo Ramirez III.
Back row, left to right: Comms. Sally A. Heyman and Jean Monestime; Ret. Sgt. Emmanuel J. Nelson, and Comms. Barbara J. Jordan, Audrey M. Edmonson, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, and Bruno A. Barreiro.*

In celebration of May 2017 as Haitian Heritage Cultural Month, a special presentation was made during the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Monestime recognized the above personnel, of Haitian heritage, for being the first Haitian-American police officers to be hired by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and to have reached the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, and major.

This Mom is Getting Her College Degree Alongside Her Son

By Howard Cohen

Excerpted from the Miami Herald on 5/14/17



MDPD Officer Damaris Hall, 58, who is graduating with her master's degree in National Security Affairs at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is pictured with her son, James Hall, who is also a student at NSU working on his master's degree in International Business. (By Emily Michot.)

Officer Damaris Hall vowed she was going to make it in America when she left her native Panama for Miami in 1978. "I always took things that were challenging," Damaris said. "If that person can do it, I can do it."

This past June, Officer Hall, an MDPD officer and a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, earned her master's in National Security Affairs (NSA) from Nova Southeastern University (NSU). "I've been deployed six times, and I've learned more and more about national security affairs and the growth in terrorism. So, I decided to pursue a master's degree in NSA," she said.

Her youngest son, James Hall, 23, is a full-time student at NSU and currently working on his master's degree in International Business, with an expected graduation date in spring 2019.

Her formula for success: Helping others, even in risky situations.

Officer Hall, 58, tried New York, but missed the tropical weather and returned to Miami. She spent 11 years as a paramedic - and delivered eight babies in a row, she said. "I liked it, felt rewarded, felt I did something for someone. Then EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) wasn't enough, so I tried the police."

Officer Hall, a 22-year veteran with the MDPD, plans to retire in May 2018. A month later, she will retire from the Air Force after 31 years of service. The MDPD gave Officer Hall leave time to serve six tours of duty

in Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, and Kyrgyzstan. "I had help with my son from my husband and a cousin who retired, and they were helping me with my son throughout his high school years while I was gone. We stayed in touch. I helped him with his Spanish homework while I was abroad. The Internet is one of the great things," Officer Hall said. She also has an older son, Ricardo Maynard, 42, who is in the medical field in San Antonio. He, like his mother, served in the U.S. Air Force.

"I was proud of her," said son, James Hall. "Growing up," he said, "was a little bit different when your mom wasn't around. But it's been particularly interesting to me to see how she was able to come back and pursue her education. I think that had a major impact on me."

Today, mother and son study together. You can sometimes catch them at Starbucks working on their papers and research projects.

"I think we are alike. We take education very seriously," James Hall said. Both are looking forward to her graduation after Mother's Day. "I've seen my mom graduate many times. It'll be another graduation, but of course, I always feel proud of her."

Indeed, she plans to enter a doctorate program in the conflict resolution and analysis field. "What you put your mind to, you can do, no matter what. I'm a prime example. The cons are that it's not easy with family. But, if you have a supportive family, you can pull through," said Officer Hall.



Why We Do What We Do...

By SPA1 Allison Bishop-Cooner

"I do it because I don't want anyone else to have to go through what I did," says Officer Nicole Fernandez from Hammocks District. "I live by my mantra that 'Your faith must be larger than your fear.' I am a survivor, not a victim."

Yes, "Nicki" is a survivor. She has been through the worst of the worst concerning breast cancer and has overcome the odds. Now, she wishes to help others in every way possible. She makes a difference! Each year, she and her coworkers conduct raffles and luncheons, collect donations, and sell promotional items to raise money. They create an awareness that gives back to our law enforcement family and our community.

During the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) Walk each year, Northwest District officers honor and remember Officer Diana Cordova-Peña, who lost her valiant fight against breast cancer. "She was my partner, my sister, my friend. Her strong will was insurmountable. Her illness was devastating! We wear t-shirts in her memory that read, What Would 'D' Do," says Officer Leyane Casas.

Diana had a captivating smile that embraced everyone who had the pleasure of meeting her. She was a dedicated officer, and an amazing mother, daughter, and friend. As an avid participant and fundraiser for MDPD's MSABC Campaign, she raised money for this cause long before she became ill. Her spirit will remain in our hearts forever!

We do what we do because this heinous disease impacts everyone in its path! One in eight women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime. Think of those odds - think of how many women you know. Men can develop breast cancer as well. When a person is diagnosed with breast cancer it affects their family, friends, and coworkers. Treatment plans are painful and fatiguing. The physical and emotional impact is extreme and indescribable.

Husbands, wives, and children must adjust their lives in every way possible to support and accommodate their loved one. Family, friends, and coworkers join in as the patient waits.... It's a time of waiting for all concerned. Sergeant Christine Salmon-Roll remembers, "I knew I just had to get through the treatments. I just had to keep my faith and wait. The time finally came when I was cancer free. The agony was over and for that I am forever grateful. I will continue to give back in every way I can."

According to the American Cancer Society, when five years have passed without reoccurrence of breast cancer, patients are considered cured. Christine has been cancer-free for ten years, and has raised funds for MSABC since its inception in 1993.

Breast cancer survival rates are high! Currently, there are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors in the

United States. Thankfully, with early diagnosis and proper treatment, most people live long and healthy lives. *This is ... why we do what we do.*

We support the MSABC Campaign to help those who need our help.

The American Cancer Society invests the funds we raise into research to help find, prevent, treat, and cure cancer. It has played a role in nearly every major breast cancer breakthrough in recent history, including establishing mammography as the standard for breast cancer screening, discovering lifesaving treatments, and determining factors that can reduce our risk of getting breast cancer.

What can YOU do?

At the very least, please support the lifesaving, fundraising activities of the Department. Make a donation, purchase a team shirt, and participate in the MSABC Walk on Saturday, October 28, 2017. Mark your calendar. Honor our family...our survivors...and the ones we lost.

And show our strength! Not because it's expected, or appreciated, but because of WHO WE ARE. Show this community what we are made of and LEAD them. SHOW them. Because that is who we are...and that is what we do.



Walk to Save Kids

By Sergeant Chuck Duncan



MDPD Captain Carmen Castro encourages crowd participation during the JDRF Walk.



The MDPD has supported the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT) Walk to Cure Diabetes Team since 2003. It was apparent early on that many MDPD employees have a direct connection themselves, or through a loved one, of the effects diabetes has on one's health. When POAT came calling to MDPD to join forces to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) - they graciously accepted.

As you know, diabetes takes a terrible toll on our society due to the many issues associated with this deadly disease. You have heard the statistics: there are more than 29 million Americans with diabetes - it is the seventh leading cause of

deaths in the United States - 60 percent of the non-traumatic, lower limb, amputations are diabetes related - and another case of diabetes is diagnosed every 30 seconds. Annually, more than \$245 billion is spent on health care costs related to diabetes. The lifetime cost of diabetic care for a person diagnosed at age three is calculated to be approximately \$1,000,000.

The JDRF was founded in 1970 by concerned parents of diabetic children. The mission of the organization is to fund research to improve the quality of lives for children with Type 1 diabetes and ultimately find a cure. The JDRF has directly funded research during the last 47 years that has resulted in the evolution of insulin pumps, glucose monitors, and better types of insulin.

This year, the JDRF's Walk to Cure Diabetes event was held on April 29, 2017, at the historical Virginia Key Beach on Key Biscayne. It was well attended with the walkers benefiting from beautiful weather and scenery. This event raised \$310,000. The POAT/MDPD team raised more than \$36,000, and was responsible for collectively raising over \$800,000 since 2003. Tremendous thanks are extended to Assistant Director Alfredo Ramirez III, Captain Carmen Castro, Sergeant Ken Horgan, Officer Nicole Fernandez, Administrative Secretary Suzette Moore, Kendall Crime Analysis Unit (CAU), Midwest CAU, and all who participated in the event, assisted with Walk logistics, and raised money for this worthy cause. We hope to see each and every one of you at the Walk next year!

MDPD Receives Dual Accreditation

By Accreditation Manager Melenda Knox

Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) is Accredited – What Does That Mean?



Accreditation is the process where an agency demonstrates proof of competency, authority, or credibility to an independent reviewing authority. Certification means that the agency has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. Many organizations such as hospitals, schools, universities, and law enforcement agencies obtain accreditation to further their effectiveness and credibility.

MDPD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

(CALEA) which requires compliance of approximately 484 standards. Since 1993, MDPD has been an accredited agency and has adhered to the strict guidelines set forth by CALEA. In November 2016, MDPD received its eighth reaccreditation award with a meritorious status.

MDPD has been accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement (CFA) since 2004, which is another reviewing authority that requires compliance of standards for certification. Considering that MDPD is CALEA accredited and has complied with the 484 required standards, the CFA utilizes a comparative compliance strategy to assess MDPD. Therefore, Florida accreditation assessors examine only 86 comparative compliance standards for their assessment.

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MDPD Receives...

Continued from page 4



Accreditation staff during the assessment process. Seated, (front) Accreditation Manager Melenda Knox, and (rear) Team Member Fatima Remy. Standing left to right: Sergeant Tyra Griffin, CFA Assessor Johnny Oldham, and Lieutenant Gary Oliver.



Left to Right: CFA Assessors Johnny Oldham, Tim Elder, and Amanda Schaefer reviewing MDPD standard files through PowerDMS.

On Tuesday, March 28, 2017, MDPD demonstrated proficiency during its 4th on-site assessment for the purpose of receiving triennial reaccreditation status. As of June 2017, MDPD representatives appeared before the CFA Commission and received full reaccreditation status for MDPD.

The Professional Compliance Bureau is responsible for maintaining accreditation files and ensuring that MDPD remains in compliance with all standards. This is accomplished by:

- Educating departmental personnel on what accreditation is all about
- Performing departmental inspections to ensure compliance
- Ensuring standard folders have necessary directives and documentation
- Ensuring that departmental directives are continually updated
- Remaining current as to all accreditation changes and requirements
- Attending accreditation conferences
- Reviewing the Departmental Manual and related procedures to ensure they are performed in compliance with the standards

MDPD is required to demonstrate compliance with all applicable, mandatory standards and not less than 80% of pertinent, non-mandatory standards. Proof of compliance with the standards is determined by an assessment team, referred by the Commission, who conducts a formal review of the agency's policies, procedures, and practices. Additionally:

- Assessors are usually law enforcement officers or accreditation specialists from accredited agencies
- Assessors have full access to the Department including all facilities, equipment, and activities for observation purposes
- Assessors have the right to question anyone about anything related to MDPD
- Assessors may ride-along to observe and ask Department-related questions

As an accredited agency, we are grateful for our Department's objectives that consistently embrace the core values of our mission, encourage the highest and most professional performance, and ensure the safety of our personnel and the community we serve.

Thank You Blood Donors!



Gratitude is extended to the many blood donors who contributed to the recovery of MDPD Major Ricky Carter and Miami Police Department Officer Carlos D. Gomez, and to the needy recipients of the Miami-Dade County community.



Recent Retirements

(Listed in alphabetical order)

MDPD recently said farewell to 17 employees (13 sworn officers and 4 civilians) who retired after periods of service ranging from 17 to 35 years. Director Juan J. Perez, the Department's Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wishes our departing colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Officers

Captain Laura Wood	28 yrs.
Lieutenant Luis Alvarez.....	30 yrs.
Lieutenant William Hellman.....	30 yrs.
Lieutenant Richard Mestre.....	30 yrs.
Sergeant Robert Berris.....	30 yrs.
Sergeant David Fariss	30 yrs.
Sergeant David Goldberger.....	30 yrs.
Sergeant Raul Interian.....	28 yrs.
Police Officer Luis Marin	33 yrs.

Police Officer Omar Moreno	30 yrs.
Police Officer David Richards	30 yrs.
Police Officer Concepcion Somoano	27 yrs.
Police Officer Roy Sperry	23 yrs.

Civilians

School Crossing Guard Ruthie Bass	23 yrs.
Secretary Elizabeth Martin	34 yrs.
Secretary Amelia Rodriguez	32 yrs.
MDPD Investigative Specialist Janie Weaver	31 yrs.

MDPD Supports the March of Dimes March For Babies Campaign!



Pictured left to right: Public Information & Education Bureau's Community Education Specialists Rita Gonzalez and Mavis Cole distribute safety information and supportive promotional items to March for Babies Walk participants. Appreciation is also extended to Secretary Julia Wolson, retired Criminalist Supervisor Toby Wolson, and Administrative Officer 1 Michael Cole for their fundraising efforts to help save babies!



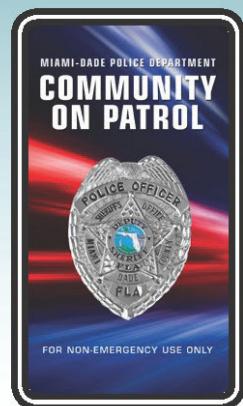
This New Year, resolve to be one of millions of residents on patrol.



CAPTURE IT WITH THE COP APP

Alert police to suspicious activity in your neighborhood with the **Community on Patrol app**.

Send tips, videos, and photos about possible criminal activity in your community to the Miami-Dade Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center.



Download the Community On Patrol app today!



Working Together To Protect What's Yours

Miami-Dade County wants to protect what's yours. You or your loved ones could be the target of scammers who often use schemes combining new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information.

Always stay a step ahead by doing the following:

- Review your finances.
 - Consider secure payment methods.
 - Be skeptical about free trial offers.
 - Sign up for FREE scam alerts.

**For more info and tips,
call 311 or visit
www.miamidade.gov/fraudfree.**



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The seal of the Miami-Dade Police Department, featuring a shield with various symbols like a scale, a sword, and a laurel wreath, surrounded by the words "MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT".

SPA 1 Alison Bishop-Cooner, Editor
Juan A. Perez, Creative Designer

Hector Llevat, Major
Public Information & Education Bureau

Hector Llevat, Major
Public Information & Education Bureau

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Russell Benford
Deputy Mayor

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. "It is the policy of Miami-Dade to comply with all of the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act."