



2017 Officer of the Year



Sergeant John Saavedra

The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) is pleased to announce that Sergeant John Saavedra has been selected as the 2017 Officer of the Year. He has been honored with MDPD's Exceptional Service Award, Lifesaving Award, Gold Medal of Valor, Purple Heart Medal, and Distinguished Officer of the Month for April 2017.

These honors and awards stem from Sergeant Saavedra's actions during an operation on July 31, 2012, when he was assigned to MDPD's Narcotics Bureau. Sergeant Saavedra and his squad received information that a residence, located at 2325 SW 60 Court, in Miami, Florida, had, for several years, housed a clandestine marijuana hydroponics laboratory. The confidential source that provided this information also stated that the residence was equipped with security cameras, and that the operators of the hydroponics laboratory would stage different vehicles in the driveway to make it appear as if the property was a normal residence. That afternoon, Sergeant Saavedra and his squad established a surveillance operation in the area. Surveillance units noted that a late model gold GMC Yukon was parked in front of the residence. About an hour

into the surveillance operation, a late model silver BMW arrived at the residence. Shortly after, a black four-door Toyota sedan also arrived there. A white male exited the Toyota and entered the suspected hydroponics laboratory.

Subsequently, the surveillance units observed a white Hispanic male arrive at the property in another black Toyota sedan, exit the vehicle and enter the residence. Approximately two hours later, a subject exited the suspected hydroponics lab and Detective Donald Law gave the command for surveillance units to approach the residence. As Detective Law repositioned his vehicle in front of the hydroponics laboratory, the subject entered the silver BMW from the driver's door and closed it. Sergeant Saavedra and Detective Law observed a second subject at the front door of the residence. Sergeant Saavedra, wearing visible police identification, approached the subject and announced, "Miami-Dade Police Department." The subject at the door began shouting, "police, police," in what appeared to be an attempt to alert other subjects. He then began to walk away, forcing the detectives to move away from the residence and the silver BMW. Sergeant Saavedra grabbed the subject by the arm and the subject pulled away, while the other subject exited his vehicle, firearm in-hand. The subject took aim at Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Raul Perdomo. Sergeant Saavedra immediately drew his weapon, and without consideration for his own personal safety, began firing at the subject, striking him multiple times. The subject turned away from Special Agent Perdomo, aimed his firearm at Sergeant Saavedra, and fired several shots, striking and seriously wounding Sergeant Saavedra.

Even as he fell to the ground, and despite being hit by several gunshots, Sergeant Saavedra continued firing at the subject. Detectives Law and Jorge Millan, and Special Agent Perdomo also began firing at the subject. He then stopped firing and fell to the ground. Sergeant Saavedra, gravely wounded and taking cover at the rear of the Yukon, was ambushed and assaulted by the other

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subject, who punched and kicked him in face and arm. Sergeant Saavedra, bleeding profusely, found the strength to stand and engage the subject in a hand-to-hand combat. Having successfully warded off this second attack, Sergeant Saavedra dragged himself across the street, retrieved his handheld radio, and advised the MDPD dispatcher, "I'm shot and bleeding out, can you start rescue for me?"

Not knowing if there were any other subjects located within the hydroponics laboratory, Detective Law and Special Agent Perdomo carried Sergeant Saavedra to an awaiting Miami-Dade Fire Rescue unit, where he was provided with immediate medical assistance, before

being airlifted to the Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Due to the severity of his wounds, he would undergo five surgeries.

Sergeant Saavedra exhibited outstanding bravery and fortitude in protecting the lives of himself and colleague officers, while apprehending a violent criminal, and he did this despite being seriously wounded. His actions went above and beyond the ordinary call of duty, and were performed in the spirit of the law enforcement Code of Ethics. His bravery, tenacity, and refusal to concede defeat are a testament to his character and symbolic of the best of our chosen profession. He is a credit to the Department and the community he serves.

Bringing in the New Year With Style!

By Major Michael Dieppa

Police Officer Jessica Coello is an 11-year veteran of MDPD. She began her career as a uniformed patrol officer in the Midwest District. After three years, she was assigned to the District's Burglary Enhanced Surveillance Team. There, she acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to become a residential burglary investigator, where she spent the next two and a half years. Her next assignment was in the District's Crime Suppression Team, which is often considered a district's most elite investigative entity.

During the course of the next few years, Officer Coello found herself growing as an officer and gaining experience through multiple assignments including Auto Theft, Airport District uniformed patrol, and a special detachment to the MDPD's Personnel Management Bureau, conducting background investigations for newly hired employees. Today, Officer Coello shares her knowledge and experiences with police recruits and in-service personnel as a police instructor assigned to the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute (MDPSTI). These were some of the many factors that led to her selection for the 2018 MDPD calendar.

Commenting on the calendar design, MDPSTI Captain Mario Knapp said, "We came up with the concept as a special tribute to uniformed patrol. We actually didn't want the officer's face to be too visible, hence the hat and face from the side angle. We wanted the image to be about the uniform! Every day uniformed officers, who are the absolute most important faction of this Department, respond from call to call, for an entire shift, 'WALKING THE POINT.' Many times, we overlook their contribution, so we wanted to remind everyone just how important



Officer Jessica Coello, pictured in the MDPD 2018 calendar, signs autographs and expresses good wishes for the new year. (Photo by MDPD TV Producer Lizeth Carrera. Calendar photo and graphics created by Captain Mario Knapp.)

they really are. The background is exceptionally dark, and that was created on purpose to portray the fact that officers often face the unknown. Sometimes it's scary to respond... but they always respond. The American flag, while somewhat muted, depicts the stripes moving outward/downward, suggesting wings. The officer's nametag reads 'GUARDIAN,' as we feel that police officers truly are guardians of the community. The helicopter and Canine Units are also muted to emphasize the fact that they provide a support function for the uniformed patrol."

Praising our Heroes

In remembrance of the lives and service of Detectives Amanda Haworth and Roger Castillo, Warrants Bureau personnel elect and bestow their Detective of the Year Award. During this year's Warrants Bureau presentation, Detective William Arrowsmith, of the Warrants Bureau, was awarded the Castillo-Haworth Detective of the Year Award. His outstanding service includes the apprehension,

prosecution, and arrest of numerous criminals. "Detective Arrowsmith is commended for his proactive efforts, dedication to duty, and astute investigative skills," said Major Ricky Carter of the Warrants Bureau. It should also be noted that Detective Peter Rodriguez was the runner up for the award. Congratulations to both detectives for their commitment and dedication to duty.



From L to R: Detective of the Year William Arrowsmith, Major Ricky Carter, Sergeant Rosaura Diaz, Officer Debbie Castillo, sister Jennifer Ressler Haworth, Assistant Director Thomas P. Hanlon, and Assistant Director Alfredo Ramirez III.



From L to R: Runner-up Detective Peter Rodriguez, Sergeant Rosaura Diaz, Major Ricky Carter, Officer Debbie Castillo, sister Jennifer Ressler Haworth, and Assistant Director Thomas P. Hanlon.

USSS Commends Our Finest!

By Captain Gustavo Duarte

Recently, the United States Secret Service (USSS), Miami Field Office personnel, recognized three MDPD detectives for their outstanding work during 2016. The USSS Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force is one of several task forces organized by the USSS nationwide to combat offenders utilizing electronic devices to commit crimes throughout the nation. These electronic devices include computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones, skimming devices, etc. The USSS compiled data from all their task forces to identify the top law enforcement digital forensic investigators in 2016. Out of thousands of investigators, three MDPD Digital Forensic Unit detectives were named to the top 15 positions based on the number of investigations and amount of digital media examined. Nationwide, Sergeant Elvis Abreu is ranked 4th, Detective Joel Tavio is ranked 8th, and Detective Tracy Tompkins is ranked 14th. Director Juan J. Perez and the entire Command Staff congratulate these detectives for their accomplishments in keeping our community safe, and for earning accolades for the MDPD.



Left to right: Chief Richard Amion, Sergeant Elvis Abreu, and Detectives Tracy Tompkins and Joel Tavio.

Deposit Unwanted Drugs

By Lieutenant Christopher R. Casiano



DRUG DISPOSAL BIN.

Photo by Lieutenant Christopher Casiano.

During the 2017 calendar year, the MDPD conducted multiple prescription pill take back operations with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Florida Department of Health. These efforts netted hundreds of

pounds in unwanted prescription pills that would have otherwise remained in peoples' homes, or may have been misused.

The MDPD's Prescription Drug Disposal Program will allow for the installation of receptacle bins in the lobbies of MDPD district stations. These bins, which were provided free of cost to the Department by Covanta Dade Renewable Energy, LLC, in partnership with the Miami Coalition, will provide a means for Miami-Dade County (MDC) residents to safely, and anonymously dispose of unwanted prescription medication. Covanta Dade Renewable Energy, LLC operates the MDC's Resources Recovery Facility on 160 acres in Doral, Florida. The facility began commercial operation in 1982, and serves the municipal waste disposal needs of the residents of MDC. The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community, in cooperation with their partners and community stakeholders, work to reduce the prevalence, impact, and consequences of all forms of substance abuse, drug addiction, crime and related social issues through education, advocacy, research, and coordination of community services.

Initially, Kendall, South, Northwest, and Northside Districts will feature the collection bins. Ultimately, the bins will be installed in every district station. When an MDC resident wishes to dispose of prescription medication, they can simply respond to a district station mentioned above, and dispose of the medication in the marked bin. No questions asked! There are some limitations as to the items that can be dropped off. Needles, hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, or medications from a business or clinic cannot be accepted.

Citizens' Crime Watch

Citizens' Crime Watch (CCW) held its first 2018 Executive Board monthly meeting to discuss this year's planning of Neighborhood Watch meetings, the Annual Awards Ceremony, and to hear the annual auditor's report for 2016-2017. The auditors reported that CCW met all the required responsibilities and obligations with their grant funding. The Board was also given a report on the 42nd awards ceremony, which had 432 people in attendance, and made a profit of more than \$4,585.



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Citizens' Crime... *Continued from page 4*



Citizens' Crime Watch Executive Board

Left to right:
 Sergeant Michael Gorsline, Priscilla Rivera,
 Assistant Chief Manuel Morales, Chief Ariel Artime,
 Sergeant Joseph Bermudez, Carmen Caldwell,
 Irving Heller, Edwin Gonzalez, Randy Heller, Sofian
 Zakhout, Teri Guttman Valdes, and Craig Dorne.
 Photo by Sergeant Joseph Bermudez.



MDPD recently said farewell to 26 employees (23 sworn officers and 3 civilians) who retired after periods of service ranging from 7 to 37 years. Director Juan J. Perez, the Department's Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Captain Gregg Glasel..... | 25 |
| Lieutenant Enery Castellanos | 18 |
| Lieutenant Lia Houstoun..... | 26 |
| Lieutenant Hiram Rodriguez..... | 29 |
| Lieutenant Lewis Velken..... | 29 |
| Sergeant Charles Duncan..... | 37 |
| Officer Janet Aloy-Sosa | 23 |
| Officer Thomas Bogaards | 29 |
| Officer Jose Cabado | 29 |
| Officer Rene Cortinas Lopez | 30 |
| Officer Edilberto Crespo | 25 |
| Officer Jeffery Goldblatt..... | 27 |
| Officer Latonya Graham | 30 |
| Officer Robert Hahs | 25 |
| Officer Selwyn Joseph | 35 |
| Officer Michael Kelly | 30 |

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|-------------------------------|----|
| Officer Miguel Manteiga | 30 |
| Officer Lu Ann Methvin | 20 |
| Officer Carlos Mompierre..... | 30 |
| Officer Michael O'Connor..... | 29 |
| Officer Ralph Perez..... | 13 |
| Officer Tonja Roundtree | 30 |
| Officer George Sarradet | 30 |
| Officer Vicki Thomas..... | 27 |
| Officer Jeannine Ulrich..... | 35 |
| Officer Wynn Wayne..... | 30 |

Civilians

| | |
|--|----|
| Secretary Magdalena Garcia Rios..... | 35 |
| Capital Inventory Clerk Aldine Herring | 28 |
| Police Records Technician 1 Gail Ledon..... | 27 |
| MDPD School Crossing Guard Eduardo Mejia.. | 7 |
| Data Entry Specialist 2 Magaly Perez | 17 |
| Secretary Margarita Zarut | 2 |

Thank You Blood Donors!



Thank you for participating in the blood drive held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives. That means 96 patients benefited from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at MDPD's Headquarters and the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute.

Sergeant Andrew Cohen
 Sergeant Nitza Dominguez
 Officer Jessica Alvarez
 Officer Jaiden Butka
 Officer Skarlett Chavarria
 Officer Ryan Garcia
 Officer Kenneth Graham
 Officer Marielys Granadillo
 Officer Benjamin Gross
 Officer Gabriela Guerra
 Officer Kevin Lopez
 Officer Todd Maciekowich

Officer Darius McGahee
 Officer Stephen McGuire
 Officer Leroy Mendiola
 Officer Julian Padron
 Officer Mario Perez Jr.
 Officer Bryan Rodriguez
 Officer Steve Sklavounos
 Officer Joseph St. Thomas
 Officer Carel Valdes
 Officer Michael Zambrana
 Mr. German Alonso Calzado
 Public Service Aide Jorge Cespon

MDPD Armorer Jorge Corbato
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 Administrative Officer 3 John Dicarlo
 Ms. Valia Giralдино
 Mr. Daniel Padron Giralдино
 Mr. Miguel Itriago
 Mr. Lieny Padron
 Mr. Manuel Queipo
 Mr. Ramon Tamago

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.



DIRTY CRIMES CARRY FINES

ILLEGAL DUMPERS can expect penalties, fines and possible jail time.
Dispose of your trash and debris properly!



For more information or to report illegal dumping
call 311 or visit www.miamidade.gov/311Direct



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