

ALERT NEWSLETTER

Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office



www.mdso.com

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April - June 2025

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SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Rosie Cordero-Stutz
Sheriff



As we step into another hurricane season—June 1 through November 30—I want to take a moment to speak directly to you, the people who keep this agency running every day, often behind the scenes or out in the field, always focused on serving others. We all know the drill. We respond. We protect. We show up when others are evacuating. But in doing so, many of us forget to ensure that our own families and homes are ready.

We've had a string of relatively quiet seasons, with near-misses and minor impacts. But that's not a reason to be complacent. Here are a few key reminders for your personal preparedness:

- Check your family plan. If you're called in for duty, will your loved ones know where to go, what to do, and how to stay in touch?
- Review your supplies. Have at least a seven-day supply of water, non-perishable food, batteries, flashlights, and chargers. Build a safety kit: include a first aid kit, necessary prescription or over-the-counter medications, glasses or hearing aids, baby supplies if needed, and cash in small bills.
- Secure important documents. Keep insurance paperwork, IDs, and emergency contacts in a safe, waterproof place.
- Have a go-bag. For both your home and your family. And make sure your family knows where it is.

Recently, I visited the National Hurricane Center and met with top leaders from NOAA, FEMA, and the National Weather Service. Our conversations underscored what we already know here at MDSO: preparedness is everything. And while our operational plans are solid, they only work when the people behind them are also personally ready.

This job demands a lot. And when a storm hits, it demands even more. If your home is secure and your family is safe, you'll be able to serve with focus and confidence when the community needs you most. Please don't delay. Talk to your family. Make a plan. Visit www.MDSO.com to access our Hurricane Season Guide and checklist.

We are a strong, capable agency. But our real strength comes from the people who make up this team. Let's show the same commitment to our own homes that we show to our community every day. Stay safe and stay ready.

Sincerely,

Rosie Cordero-Stutz
Sheriff

ARE YOU READY?



Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz

HURRICANE SEASON

June 1 - November 30



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Visit www.MDSO.com to access our Hurricane Season Guide and checklist.



A New Era Begins, Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Hosts First-Ever Promotional Ceremony

By Brian Ballou



MDSO held its inaugural promotional ceremony on April 24, 2025, for 62 supervisors, in the auditorium of Florida International University's Wertheim Performing Arts Center. (Photo by Gaston De Cardenas)

The smiles began long before the names were called. In the auditorium of Florida International University's Wertheim Performing Arts Center, rows of uniformed Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office supervisors sat shoulder to shoulder on stage, their families fanned out in the seating before them—toddlers in strollers, spouses with bouquets clutched in hands, and balloons bobbing above heads. It wasn't just a ceremony, it was a moment in Miami-Dade history.

On April 24, 2025, the newly-formed Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) held its inaugural promotional ceremony, a milestone event that marked not only the advancement of 62 public servants but also the dawn of a new chapter in law enforcement for the county. Just months earlier, on January 7, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) officially transitioned into MDSO—a constitutional office led not by an appointed director, but by an elected sheriff.

"I'm really excited because today is the first time as a sheriff that I get to be part of a promotional ceremony,"

said Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz, prior to the start of the event. "People work so hard in their professional careers to advance, to move ahead, and this is a time that we celebrate them and their hard work, and we get to share with their families as well, so it's a good day."

The ceremony, which lasted about an hour, promoted 22 Sergeants, 10 Lieutenants, 6 Captains, 1 Commander, 1 Director, 11 Majors, 5 Division Chiefs, 3 Assistant Sheriffs, 1 Executive Director, 1 General Counsel, and 1 Undersheriff. As each supervisor's name was called, he or she approached the sheriff to receive their new badge and pose for photos. Families clapped, cheered, and even wiped away tears. Afterward, the gathering migrated outdoors where smartphones captured the kind of group portraits that mark generational pride.

The reorganization of the MDPD into a sheriff's office represents one of the most significant structural shifts in the county's law enforcement in 60 years. MDSO now stands as the largest sheriff's office in

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Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Hosts First-Ever Promotional Ceremony

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Florida (without a corrections component), the largest in the southeastern United States, and the eighth-largest police agency in the nation. With more than 4,500 employees—over 3,000 of them sworn officers—this constitutional office now answers directly to the voters.

In her speech, Sheriff Cordero-Stutz challenged those promoted to embody a deeper sense of duty as they step into leadership roles.

"Leadership is influence," she said. "Your words, your actions, and your attitude—they matter. They inspire and they motivate. They set the tone for those who will follow. I'm sure each of you can reflect on your journey and recall someone, a mentor, a supervisor, or colleague, who inspired you, who set the example, and who helped shape the professional you've become,

someone you looked up to, learned from, and perhaps even tried to emulate. And then, almost without even realizing it, you became that person for someone else."

"And that is why today, we don't just celebrate promotions, we celebrate your readiness to lead with integrity, compassion, and purpose. Congratulations to all of you. We are proud of what you have achieved and we're even more excited for what lies ahead."

Her words echoed the emotion in the room—pride, nostalgia, and the electricity of a new beginning. For some, it was a career milestone; for others, a family legacy fulfilled. But for all, it was a testament to the community and culture that has carried through the transition from MDPD to MDSO.





A Routine Motorcycle Escort, Then Impact: Inside the Day That Nearly Took a Deputy's Life, and the Long Road to Recovery

By Brian Ballou



Motors Unit Deputy Joseph Vallejos continues the long road to rehabilitation, recovering from a January 8, 2025 incident in which he was struck by a motorist while riding his motorcycle home after work. (Photo provided by Sergeant Gio Poveda)

On the morning of January 8, 2025, a Wednesday, the assignment for the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) Motors Unit was straightforward: meet the Penn State Nittany Lions football team at the JW Marriott Turnberry Resort & Spa in Aventura and escort them to and from practice. The team was in town for the Orange Bowl, where they'd face Notre Dame on Thursday night at Hard Rock Stadium.

Deputy Joseph Vallejos started the day like any other. He got up, brushed his teeth, and helped get his two children—his 4-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son—ready for school. After drop-off, he returned home to eat breakfast with his wife, a police complaint officer with MDSO. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the only mornings their schedules align—something they don't take for granted.

Then it was time to get ready for work. The 35-year-old deputy showered and dressed in his uniform. He pulled on his leather boots and fastened his helmet. At 5 feet 8 inches, he's compact and solidly built, with tattoos running the length of his left arm and most of his right. He carries himself with the quiet confidence of a man who's seen enough to know what really matters. Deputy

Vallejos has been with MDSO for eight years, and during his time with the Motors Unit, he's taken on a range of duties—from monitoring school zones to conducting DUI enforcement operations. The Unit's most visible work is escorting dignitaries and sports teams. Two days earlier, he'd helped escort the Nittany Lions from Miami International Airport to their hotel.

Before rolling out of his driveway, Deputy Vallejos checked his motorcycle's tire pressure. In the street in front of his house, he made several slow loops—figure eights and circles—to warm up the bike. At 10 a.m., he headed toward the hotel.

The football team emerged from the hotel in practice gear, and the Motors Unit led their buses to Ronald L. Book Athletic Stadium, about five miles away. After practice, the deputies escorted the team back to the hotel. With their assignment complete, the Unit departed as a group. The slow roll of the motorcycles produced a baritone thunder. As each deputy reached their exit, they peeled off one by one. Deputy Vallejos exited at Southwest 152nd Street and headed westbound. It was 1:30 p.m., and traffic was moderate.

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A Routine Motorcycle Escort . . . *Continued from page 4*

He thought about picking up his son at 3 p.m. and figured he had ample time to go home, change, and maybe knock out a few chores before school dismissal. He stopped at a red light at the intersection of Southwest 152nd Street and Southwest 137th Avenue, where a man on a blue motorcycle pulled up beside him.

"Hey man, what's up? That's a nice bike," the rider said. They chatted until the light turned green.

Deputy Vallejos moved forward to the next intersection—Southwest 138th Avenue and Southwest 152nd Street. Another red light. When it turned green, he scanned left, then right. Heightened awareness is second nature for anyone who's ridden long enough. "You gotta drive defensive, always," he said.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, four motorcycle officers were killed in line-of-duty crashes in 2023. And from 2015 through 2019, there were a total of 28 fatal law enforcement motorcycle crashes. Three years ago, a member of the Miami-Dade Police Department's (now known as MDSO) Motors Unit was struck by an SUV that crossed into his path at Northwest 36th Street and 53rd Avenue in Miami Springs. The impact sent the officer's body somersaulting through the air, and resulted in numerous injuries that left him in critical condition, barely clinging to life. The deputy underwent 13 surgeries and months of rehabilitation before he was able to recover and return to work.

Deputy Vallejos began his left turn. Suddenly, something flashed into his peripheral vision. A gray sedan—close. By the time he saw it fully, it was just seven inches away.

What happened next, Deputy Vallejos remembers as if watching himself in slow motion—high definition, frame by frame. The sedan's front passenger side struck his left leg, which went instantly numb. His left hand punched through the car's windshield as his body was launched across the hood. He watched as his hand came out of the glass, lacerated, then lost track of it as his body spun violently. He tried to cross his arms over his chest to brace for landing, but the force was too great. His back slammed against the pavement. The air rushed from his lungs. He felt his pelvis expand unnaturally.

When he came to rest on his back, he tried to move his legs. Nothing. He tried to sit up. He couldn't. The pain was blinding. People rushed toward him, urging him not to move. A woman's voice cut through the chaos. "I never saw him! I never saw him!" she cried.

Vallejos felt warmth rushing down his right leg. He feared the worst—that his femoral artery had been severed. "I thought I would be dead in a minute," he said.

Then came the sirens. And then familiar voices—fellow deputies from earlier that day. One from the Hammocks

District arrived too. "Joey, we're here, we got you," they repeated. Deputy Vallejos reached for Deputy Johnnie Crawford's hand. "I need help. I need help," he said. They gripped hands tightly. "I needed it—for security, for comfort," Vallejos later recalled.

Paramedics arrived, followed by a wave of deputies, dozens of them, securing the scene and the route to the hospital. Deputy Vallejos was placed on a stretcher and loaded into an ambulance. The Motors Unit provided escort to Jackson South Medical Center. Each bump in the road sent new waves of agony through his body. At the hospital, the doors of the ambulance swung open, and his supervisor, Lieutenant Jorge Montero, stood there. "I remember telling my Lieutenant it wasn't my fault, and he told me not to worry about it," Vallejos said.

Another member of the Unit asked him for his wife's phone number. She needed to be told what had happened. The deputy's wife, Selany Machado, rushed to the hospital. She was off from work that day. Deputy Vallejos was prepped for surgery. Even as the anesthesia set in, he said he could still hear his wife's voice.

Deputy Vallejos was in critical condition. His injuries were extensive: a fractured pelvis, two fractured vertebrae, a broken knee and tibia, and a fractured wrist—though the wrist didn't require surgery. He woke up two days later, groggy and drifting in and out of sleep. That entire weekend is a blur. His fellow deputies never left his side—officers from Kendall and Hammocks, his own unit, and others from across MDSO. Plates and screws were inserted into his pelvis and leg. Rods and screws were placed in his back.

As Deputy Vallejos underwent surgery, Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz stood in front of the hospital and asked the community for prayers and also to be attentive to motorcycle officers or anyone on a motorcycle. "They clearly do not have an advantage, and so it is really important that as drivers, we are aware, please if you can, put down the telephone, put down the texting, it can wait."

Doctors told Deputy Vallejos that he wouldn't be able to walk until August at the earliest. The rehab has been grueling. Deputy Vallejos set goals for himself, leaning on his family, his coworkers, and his own resolve. After nearly a week in the hospital, he was transferred to Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Miami, in Cutler Bay, where he stayed for a month. Still wheelchair-bound, he couldn't bear weight on his body. Physical therapy was three times a day, up to four hours total. The pain was constant.

"There were days when I couldn't get out of bed, so rehab had to happen in bed," he said. Even simple exercises—leg lifts, knee bends—were excruciating.

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Long Road to Recovery *Continued from page 5*

Sometimes, without painkillers, the effort brought him to tears. But he pushed through. His therapists were stunned by his endurance.

On February 13, just over a month after the crash, Deputy Vallejos told the staff he was ready to go home. But first, he had to prove he could complete a checklist: get into his wheelchair unassisted, brush his teeth—small tasks, but ones that now required intense effort and focus.

He completed the list. He called his wife. “Happy Valentine’s Day,” he told her. “I’ll be home tomorrow.” When he arrived home, a crowd was waiting. The entrance to their home had been fitted with a temporary ramp. Therapy continued five days a week. After a month, he was strong enough to begin outpatient treatment. On March 28, he started weight-bearing therapy—standing, walking, re-learning strength.

A “fitness guy” before the crash, he felt like he was starting over. He had lost 50 pounds, dropping from 235 to 185. Gradually, some muscle returned. What kept him going, he said, were his children. “My daughter would see me in the wheelchair and say, ‘Daddy, I want you to feel better,’” Deputy Vallejos said. “I was tired of her seeing me like that.”

At church recently, his son shared a prayer he’d made. “He said he prayed for me to start walking again,” Deputy Vallejos said, his voice breaking and tears welling in his eyes. “As a father, that hit hard. I had to stand up. And that’s what I did. I told myself, I’m done with this wheelchair.”

There’s a window at the front of his house, where he recently caught a glimpse of his reflection in a mirror inside. “I was looking at myself—I was walking straight, I wasn’t limping,” he said. “I thought, I can do this. I can do this.” On May 12, he returned to work on light duty, and on May 13, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners recognized Deputy Vallejos, with an official proclamation recognizing his bravery and dedication to his work. “On May 21, he was out at Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah, assisting with dive training exercises.

He recently rode his personal motorcycle—a chopper-style Harley-Davidson—for the first time since the crash. The route took him through the intersection where it all happened. “I had to mentally tell myself I can do this,” he said. “Because it wasn’t my fault.”

Handicap Placard Enforcement Results in 137 Citations in One Day

The Miami-Dade Sheriff’s Office (MDSO) issued 137 handicap parking citations on Friday, May 23, 2025, the launch day of Operation Blue Zone, a targeted enforcement effort against the growing misuse of handicap parking placards across the county.

The initiative aims to hold violators accountable and preserve access for those who truly need those accommodations. The enforcement involved the Kendall, Hammocks, Midwest, Northside, and Northwest Districts, and the Cutler Bay, Miami Lakes, and Palmetto Bay Municipal Districts, along with MDSO’s Special Patrol Bureau, and Government Services Bureau.

Operation Blue Zone also yielded 19 uniform traffic citations, 6 confiscated decals, and 8 stroller parking citations, those spots marked and reserved for parents transporting young children.

The day-long enforcement will be held monthly. Illegally parking in a reserved disabled parking space is a civil infraction that carries a mandatory fine of \$250. Additionally,

it is a crime to unlawfully display a disabled parking permit belonging to another person who is not being transported. Individuals may be sentenced up to 60 days in jail and subject to a \$500 fine, according to Florida Statute.

“Handicap placards exist for a reason, to help individuals with a disability safely and conveniently access essential services,” said Deputy Federico Lopez, a member of the Special Patrol Bureau’s Motorcycle Unit. “When they’re misused, it’s not only dishonest, it’s illegal.

He provided guidelines on the proper use of handicap placards. Only use a placard if it was issued to you or someone you’re transporting, display it clearly when parked in a designated handicap space, renew it on time as expired placards are not valid, Deputy Lopez said. Additionally, don’t use someone else’s placard if the rightful holder isn’t with you, and never tamper with or forge a placard, which is a crime.





Sergeant with Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Agricultural & Environmental Crimes Section at Forefront of Protecting Vast Farmlands

By Brian Ballou



The Agricultural & Environmental Crimes Section has a great relationship with farmers, helping them protect their crops from poachers. Recently, Sergeant Richard Zahalka was honored by the Dade County Farm Bureau as its Agricultural Officer of the year.

By day, Miami's agricultural district stretches like a sunlit tapestry—68,000 acres of fertile land where avocados, mangoes and other crops ripen in the heat. But when night falls, this rural expanse becomes a shadowy hunting ground. Under cover of darkness, produce poachers strike, sometimes making off with tens of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit in a single sweep.

Patrolling this frontier is the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Agricultural & Environmental Crimes Section, a small but specialized section led by people like Sergeant Richard Zahalka—a local son who knows the groves like the back of his hand. With a practiced eye for out-of-place footprints or a broken fence line, he protects the area not just with a badge, but with the instincts of someone raised among these orchards.

Sometimes, those instincts draw his attention to what others might ignore. A branch in the road might seem like random debris to most. But to Sergeant Zahalka, it could be a sign—a literal marker pointing toward theft.

"They're organized," he said. "They have guys go in,

climb fences, pick avocados and leave them in piles. Then they leave branches in the road, so when the van comes later to pick them up, the driver knows exactly where to go."

Produce poaching is difficult to detect. During harvest season, the groves are thick with vegetation. There are no streetlights, no porch lamps—just pitch blackness. The perfect cover.

Sergeant Zahalka keeps a photo on his phone from one case several years ago. Thieves had overloaded a 15-foot box truck with avocados. The suspension collapsed under the weight, and the vehicle was abandoned in an orchard. When the farmers returned the next morning, they opened the truck to find tens of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit inside.

In response, many farms have built high berms to keep trucks out. But even that isn't foolproof. Poachers have been known to dig out sections of berms, cut through

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Protecting Vast Farmlands

Continued from page 7

fencing, and slip in undetected. Farmers now often use surveillance cameras—many of which Sergeant Zahalka can access from his phone.

The relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the growers is close, and critical. The Dade County Farm Bureau—the county's oldest and largest agricultural organization—honored Sergeant Zahalka as its Agricultural Officer of the Year at its 45th annual barbecue in April. He was also named Officer of the Year by the South Dade Chamber of Commerce for his work protecting local farms.

"He's very involved, and probably knows every farmer out here," said Jocelyn Guilfoyle, the bureau's executive director. "There are only a few officers out here, so we truly appreciate what he's done—and continues to do every day. He knows everything that's going on and is always dedicated to helping resolve issues."

Sometimes resolving those issues means reading intent. Deputies can issue civil citations or escalate to felony theft charges, depending on the case.

"We get folks who pull over and pick tomatoes or what have you," Sergeant Zahalka said. "And then we get those who take steps to hide themselves, go in deep and fill up their vehicles."

In more serious cases, deputies must proceed with caution. Large-scale theft operations can pose serious risks. In one recent incident, the ringleader of a theft crew was found carrying a loaded handgun.

Since joining the Agricultural and Environmental Crimes Section in November 2013, Sergeant Zahalka has worked a wide range of cases. He helped break up a guava theft ring, led the arrest of a suspect who was stealing and slaughtering horses for meat, and investigated a property owner who kept 220 animals in deplorable conditions. That owner was arrested, and the

animals received treatment for malnutrition and other health problems.

In March, Sergeant Zahalka was named the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Distinguished Deputy of the Month—an internal honor that he accepted with humility.

"It's almost embarrassing," he said. "Because this is something I love doing. I think you have to have a passion for it."

His knowledge of agriculture continues to deepen, not just through work and conversations with growers, but through coursework offered by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). He's taken classes on composting, grafting, irrigation and more.

The Agricultural Section also includes an Agricultural Investigative Unit that handles a range of cases: thefts from nurseries, stolen farming equipment, pilfered portable fuel tanks, and the slaughter of horses for their meat.

But for Sergeant Zahalka and his colleagues, the mission in Miami's farmland remains clear: protect the harvest, the land, and the livelihoods that depend on both.

Larry Dunagan, a life-long local farmer, and a member of the board of directors for the Dade County Farm Bureau, said that Section has always responded to the needs and concerns of the local farming community, and he praised Sergeant Zahalka for his vigilance.

"Definitely he pays attention to what's going on out here, he knows the farmers, he knows the crops, and the seasons," said Mr. Dunagan, who grows avocados and pole beans. "He's very involved and he's devoted a lot of time and effort to know the industry and to know the people involved and what they do and when they do it."

MIAMI-DADE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**LOCK IT
OR LOSE IT**



BE SMART. STAY SAFE.

- Always Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk
- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles
- Always lock your vehicle
- Notify the Sheriff's Office of any suspicious activity

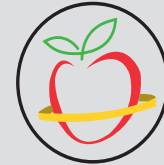
**Non-Emergency 305-4-POLICE
305-SHERIFF (Cell phone only)
For All Emergencies Dial 9-1-1**



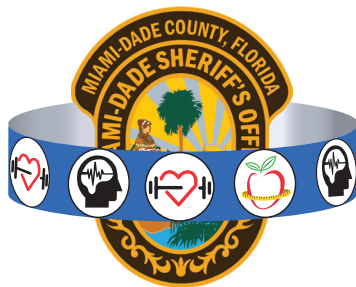
Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz



The **WELLNESS** CORNER



Our Resilient Blue Program is Now 5 Star Wellness!



RESILIENT BLUE

The MDSO Wellness Committee—comprised of members from the Office of the Undersheriff, Training Center Fitness Staff, Employee Mental Wellness Office, Public Affairs Office, and Special Projects—has launched an entirely new initiative to promote wellness across our workforce.

Introducing 5 Star Wellness, a program built around five essential aspects of wellbeing, each representing a point on our star. These pillars are designed to support a well-rounded, healthy future:

Emotional Wellbeing

Led by our Mental Health and Wellness Unit, these efforts focus on building strong support systems, enhancing personal relationships, and developing coping skills to overcome barriers to fulfillment and life balance.

Physical Health

Spearheaded by the Wellness Unit at the Training Center, this includes workshops on physical performance, nutrition, and targeted topics like Thriving on the Midnight Shift, swimming clinics, and fitness challenges such as 12 Weeks to Get Shredded.

Financial Wellness

Coordinated by committee members in collaboration with financial educators and partners, including the Florida Retirement System and Nationwide Financial. These efforts aim to guide MDSO personnel toward greater financial stability and planning.

Social Connections

Driven by findings from the U.S. Surgeon General, this area focuses on combating loneliness and isolation—recognized as a significant public health threat. Through actionable strategies and awareness, we aim to foster deeper personal connections and reduce the barriers created by social media and screen time.

Personal Leadership

This aspect encourages self-empowerment and the development of individual leadership styles. Through reflection and growth, team members can identify areas for personal development and enhance their ability to lead effectively—both professionally and personally.

The 5 Star Wellness initiative is currently developing video content from key workshops to help support your quality of life and training goals. These will be available soon on the Computer-Based Training platform.

Coming Soon: We're excited to announce the development of an in-house Toastmasters Chapter to help members improve their public speaking and presentation skills.

Have an idea or suggestion? We'd love to hear from you! Reach us at FiveStarWellness@mdso.com





CHAPLAIN'S

CORNER

“Strength in Faith: A Guiding Light in Law Enforcement”

In the demanding field of law enforcement, sworn and non-sworn personnel find themselves facing challenges that test our strength and resolve. It is during these times that many turn to faith as a source of comfort and guidance. For those who believe in God, faith becomes a cornerstone of service, providing those that believe with the courage to confront adversity and the wisdom to lead with compassion.

Every day the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office is called to protect and serve our communities with dedicated deputies that often place themselves in harm's way. So, in moments of uncertainty we can all draw strength from the teachings that remind us of our purpose: to be beacons of hope and justice. God's presence can inspire us to act

with integrity and to treat every individual with dignity, regardless of the circumstances. As our neighborhoods are patrolled and our community calls for assistance, let us remember that our work is not just about enforcing the law; it's about embodying the values of love, kindness, and mutual respect. By relying on our faith, we can cultivate a deeper connection with those we serve, fostering trust and understanding.

In our pursuit of justice, may we always seek guidance from the highest source, allowing the light of God to shine through us. Together, let us strive to create a safer, more compassionate world, embodying the true spirit of service.

With God's help we will do it!



Thank You Blood Donors!

Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz

The Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office and OneBlood held a successful blood drive at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Major George S. Perera Jr.
Lieutenant Christopher J. Diaz
Lieutenant Charles M. Stennett
Sergeant Justin S. Anglin
Sergeant Jerry W. Davila Garcia
Sergeant Ronald Perez
Deputy Brian R. Zamorski
MDSO Senior Administrative Secretary
Carmen Marina Brea

Police Records Tech 1 Amauri Padro
Public Service Aide Teresita D. Rivera
MDSO Intelligence Analyst Rodrigo A.
Sepulveda
Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson
Mr. Cristofeher Medina
Mr. Naeem Ramatally



Congratulations to Major Jorge Aguiar, Lieutenant Kiera Velez, and Lieutenant Eddy Ulloa (left to right, holding certificates) on graduating from the Southern Police Institute Command Officers Development Course. (Photo by Public Affairs Office Social Media Team)



On June 6, 2025, we recognized the outstanding service and commitment to the community exhibited by our School Crossing Guards, at the School Crossing Guard Annual Awards Ceremony. These exceptional men and women keep our children safe daily, while displaying a genuine passion for their duties and a dear affection for the children they protect. On left, Heriberto Maza received a Service Award in recognition of 30 years of service. On right, Thilagawathy Gunasegaram received a Certificate of Appreciation for her perfect work attendance for 23 years. (Photos by Gaston De Cardenas).



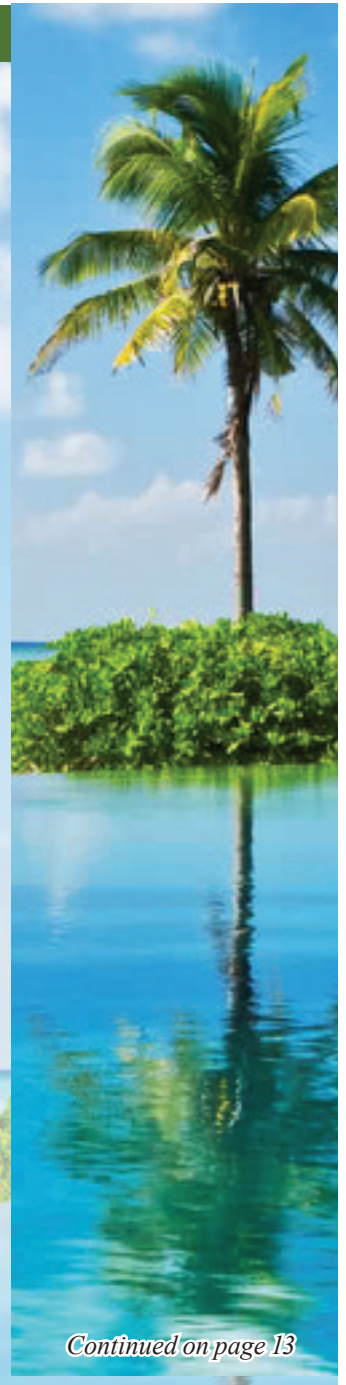
Congratulations to the graduates of the MDSO Citizen's Academy Class #1. The class is held over 16 weeks, giving dedicated participants firsthand insight into the various bureaus and specialized units that make up the MDSO. (Photo by Public Affairs Office Social Media Team)



MDSO recently said farewell to 34 employees (22 sworn deputies and 12 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 8 to 51 years. Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz, the Agency's Command Staff, and the entire MDSO family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Lieutenant Michael Almeida	31
Lieutenant Maribel Artime	31
Lieutenant Deborah Cooper	26
Lieutenant Kamir Muhammadi	31
Sergeant Terry A. Crum	29
Sergeant Sammie Erazo	20
Sergeant Paula A. Leal	28
Sergeant Latasha McIntosh	26
Sergeant Damaris Prieto Palmer	31
Sergeant Ethel Price	20
Deputy Jose Barquero	31
Deputy Guillermo Barranco	18
Deputy Jose De Leon	36
Deputy Sharo Fernandez	30
Deputy Brendan Gill Jr	31
Deputy Steven Guthas	30
Deputy Eugenio Lopez	31
Deputy Jose E. Martinez	23
Deputy Jorge A. Martinez	22
Deputy Carol A. Mc Kinnon	23
Deputy Kathleen Suarez	32
Deputy Louis Rivera	25



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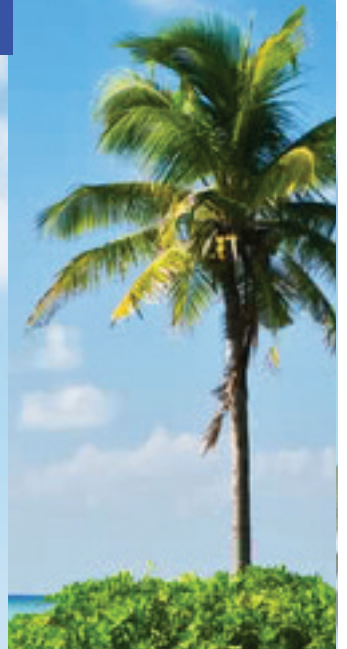


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Recent Retirements

Professional Staff

Public Service Aide Pedro Amador	32
Police Complaint Officer Theresa Brewer	34
Secretary Dalia Cisneros	32
School Crossing Guard Sandra Dunmyer	16
Imaging Records Technician Elvira Gimeno	27
School Crossing Guard Supervisor Rebeca Gonzalez	39
Stenographic Reporter Carole G. Green	51
School Crossing Guard Faustina Guerra	8
Police Crime Analyst Specialist Patrena Mobley	41
School Crossing Guard Claudia Sequeira	8
MDSO Forensic Artist Samantha L. Steinberg	25
Police Crime Analysis Specialist Armenia Zambrano	31



Help is Available



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS CLOSE TO HOME

Learn more at [miamidade.Gov/humantrafficking](https://miamidade.gov/humantrafficking)

Human trafficking hotline at 1-888- 373-7888
or text help to 233733



Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz



OPERATIONAL SHIELD

Devotional



Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office

THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 am

Any questions please contact:
Ofc. Carla Ginebra De Garcia 305-281-0760



Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz

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Lieutenant Olenka Ryan-Guerra
Sergeant Erin Alfonso, Editor
IO Brian Ballou, Feature Writer
GT Juan A. Perez, Creative Designer

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