

ALERT

Newsletter



"Committed to Excellence"

Vol. 29, No. 2

Miami-Dade Police Department

April/June 2015

Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Award

By Sergeant John Barrow, Public Information & Education Bureau



Pictured left to right: Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Miami-Dade County (MDC) Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Laura Gutierrez, Officer Mario Gutierrez, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, MDC Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Director J.D. Patterson, and MDC Commissioner Xavier Suarez. Photo by Wynton Anders

Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Officer Mario Gutierrez is the 2015 recipient of the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. The award was presented to Officer Gutierrez on April 27, 2015, by Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, in a ceremony at MDPD's Fred Taylor Headquarters Building.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery was established by Congress to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. The medals are awarded annually by the U.S. Attorney

General and are presented by the recipients' Congressional representatives.

On October 29, 2013, while on routine patrol in the Airport District, Officer Gutierrez observed an individual attempting to set the underground fuel tank on fire at a gas station across the street from the Miami International Airport. Disregarding his own safety, Officer Gutierrez activated the emergency shutoff valve to the pumps, rendering them inoperable. He then confronted the individual attempting to start the fire. In his effort to apprehend the subject, Officer

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Bravery Award

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Gutierrez was stabbed multiple times on his arms, hand, chest, stomach and leg. He was also viciously bitten by the subject. Despite his injuries, Officer Gutierrez managed to discharge his firearm, striking and killing the assailant, preventing further loss of life, injury, and property damage, in what would have been a massive explosion.

In presenting the award, Congresswoman Wilson said, “I am honored to present Miami-Dade Police Officer Mario Gutierrez the Congressional Badge of Bravery. Officer Gutierrez went above and beyond the call of duty by putting his own life on the line and suffering severe injuries in order to save others. His training, quick thinking, and swift action prevented a disastrous situation that could have resulted in countless lives being lost. On behalf of myself and the constituents of District 24, we thank you and are forever indebted to you.”

MDPD Director J.D. Patterson also praised the officer’s actions. “Officer Mario Gutierrez’ courage while being attacked during the catastrophic incident exemplifies both heroism and his commitment to serving this community. I am proud to have Congress recognize one of our officers with this prestigious award.”



Pictured left to right: Laura Gutierrez, Officer Mario Gutierrez, and Congresswoman Frederica Wilson. Photo by Wynton Anders

Lifeline of Law Enforcement and the Community

By Police Dispatcher Nicole Sears, Communications Bureau



Each year, the second week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve behind the scenes in law enforcement. It is a special time to recognize some of the most important people the public never sees.

To equip a Police Dispatcher (PD) and Police Complaint

Officer (PCO) to handle different types of emergency calls, Florida requires PDs and PCOs to pass a state exam. The MDPD takes it a step further, putting its PDs and PCOs through an extensive training program, which may last anywhere from 8 to 12 months. To successfully complete this training, PDs must master the geography of MDC, its surrounding areas, and the several municipal jurisdictions within the County. Trainees learn to function with calm and clarity during high-stress situations. They learn to push emotions aside and talk through the fear of the worst, while thinking ahead in order to be prepared. PDs always have to be one step ahead, be able to recall information quickly, and have the ability to use that information to make split-second decisions as they are the lifeline of information between emergency personnel and the public they serve.

A PCO is also required to be Emergency Medical Dispatch certified. They are trained to quickly and efficiently give instructions over the phone to save lives. They also have to be able to maintain a calm and assertive voice in order to prepare a complainant for the arrival of

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Lifeline

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Communications Bureau (past)

police and/or fire rescue personnel.

PDs and PCOs often go unappreciated and unrecognized for a job that most people would not want to do. It is a difficult task and, at the same time rewarding to be responsible every day for hundreds of lives to be the lifeline of the community. They work hard to deliver excellence

every day.

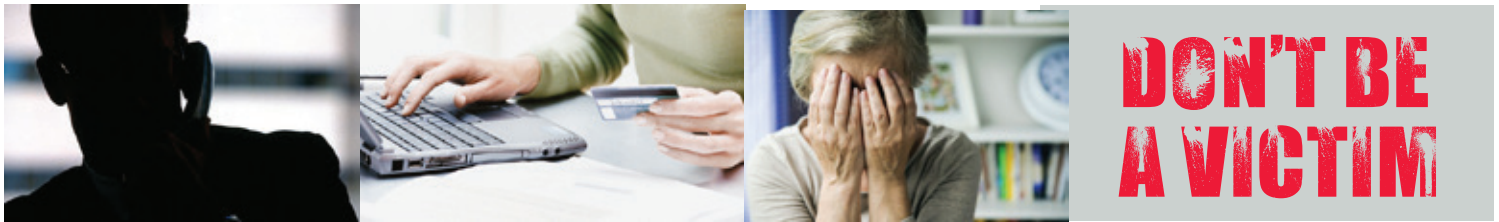
Please take a moment to thank these men and women for the difficult, but essential job they do.



Communications Bureau (present)

Trends in Economic Crimes

By The Economic Crimes Bureau



PHISHING/SPOOFING

Anyone who uses a telephone or computer and is able to receive e-mail or telephone calls can be targeted by a Phishing/Spoofing scam. The Internet Crime Complaint Center describes Phishing/Spoofing as follows:

- Phishing and spoofing are somewhat synonymous in that they refer to forged or fake electronic documents. Spoofing generally refers to the dissemination of e-mail which is forged to appear as though it was sent by someone other than the actual source. Phishing, often utilized in conjunction with a spoofed e-mail, is the act of sending an e-mail falsely claiming to be an established legitimate business in an attempt to dupe the unsuspecting recipient into divulging personal, sensitive information such as passwords, credit card numbers, and bank account information after directing the user to visit a specified website. The website, however, is not genuine and was set-up only as an attempt to steal the user's information.

The Internet Crime Complaint Center recommends the following suggestions to avoid becoming victim of a phishing/spoofing scam.

- Be suspicious of any unsolicited e-mail requesting personal information.
- Avoid filling out forms in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the link that you are actually directed to.
- Log on to the official website instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited e-mail.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify the e-mail is genuine.

In short, keep in mind that if someone sends you an unsolicited e-mail requesting personal or private information, it is most likely a scam.

Some common scams involve winning millions of dollars in a lottery you never knew you entered, discovering that

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Trends in Economic Crimes

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some unknown super wealthy dignitary who lives in a foreign country has chosen you to sneak his millions out of the country and into your bank account, only if you pay the taxes (hmm, wonder why the super wealthy guy cannot pay the taxes himself?), or your bank sends you an official looking e-mail that requires you to click their link and suddenly provide all your basic information to them as a result of some fraud alert, records update, or security check. If you go to the following links, you will see two examples of a spoofed IRS phishing e-mail: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/phishing_email.pdf and http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/phishing_email2.pdf.

So what do you do if you believe you have been the

victim of a phishing/spoofing scam? If the information released can compromise your identity or enables criminals to access your financial records and accounts, you should immediately notify your financial institution(s) and have them implement their institutional safeguards. Additionally, you should contact the three credit bureaus (TransUnion, Experian, Equifax) and request that they place a fraud alert on your credit. You should also report the matter to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov) via their on-line complaint form.

So be alert and do not give out personal information without being certain who is receiving it.

Miami-Dade Police Department Student Internship Program

By Sergeant John Barrow, Public Information & Education Bureau



SPRING 2015 STUDENT INTERN GRADUATES left to right: Jonathan Forte, Micashea Bailey, Amanda Vecchio, Michelle Ferrare, and Sebastian De La Quintana. Photo by Wynton Anders

The MDPD's Student Internship Program successfully completed its Spring 2015 Term in May.

Five students from universities in Florida and New York participated in the 16-week curriculum, which gave them access to the operations and administration of the MDPD.

The Summer Term is currently underway with seven

student interns from Florida, Connecticut, and as far away as the United Kingdom.

If you know of a currently enrolled college student who might want to intern with MDPD, please refer them to: www.miamidade.gov/police/internships.asp.

Law Enforcement Accreditation

By Lieutenant Pamillia Johnson, South District

Accreditation is the process of certifying organizations in their area of expertise. Usually accreditation is associated with health facilities, universities, and colleges. The law enforcement field has joined the ranks of those organizations by utilizing a process to identify agencies, which choose to operate according to the best practices of the law enforcement profession.

According to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), accreditation:

- requires an agency to develop a comprehensive, well thoughtout, uniform set of written directives. This is one of the most successful methods for reaching administrative and operational goals, while also providing direction to personnel;
- standards provide the necessary reports and analyses a CEO needs to make fact-based, informed management decisions;
- requires a preparedness program be put in place-so an agency is ready to address natural or man-made unusual occurrences;
- is a means for developing or improving upon an agency's relationship with the community;
- strengthens an agency's accountability, both within the agency and the community, through a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities;
- can limit an agency's liability and risk exposure because it demonstrates that internationally recognized standards for law enforcement have been met, as verified by a team of independent outside CALEA-trained assessors;
- facilitates an agency's pursuit of professional excellence.

The MDPD is a dual-accredited agency, holding accreditations nationally and at the state level. Nationally, MDPD is accredited by CALEA and statewide by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CFA). CALEA has 484 standards with which agencies must comply, while CFA has 88 comparative compliance standards for agencies that are dual-accredited. Every three years, teams of assessors from CALEA and CFA independently visit the MDPD to determine compliance

with these standards, view MDPD's operations, conduct a public information session, and report its findings to the Commission for final determination of accreditation status.

MDPD was initially accredited by CALEA in July 1993, and initially accredited by CFA in October 2004. MDPD's last reaccreditation award from CALEA was received November 2013, and the last reaccreditation CFA was received in June 2014.

MDPD is scheduled for on-site assessments with CALEA in April 2016, and the CFA in December 2016. The MDPD accreditation staff will conduct mock assessments between October and December of this year. During these mock assessments, local assessors will review the standards and operations to assist MDPD's accreditation team with feedback in preparation for the 2016 on-site assessments.

MDPD's accreditation team has established professional relationships with local accredited agencies and received high praises from CALEA and CFA assessors and commissioners. Accreditation can be a challenging process for any agency; however, the effort is worth the status the agency acquires from being accredited. By establishing an accreditation liaison in every district and bureau, the MDPD accreditation team has ensured that there is Departmentwide participation in the accreditation process. This has created a network of MDPD personnel who are familiar with the process and understands their importance in the accreditation assessments.

Next November, local agencies and personnel will have the opportunity to explore CALEA up close, when one of the annual conferences will be held in Miami. Personnel attending the conference will have a chance to learn more about accreditation by, among other things, taking advanced accreditation courses.

MDC will be showcased to law enforcement chiefs and representatives from around the country who will attend the November 2015 CALEA conference.

MDPD, along with other accredited agencies, welcomes the CALEA Conference and attendees to MDC.



Commission on Accreditation
for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.



Commission for Florida
Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Sports Day at Miami-Dade County's North Trail Park

By Officer Sandra Machin, Midwest District

The Midwest District hosted its 2015 Sports Day at MDC's North Trail Park on Thursday, May 21. The event was intended to celebrate our youth, their achievements, and the MDPD's commitment to making a difference in our community, while continuing to improve the relationships between law enforcement and the community's youth.

Eighty local sixth grade students from the Midwest District's four middle schools; Rockway, Ruben Dario, Paul Bell, and West Miami participated in various activities to promote teamwork, health, and wellness. The students were selected by the individual school administrators, based on academic, personal, and behavioral achievements.

The event was made possible by generous contributions from the Hispanic Police Officers Association, local businesses, civic groups, private citizens, and the Citizens' Crime Watch of MDC.

Special thanks to the Midwest and Hammocks Districts' Neighborhood Resource Unit Officers who contributed to the success of this event.



Recent Retirements

Congratulations and farewell to the following MDPD personnel who retired between April 1, 2015, and June 30, 2015: *(Listed in alphabetical order)*

School Crossing Guard Steven Alexander – 22 yrs.
 Police Officer Jose Alvarez – 30 yrs.
 School Crossing Guard Reinaldo Alvarez – 10 yrs.
 Police Records Technician 1 Juan Arcia – 11 yrs.
 School Crossing Guard Digna Brena – 21 yrs.
 Secretary Cruz Byrd – 30 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant David Calzadilla – 32 yrs.
 Dispatcher Karen Campos – 34 yrs.
 School Crossing Guard Mary Canady – 9 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant Raul Carvajal – 31 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Pamela Chadwick – 25 yrs.
 School Crossing Guard Oswaldo Collins – 7 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant Jose Colon – 28 yrs.
 Police Station Specialist Karen Comottor – 23 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Joseph Deegan – 32 yrs.
 Police Officer Kenneth De Vito – 33 yrs.
 Police Major Generoso Dieppa – 38 yrs.
 Police Complaint Officer Debra Donnelly – 30 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant Carlos Espinosa – 27 yrs.
 Police Officer Nancy Fenelon – 25 yrs.
 Police Major Alfredo Ferrer – 26 yrs.
 Accountant 1 Maria Garcia – 11 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Erik Gonzalez – 25 yrs.
 Police Officer Javier Gonzalez – 25 yrs.
 Police Officer Felix Hechavarria – 28 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Oswaldo Hernandez – 30 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant Mike Kirkland – 25 yrs.
 Police Officer John Maher – 30 yrs.
 Police Officer James McDonnell – 32 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Joell McGee – 40 yrs.
 Stenographic Reporter Janet Ojeda – 39 yrs.
 Police Officer Jaime Pardinias – 30 yrs.
 Police Lieutenant Antonio Perez – 32 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Carlos Portela – 30 yrs.
 Police Officer Michael Preston – 32 yrs.
 Police Officer Julio Ramos – 34 yrs.
 Police Officer Charles Ritthaler – 28 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Rigoberto Rivas – 30 yrs.

Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Beatriz Rodriguez – 35 yrs.
 Police Captain Bibiana Santana – 25 yrs.
 Secretary Lucille Sexton – 37 yrs.
 Police Captain Glenn Stolzenberg – 32 yrs.
 Police Officer Angel Valhuerdi – 36 yrs.
 School Crossing Guard Yulieth Zamudia – 18 yrs.
 Police Sergeant Gregory Zuk – 31 yrs.

**Thank You For Giving
The “Gift Of Life”**



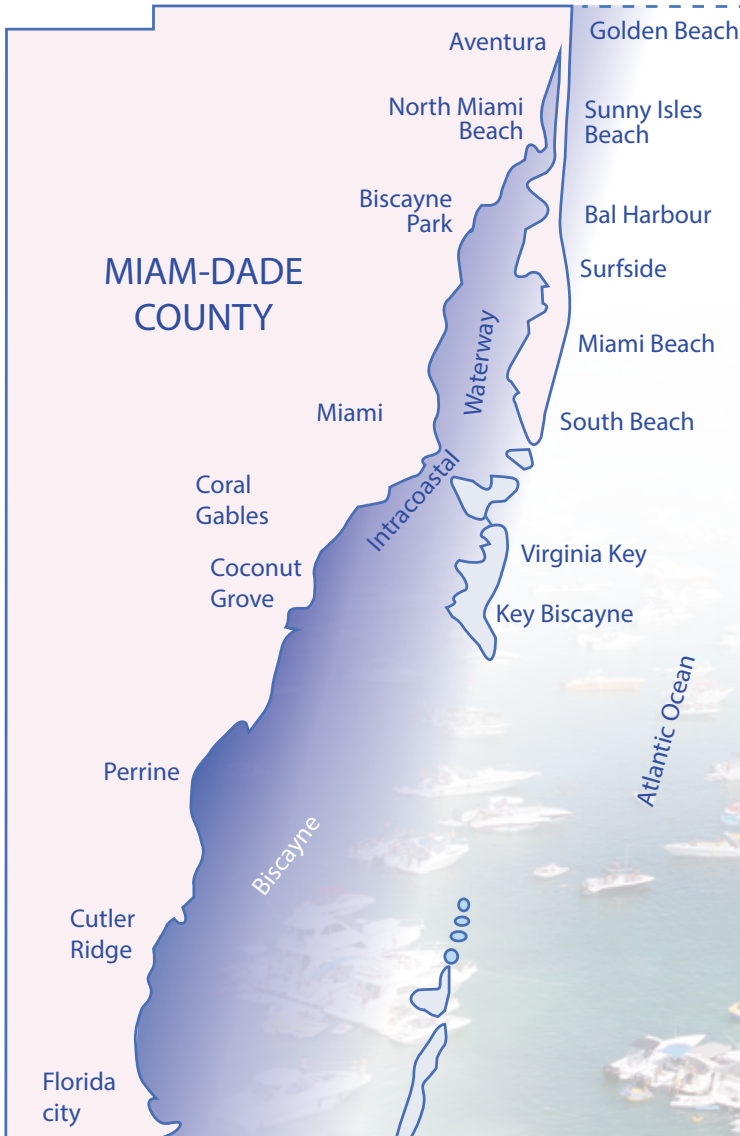
Police Officer Yolanda Alvarez
 Police Officer Randy Esplugas
 Police Officer Linda Franco
 Police Officer Martin Moraitis
 Police Officer Marjorie Tamayo
 Secretary Miriam Dieguez
 Police Criminalist 2 Yamil Garcia
 Web Publisher Joseph Di Girolamo
 Police Crime Lab Manager Jeffrey Johnson
 Personnel Technician Patricia Lane
 Police Records Technician 1 Rashondra McCall
 Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Ana Rivera
 Police Crime Lab Manager Oliver Spicer Jr.
 Office Support Specialist 2 Sandra Tanner
 Police Criminalist 2 Karen Wiggins
 Police Criminalist 2 Erin Wilson
 Police Criminalist Supervisor Toby Wolson
 Mr. Pedro Pastor

**Next Blood Drive
August 27, 2015
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Miami-Dade County New Boating Safety Ordinance



Effective May 15, 2015



A new ordinance establishing rafting restrictions for vessels operating on any waters within the boundaries of MDC went into effect on May 15, 2015.

The ordinance specifies that no more than five vessels may raft or attach to each other by any means. Additionally, these groups of rafted, tied, or attached vessels must maintain 30-feet of separation from other groups of rafted vessels. Only the three center vessels will be allowed to anchor.

This ordinance is meant to improve safety on our local waterways, and allow a pathway for first responders in an emergency.



USING THE INTERNET TO BUY OR SELL ITEMS?



The Miami-Dade Police Department is committed to keeping residents and visitors safe by providing a SAFE HAVEN for exchanges from on-line transactions to take place at any Miami-Dade police station public parking area. Police stations are public places that deter crime, are well populated, operate 24/7, and provide a safe location to conduct Internet sale transactions.

The following Miami-Dade police stations are SAFE HAVEN locations for conducting your transactions:

South Station

10800 SW 211 Street
Miami, FL 33189

Hammocks Station

10000 SW 142 Avenue
Miami, FL 33186

Northside Station

799 NW 81 Street
Miami, FL 33150

Northwest Station

5975 Miami Lakes Drive East
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Midwest Station

9101 NW 25 Street
Doral, FL 33172

Kendall Station

7707 SW 117 Avenue
Miami, FL 33173

Intracoastal Station

15665 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, FL 33160

Connect with us on:



April/June 2015
Vol.29, No.2

ALERT Newsletter
Published by the
Miami-Dade Police Department
Public Information & Education Bureau
Special Projects Unit
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Doral, FL 33172
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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."