



Alert

Newsletter



"Committed to Excellence"

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Vol. 37, No. 2

April - June 2021

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ALFREDO "FREDDY" RAMIREZ III



Accepting the oath to faithfully protect and serve our community is an honor that only a few dare to take. The inherent risks to our extraordinary profession is now more evident than ever and we must continue to stand together. Each one of you chose to proudly wear the badge and step up as heroes for our families and our community, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do and for continuously placing your own lives at risk to ensure the safeguard of others. To our professional staff, you have given us the support and expertise that is essential to helping us carry out our mission.

As we head into the summer months, let's strengthen our resolve to work with our community and law enforcement partners, to secure an atmosphere where families can go sightseeing, take in our parks, or simply grab ice cream. Let's work together to continue to cultivate a better relationship with residents and business owners. Miami-Dade County is a wonderful place to be year-round.

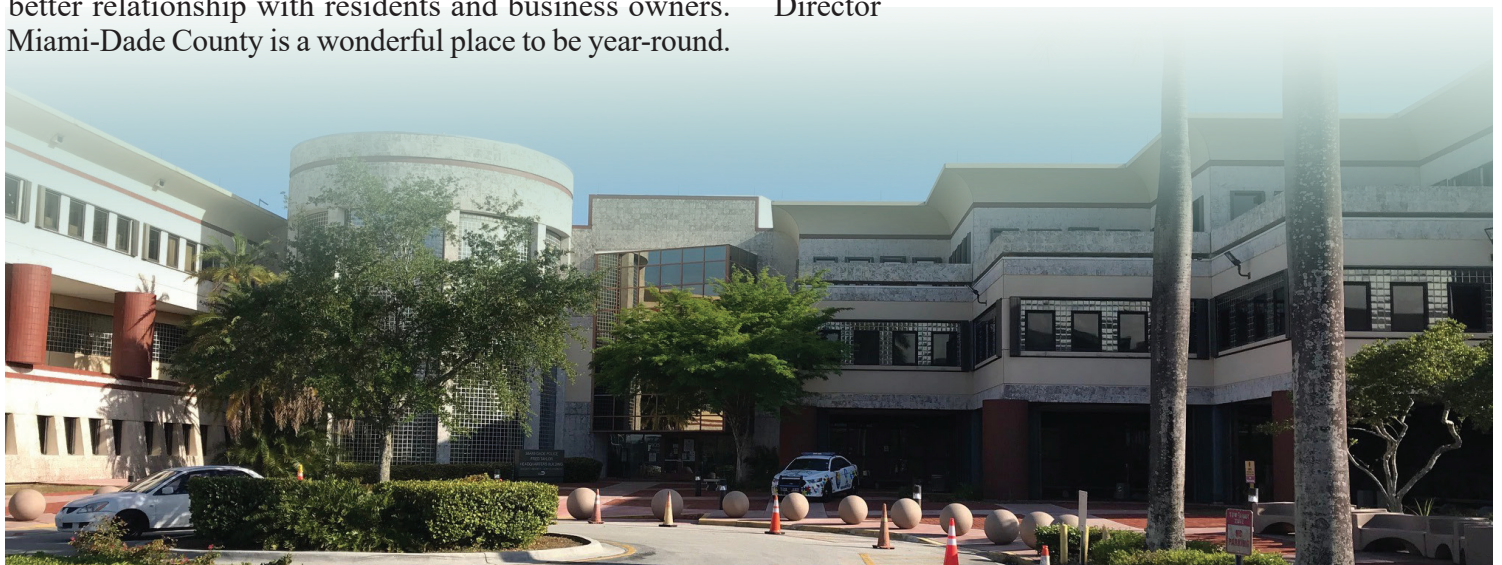
Our beaches, park spaces, restaurants, and other attractions are among the best in the world. There is a diversity of cultures, amenities, and geography here, things that must be protected.

The level of gun violence in our County has taken the lives of many innocent people and deeply affected family and friends. We have put into action a plan to address gun violence, through "Operation Summer Heat," a comprehensive 12-week initiative targeting violent offenders. The initiative will rely on strategic enforcement, high-visibility and community engagement, and will work out of the Department's Homicide Street Violence Task Force to share intelligence among all law enforcement partners.

In formulating this plan with our law enforcement partners, I have listened to residents and community activists, who shared with me the things that keep them awake at night. I am confident that this undertaking and our ongoing efforts to stem violent crime will have positive results because I know what this Department is capable of. We will never waiver in our mission to secure peace and safety for our community.

Sincerely,

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Director



Miami-Dade Police Department Officers Will Receive Training on How to Recognize Autism in Subjects

By Brian Ballou



Director Ramirez poses with the Department's Autism Awareness Vehicle on Friday, April 2, 2021. The vehicle includes handprints of 28 autistic children of Department employees. (Photo by Angelica Kellner)

The Miami-Dade Police Department will fully implement by the end of Fall 2021, a new training program to help police officers recognize the signs and symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and effectively communicate with subjects who have the developmental disability.

"We will become more educated on autism, how to spot someone on the spectrum, and how to interact with an autistic individual should the scenario arise," said Director Ramirez, during a press conference at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building on World Autism Awareness Day, Friday, April 2, 2021. During the event, he unveiled the Department's "Autism Awareness" vehicle, which features a motif of solid red, blue, yellow, and green puzzle shapes, and initialed handprints of 28 autistic children of Department employees. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

Eight-hour classes will begin in the fall at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, for new recruits, and there will be computer-based training for officers. The Department is also working with experts on autism to develop wallet cards and vehicle stickers. The wallet cards would identify the holder as autistic and describe his or her unique challenges. The holder would present the officer with the card so that the officer would know that the person is autistic.



People with Autism Spectrum Disorder face social challenges, and their behavioral symptoms could lead to misunderstandings. They may have trouble relating to others, or appear to be unaware when people talk to them, among other symptoms, behavior that to the untrained eye may be misinterpreted as non-compliance or resistance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism affects about one in 54 children in the U.S.

Miami-Dade Police Department Drill Instructor Christopher Sowerby-Thomas, who oversees trainees at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, said the autism training will be comprehensive. "We will educate cadets on what is autism, how long has it been around, and what are the interactions that law enforcement across the nation has had with people who are on the spectrum," Drill Instructor Thomas said. "And then we go from there as it applies to what we would be doing on the street. For instance, if you do conduct a traffic stop, and you meet someone who is autistic, you would be looking for feedback, so if you give them a simple command such as to put their hands on the steering wheel, and they don't do it immediately, perhaps there is something else wrong, that they are not necessarily passively resisting you, they may not understand what you are saying."

Officer Felicia Williams, a member of the Northside District's Neighborhood Resource Unit, has a 19-year-old son, Lance, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. She lauded the Department for adopting the training.

"I'm really excited about what the Department is doing now in terms of awareness training, because many officers don't know how to treat people who are on the spectrum, they may think they're being rebellious or disrespectful when they're not, they're the sweetest people ever."

Public Service Aides Provide Vital Role in Service to Citizens of Miami-Dade County

By Brian Ballou

Public Service Aides (PSAs) respond to a multitude of incidents, from vehicle burglaries to criminal mischief, but their specialty is traffic accidents.

“Their contribution alleviates many of the calls that we have in our various districts, allowing our police officers to be more proactive, more community oriented,” said Drill Instructor Lazaro A. Aleman, who trained the most recent class of 20 PSAs, the largest class in at least five years to graduate. “PSAs are a huge asset, in fact we need more of them,” he said during the graduation ceremony on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The PSAs went through a rigorous 14-week academy at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, a study-driven course. PSAs are full-time, non-sworn, and don’t respond to scenes where violence may be a likely factor, but they are trained in self-defense tactics to prepare them in case they are confronted with aggressive behavior.

Director Ramirez addressed the class on their graduation day, telling them that they fulfill a crucial role. “There are

those two words that encompass all of us, from sworn to non-sworn, and that is ‘public service,’” Director Ramirez said. “There are a lot of people out there who need your help, so treat others as you want to be treated, as you want your family to be treated,” he added.

Public Service Aide Michael Bermudez, the class leader, said of his experience, “Six months of training was hectic, a lot of studying,” he said. When Director Ramirez asked the class how many of them aspired to eventually become Miami-Dade Police officers, approximately half of the graduates, including Mr. Bermudez, raised their hands.

“This is a great way to get your feet wet,” said PSA Bermudez, who applied for both PSA and police officer, but took the PSA job because it was the first one offered.

Of the 20 graduates, 6 now work in the Northside District, 5 in Hammocks District, 3 in South District, 3 in Kendall District, 2 in Midwest District, and 1 in Northwest District.



Twenty Public Service Aides graduated on Friday, March 26, 2021, and are now assisting the Department at six districts. The class was the largest in at least five years. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

Miami-Dade Police Department Seeking to Strengthen Relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami

By Brian Ballou



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters
of Miami**

The Department is strengthening its partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami. Recently, members of the Department toured the organization's headquarters. Lieutenant Yolande Jacinthe, left, with Investigative Services, and Lieutenant Patrick H. Calvo, with the Community Affairs Bureau, talked about the importance of mentoring on their career path. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

The Miami-Dade Police Department and Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami are strengthening their longtime partnership to reach more families through mentorship and after-school programs that would pair more police officers with youth who are seeking mentors.

The collaboration between the Department and Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami goes back many years, as numerous officers have served as mentors and role models, volunteering their time to make a difference in the lives of youth throughout the County. The Department was the first law enforcement agency to start the "School to Work" program with Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami, an initiative that was made possible through former Director J.D. Patterson, who led the Department from 2013-2016, and now serves as the Miami-Dade County, Chief Public Safety Officer, overseeing the Department.

On Friday, April 30, 2021, members of the Department's Community Affairs Bureau, including Major Carmen M. Castro, Captain Jean M. Volcy,

Lieutenant Patrick H. Calvo, and Lieutenant Yolande Jacinthe, with Investigative Services, toured the Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami Headquarters, at 550 NW 42 Avenue. The organization's President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Gale S. Nelson, led them on the tour and spoke with them about potential after-school collaborations that would increase the Department's involvement.

After the half-hour tour, Captain Volcy, Lieutenant Calvo, and Lieutenant Jacinthe participated in an hour-long recorded podcast with Mr. Nelson. The officers spoke about how they became interested in careers in law enforcement and how role models and mentors made a positive impact on their lives.

The segment aired on May 14, 2021, at noon, as part of the non-profit's recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Month. The podcast is part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami "Game of Life Community Conversation Podcast" that can be viewed on YouTube.

After a Year Off Due to Pandemic, “Bring Your Child to Work Day” Returns to Miami-Dade Police Department

By Brian Ballou



Zachary Andres Juliao, son of Hammocks District Sergeant Andres F. Juliao, was one of many children who visited the Department during “Bring Your Child To Work Day.” The event was not held in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but returned on Thursday, April 22, 2021, in a drive-by version in front of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

Cancelled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Bring Your Child to Work Day” was back at the Miami-Dade Police Department Fred Taylor Headquarters Building, albeit in a socially-distant format with a drive-by caravan. The festive flair was back too, as was McGruff the Crime Dog.

“We thought outside of the box this year, it is important for the community to see what law enforcement is all about, so this is a good way to practice social distancing and see our specialized units and vehicles,” said Major Carmen M. Castro, of the Community Affairs Bureau.

In years past, children took turns donning heavy protective gear from the Department’s Bomb Squad, and they crammed into the Special Response Team’s Bearcat armored vehicle, and filled the lobby, and visited their parents’ work space. After COVID-19 spread throughout the U.S. in early 2020, the event was one of the first to get cancelled by the Department, but it was brought back on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Families remained in their vehicles and rode past displays lined up along the u-shaped driveway in front of the building. Most vehicles stopped briefly at one or two of the displays to chat with officers or take pictures of the equipment or vehicles. The displays included the Bomb

Squad’s explosive ordnance robot, the Bearcat, the Breast Cancer Awareness and Autism Awareness vehicles, a Department helicopter, quad vehicles that are utilized by the Agricultural Patrol Section, and a Canine Unit. A DeeJay played music over speakers and members of the Community Affairs Bureau handed out bags filled with toys.

“Unfortunately they can’t get up close, or sit in the vehicles, touching the equipment, but this is the next best thing, and hopefully next year it will be a little bit better, but this is what we could do this year and it was a great opportunity to interact and keep the community engaged with law enforcement.”

While the event drew dozens of children of employees, it was also a chance for people visiting the building for other business to catch a glimpse of the Department’s specialized units. Many individuals on their way to get fingerprinted or pick up documents joined the caravan. While billed as a family event for children of employees, Bring Your Child to Work Day has traditionally attracted people with no affiliation to the Department, including those curious about a possible career in law enforcement.

“This really showcases our Department and serves as a recruitment tool,” Major Castro said.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Recognizes Officers for Longevity in DUI Enforcement

By Brian Ballou



Members of the Special Patrol Bureau's DUI Enforcement team were recognized by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization for their ongoing commitment to stopping drunk drivers. Pictured from left to right is Captain Alejandro Acosta, Officer Richard L. Closius, Lieutenant Jorge L. Montero, Sergeant Reginald J. Myrtill, Officer Felicia R. Kinsey-Smith, Officer George A. Pacheco, Officer Joseph R. Azrak, Officer Jorge F. Quintana, and Officer Dael G. Vargas. (Photo by Angelica Kellner)

Together they have dozens of years of experience stopping drunk drivers, and have been bitten, spit on, punched, and cursed by countless arrestees who would have likely crashed into other motorists had not these officers stopped them.

On Tuesday, May 25, 2021 the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) organization recognized seven Miami-Dade Police Department officers for their work in stopping drunk drivers, and also recognized the Department for being at the forefront nationally in the enforcement effort.

"Our goal at MADD is to end drunk driving, we want zero victims, that's our goal, and the way to do it is to support law enforcement because without you, we will never get to that goal," said MADD Victim Advocate Sally Matson, during the ceremony at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building's second floor cafetorium.

Three members of the Department's Special Patrol

Bureau, Officers Richard L. Closius, George A. Pacheco, and Joseph R. Azrak, were awarded MADD's Millennium Achievement, for achieving over 1,000 DUI arrests in their career. Officer Closius also received the Century Achievers award, for over 100 arrests in calendar year 2020. Special Patrol Bureau Officer Felicia R. Kinsey-Smith also received a Century Achievers award.

MADD also recognized Detective Jose J. Rios, of the Community Affairs Bureau, and Sergeant George E. Wilhelm, of the Homeland Security Bureau, for their nominations in the category of "Underage Drinking Prevention." Sergeant Wilhelm was also nominated for the "Deputy Larry Morrell MADD Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award, along with his wife, Officer Dayana Wilhelm, of the Airport District. The Department was nominated for "Outstanding Dedication to DUI Enforcement - Large/Urban Agency."

Operation Summer Heat Launched to Respond to Deadly Gun Violence

By Brian Ballou



After Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava announced “Operation Summer Heat” to address recent gun violence, Director Ramirez spoke about how the initiative will be implemented. Pictured first row, left to right, is Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Director Ramirez, and Mayor Levine Cava. In the background are members of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Miami-Dade Police Department is joining forces with other local, regional, and federal law enforcement agencies in response to a recent surge in deadly gun violence, through “Operation Summer Heat,” a comprehensive three-month initiative targeting violent offenders.

“This is your law enforcement community standing shoulder to shoulder, we are here for you and we are focused, we mourn together as a community and now we act together” said Director Ramirez during a press conference on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building. Behind the Director stood members of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, and Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Director Ramirez said the initiative will expand capacity to tackle gun violence heading into the summer months, relying on strategic enforcement, high-visibility, and community engagement, and will work out of the Department’s Homicide Street Violence Task Force to share intelligence among all law enforcement partners.

Mayor Levine Cava, who announced the initiative, said “no man or woman should feel comfortable driving around with assault weapons, to commit a crime in a stolen vehicle, this will not happen, not on our watch. To that small percentage of bad actors who are terrorizing our community, you know who you are, you will face the

full weight of the law.”

Authorities will also focus on shutting down businesses that have been operating illegally, where some of the recent violence has played out. Starting on Saturday, June 5, 2021, 17 teams comprised of both code enforcement officers and police officers will span the County to shut down illegal businesses, Mayor Levine Cava said. In May, she announced the Peace and Prosperity Plan, which earmarks \$90 million in funding over 19 years to address the underlying causes of gun violence and poverty. That plan focuses on prevention, community revitalization, economic investment, and programs for high-risk youth.

The Summer Heat Initiative is focused on going after individuals and gangs who are committing gun violence. The initiative includes the monitoring of social media, which according to Director Ramirez, is where groups that are feuding are issuing threats against each other. “We have to be strategic, we know who the players are, they live on social media,” he said.

Businesses will also play a role in the initiative, working with the task force to help identify “hot spots” throughout the region. Additional cameras and lighting will be installed in high crime areas.

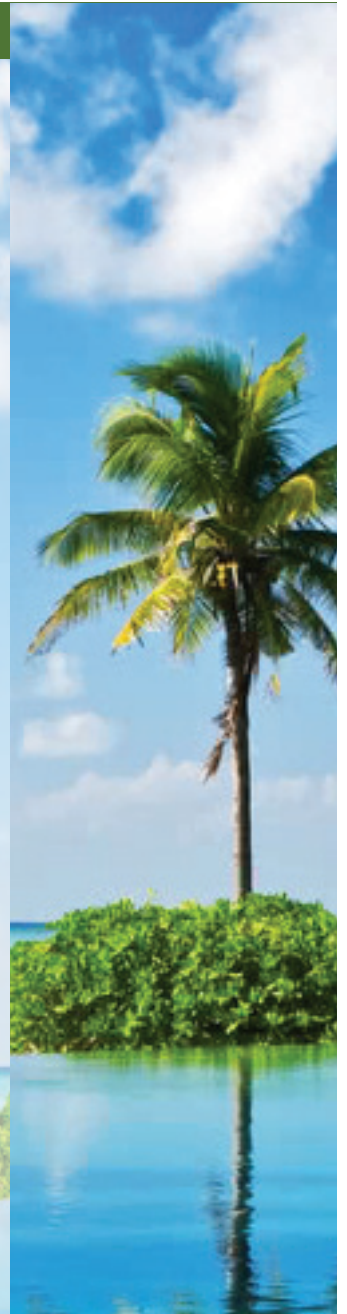
What we’re seeing is a different type of violence, more brazen and more targeted, and that requires a bigger scope,” Director Ramirez said. This isn’t just north-end violence or south-end violence, these bad actors are traveling from one end to another.”



MDPD recently said farewell to 46 employees (30 sworn officers and 16 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 8 to 37 years. Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Police Division Chief Ariel Artime	27
Major Ricky Carter	25
Lieutenant Evelio A. Miranda	34
Lieutenant Melisa A. Peacock	23
Lieutenant Maileen M. Prieto	30
Sergeant Javier Garcia	32
Sergeant Keith P. Hedrick	32
Sergeant Christopher B. Moon	25
Sergeant Robert A. Munecas	25
Sergeant Jose H. Neyra	31
Officer Gabriel A. Bosquet	29
Officer Jose G. Campa	32
Officer Debbie M. Castillo	27
Officer Eduardo Delgado	31
Officer Marcos A. De Rosa	30
Officer Linda Dohring	30
Officer Patricia D. Duberry	26
Officer Alex Eugene	30
Officer Eliezer D. Falcon	32
Officer Sally Glasel	33
Officer Juan M. Gross	30
Officer Danny Hurtado	27
Officer David G. Jacobs	30
Officer Roberto Jimenez	28
Officer Jamil H. Muhammad	18
Officer Kristine K. Patten	30
Officer Perry A. Pitelli	21

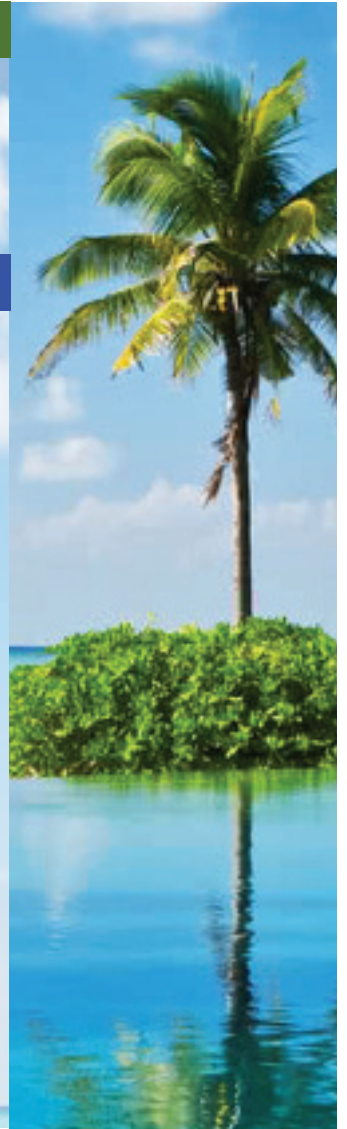


Sworn

Officer Wanda S. Seay	20
Officer Francisco C. Suarez	28
Officer Michael Tang	30

Professional Staff

Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Robert Acosta	35
Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Hector J. Alfonso	32
Imaging Records Technician Ana C. Arnaldo	22
Police Station Specialist Cheryl D. Boudrieau	29
Administrative Officer 1 Michael C. Cole	37
Secretary Brenda Corteguera	20
Information Officer Ani Delforn	32
School Crossing Guard Alberto Hernandez	9
Police Property Evidence Specialist 2 Bruce W. Kaplan	35
MDPD Court Specialist 1 Coletha D. Law	34
Police Legal Advisor Supervisor William F. Lyons	34
Court Support Specialist 1 Judith Morgan	16
Public Service Aide Pamela R. Nay	22
School Crossing Guard Fulgencio Roldan	16
Police Records Technician 1 Gloria Toote	31
School Crossing Guard Frank Wilson	8



ARE YOU READY?

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Hurricane Season | June 1 - November 30

2021

Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held successful blood drives at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 and at MDPD Headquarters on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Lieutenant Edward Bermudez
 Lieutenant Orlando Garcia Jr.
 Sergeant Henry Perea
 Sergeant Luis M. Rojas
 Sergeant Michael R. Scott
 Sergeant Arthur Utset
 Officer Candido Cerda
 Officer Marvin F. Davis
 Officer Jorge A. Encinosa Jr.
 Officer Ramon J. Iglesias
 Officer Marc J. Martinez
 Officer Tracy M. Tompkins
 Information Officer Julie K. Abbuhl
 Maintenance Repairer Humberto Achon
 Administrative Secretary Krystal Y. Aponte
 Information Officer Brian R. Ballou
 Criminalist 2 Christopher Barr

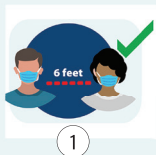
Administrative Officer 3 John F. Dicarlo
 Personnel Technician Ivonne L. Herrera
 Building Maintenance Supervisor Raul Montelongo
 Police Property Evidence Supervisor Vanessa Palomino
 Criminalist 2 Olga J. Paredes
 Police Records Specialist 1 Rodrigo A. Sepulveda
 Clerk 2 Lucia Valles
 Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson
 Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department
 Sergeant Daniel Duke
 Mr. Gilberto Lima Castaneda
 Ms. Ana Ishii
 Mr. Romano Itani
 Ms. Carmen Koga
 Mr. Francisco Suarez



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SAFETY TIPS

CONSEJOS DE SEGURIDAD POR EL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
 TI KONSÈY SEKIRITE SOU CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

miamidade.gov/coronavirus



1



2



3

1 **Practice social distancing**
 Mantenga la distancia social
 Pratike distans sosyal

2 **Wear a face covering**
 Use una máscara facial
 Mete yon Kouvèti vizaj

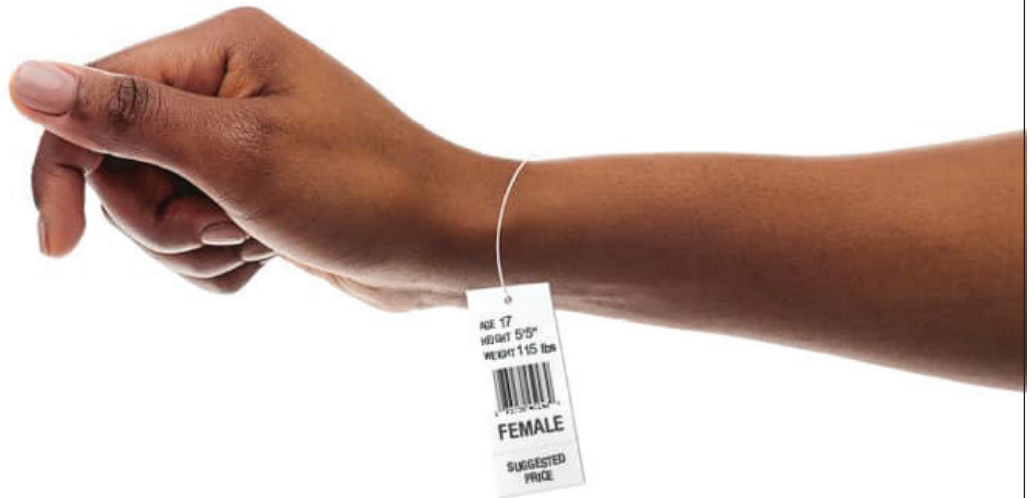
3 **Wash your hands often. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer**

Lavese las manos frecuentemente. Si no tiene agua y jabón, usedesinfectante de manos.

Lave men w souvan. Lè savon akdlo pa disponib, sèvi akdezenfektan pou men.

Help
is
Available.

Human Trafficking



“Human Life Is Not For Sale”

Anyone can experience trafficking in any community. If you have information on human trafficking:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-37-37-888. Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking.
- Text **HELP** to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 233733. Message and data rates may apply.
- Submit a tip online using the National Human Trafficking Hotline's anonymous reporting form. Please note that if the situation is urgent or occurred within the last 24 hours, we would encourage you to call, text or chat.
- Text or call 305-FIX-STOP (305-349-7867)



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Daniella L. Cava
Mayor



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