

I want to recognize the ultimate sacrifice given by Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwartzenberger. Their deaths are truly heartbreaking, and punctuate the danger that we face in law enforcement. If you did not have the opportunity to watch their memorial services on Saturday, February 6, and Sunday, February 7, 2021, please go to www.fbi.gov and click on the "News" tab and then the "Speeches" tab to view the press releases titled "Remembering Special Agent Daniel Alfin" and "Remembering Special Agent Laura Schwartzenberger." We can take solace in the fact that these two brave individuals were devoted in their duty to protect, and as a result, they helped make society a safer place, especially for our children.

Let's carry their legacy with us as we strive to make our community safer. Our focus on gun violence has had

positive results, and I am thankful for the dedication by members of the Northside District's General Investigations Unit, which embraced the Group Violence Intervention pilot program. We are expanding the program to include the South District, and I am optimistic that we will have positive results there as well, thanks to our committed officers.

We can't do this alone and will continue to count on the community to help us make Miami-Dade County a safer place. Our efforts to foster a better relationship with the community were recently highlighted by the "One Miami Community Bike Ride" in the Northside District, on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, 2021. At least 300 local residents rode side-by-side with dozens of officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department, the North Miami Police Department, the Miami Police Department, the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, and other law enforcement agencies.

While we have turned the page on one of the toughest years in our lifetimes, let's continue to do the positive things that have helped us get through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Director



Department Pays Tribute to Fallen Detectives Amanda Haworth and Roger Castillo on Ten-Year Anniversary of Their Ultimate Sacrifice

By Brian Ballou



Director Alfredo Ramirez III spoke during a ceremony on January 20, 2021, marking the ten-year anniversary of the deaths of Detectives Amanda Haworth and Roger Castillo. The ceremony was held in front of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building. (Photo by Anthony Nunez)

A decade has passed since Detectives Amanda Haworth and Roger Castillo were killed in the line of duty on January 20, 2011, while serving an arrest warrant, but their legacy remains strong.

"It's been ten years, but to this day, I still remember the cries, the anger, the 'whys' and how we all rose as one to honor them, and how ever since then we have stood behind you as a family," said Director Alfredo Ramirez III, addressing the family members of the fallen officers, during a ceremony on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, in front of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building, to honor Detectives Haworth and Castillo. Family members of both officers attended the ceremony.

"We will never forget . . . It's not a phony slogan or just some words that we throw down to make ourselves feel good, but that we mean it," Director Ramirez said.

The hour-long ceremony was held just feet away from the Butterfly Garden that was dedicated in 2012 in the memory of the two detectives. Detective Haworth was 44 and Detective Castillo was 41 when they were killed while serving a felony warrant in Liberty City on a man wanted for murder.

The legacy of Detectives Haworth and Castillo will also endure in the form of the Castillo-Haworth Warrants Bureau

Detective of the Year Award. During the ceremony, the award was presented to the Florida Caribbean Regional Fugitive Task Force, a partnership between the Department and the U.S. Marshals Service. The Task Force targets violent offenders and since its inception in 2008, it has made over 8,246 arrests, opened and initiated over 10,440 cases, and closed 9,637 of those cases, for a closure rate of 96 percent.

"To me, it's about 9,637 violent offenders who are off the streets," said Major Alfredo G-Larrinaga, Commander of the Warrants Bureau.

Detective Castillo's widow, Officer Debbie M. Castillo, of the Homicide Bureau, spoke during the ceremony, telling the crowd that on the previous night, her family read, "The Broken Chain" poem by Poet Ron Tranmer, as a tribute to her fallen husband. She recited it during the ceremony, saying it perfectly fit her family's sentiments. "We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name," she read out loud. "In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same."

Officer Castillo added, "Sometimes it's hard to believe that it has been ten years, but then all I have to do is look at my sons, to look at Amanda's sons, to realize how much time has passed."

Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute Records Second-Highest Pass Rate in Florida on State Officer Certification Exam

By Brian Ballou

The Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute (MDPSTI) is the primary training facility for this geographical region, a 35-acre state-of-the-art center responsible for certifying officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department Academy, and the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Academy. Rigorous training and high expectations are part of everyday life at the institute, and it shows in recent testing results.

The Institute recorded the second-highest passing percentage among the 40-plus law enforcement and corrections training centers in the State of Florida, on the 2020 State Officer Certification Exam. In raw numbers, 147 trainees took the test and 143 passed on their first attempt, for an overall 97 percent passing rate, just one percent below the top finisher, the Florida Highway Patrol Training Center in Tallahassee, Florida. The four recruits who did not pass on their first attempt, retook the exam, and successfully passed on their second attempt.

“We are very selective on who our instructors are, we get experts in the field,” said MDPSTI Captain Sergio M. Alvarez. Ultimately, the training provided by

MDPSTI instructors, results in high quality graduates who become successful police officers and correctional officers. The Institute’s reputation is coveted, it attracts attendees from all over the United States and the world, to attend courses presented by the Department’s expert instructors.

Every class of trainees is taught by over 100 Florida Department of Law Enforcement certified instructors, each possessing a wide range of skills and knowledgeable in multiple training disciplines. Overall, there are 12 chapters in the Basic Law Enforcement training manual, plus four High Liability Sections, which include Defensive Tactics, Firearms, Vehicle Operations, and First Aid.

As a Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission Regional Training Center, the Institute is responsible for certifying officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department Academy, and the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Academy. This training certification consists of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement mandated curriculum for new police officers, correctional officers, and public service aides.



Miami-Dade Police Department Trainees were tested on Monday, March 8, 2021, as part of their ongoing training at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute in Doral. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

Newest Police Cruisers Have Familiar Look for Senior Patrol Officers

By Brian Ballou



Director Alfredo Ramirez III recently “gifted” 13 senior patrol officers with the Department’s newest version of its patrol vehicle, the 2020 Dodge Charger, in a throwback color scheme. (photo by Argemis Colome)

The Miami-Dade Police Department is draping its newest police cars in nostalgia, bringing back the blocked color scheme that had faded away in the 1980s.

Thirteen 2020 Dodge Chargers, the latest additions to the Department’s fleet, already sport the throwback look, and those vehicles were recently paired with the most senior patrol officers on the Department. It was a dramatic unveiling, and it left some of those officers speechless as they walked out of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building on March 19, 2021, and saw the vehicles for the first time.

The officers had just attended a ceremony in the Cafetorium, where Director Alfredo Ramirez III commended them for their longevity and dedication to their jobs. They were then led outside, under the guise that they were going to pose for a group picture, but when they saw the new shiny vehicles parked outside, bumper-to-bumper, it occurred to them what was unfolding.

“Are those for us, are those cars for us?” Officer Lori Pernia asked her fellow patrol officers. She has over 31 years on the Department. Eight of 13 senior patrol officers designated to receive the new patrol cars were able to attend, and the other five officers received their new patrol cars later in the week. Like Officer Pernia, many of them have been with the Department for approximately 30 years.

The new vehicles have dark green color across the hood and front side panels, white throughout the passenger compartment and the top of the trunk, and dark green on the

rear side panels. It is a pattern that remains synonymous with police cruisers even as many departments throughout the country phased in more contemporary patterns in the 1980s. The blocked color scheme was last used in this Department with the Plymouth Satellite of the 1970s and the Crown Victoria of the 1980s. As later versions of police cruisers were phased into the fleet, such as the Chevrolet Caprice, the Ford Interceptor, the Ford Taurus, and an earlier version of the Charger, they were painted in mostly white, with thin strips of green and yellow across the sides.

Director Ramirez said the retro color scheme is a tribute to the history of the Department, and to past and current officers. “I couldn’t think of a better token to show our appreciation . . . to bring back this color scheme,” he said. “When I see it, it just brings goosebumps, I just hope that our retired community, and our current officers love it just as much as I do.”

The senior patrol officers left the vehicles that they arrived in and drove back to their districts in their new vehicles. “This design reminds me of the old design, the original design that I remember,” said Officer Rolando De La Osa of the Northwest District, who has been with the Department for 28 years. “I’m going to be very proud to ride in this car in the community that I work in.”

Officer De La Osa said that when he started with the Department, cars had to be shared among officers, their belongings taken with them at the end of each shift, and the keys returned. “Looking back, from day one to nearing the end of my career now, the change has been like night and day,” he said.



Not complying with the mask order or new normal guidelines can result in a penalty of \$100 for individuals and \$500 for businesses.

Call 305-4POLICE
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miamidade.gov/coronavirus

“One Miami Community Bike Ride” Brings Miami-Dade Police Department Officers and Residents Together

By Brian Ballou

The bicyclists rode at a leisurely pace through the streets of Liberty City, led by a white SUV that boomed old school hip-hop tunes. The six-mile ride, through a community that has been plagued by gun violence, started at Charles Hadley Park and ventured past youth centers, parks, soul food restaurants, and colorful wall murals bearing the image of former residents who became sports or music stars.

The “One Miami Community Bike Ride” on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, 2021, was a flow of approximately 300 citizens in brightly-colored spandex and neon t-shirts, interspersed with approximately 100 police officers in their bike uniforms. The ride was a tribute to the civil rights icon on his birthdate, and it was also intended to bring residents and police together. Closer partnerships between residents and police have proven to lead to a reduction in crime.

“You have to put the work in, get with the community so they can see that you’re real,” said MDPD Director Alfredo Ramirez III, who participated in the ride. “It’s easy to say big words from the office, but to be out here on the pavement together with everyone, I think that sends a message that we’re in this together.”

The citizens rode side-by-side with law enforcement officers from 11 different agencies, led by the Department, and including the North Miami Police Department, the Miami Police Department, and the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. There have been at least four large-scale rides between citizens and police since November 2020 and organizers hope it becomes a monthly event, as a way to foster a better relationship between the police and the community.

In the weeks after civil unrest erupted across the country following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, on Monday, May 25, 2020, the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board (CRB), sought a way to help improve the relationship between law enforcement and the public, said Ms. Shirley Plantin, the CRB Director. “Our mission is simple . . . to bridge the gaps between community and law enforcement,” she said.

Detective Delvin A. Brooks, who grew up in Liberty City and regularly attends the monthly CRB meetings, suggested that the board invite, for roundtable discussions, people from the community who have influence, such as clergy, coaches, and social media “Influencers.” The board loved the idea and within weeks, the first of several meetings was held. After one of the meetings, an influencer who is a member of the “Breaking the Cycle” bike club invited

Detective Brooks to a community bike ride. He accepted the offer and more officers joined in.

Because of the popularity of the rides and the potential the activity had to bring people together, the first “One Miami Community Bike Ride” was planned for Friday, November 20, 2020. Approximately 80 people participated in that ride. Another ride was held on Sunday, December 27, 2020, drawing more than 200 people. Then came the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ride. On the same day of that ride, another ride was held in the South District, in which approximately 100 citizens rode with dozens of MDPD officers along a four-mile route just west of the Southland Mall.

Detective Brooks emphasizes that the rides are events that belong to the community and that the police are guests. “There has been a lot of energy behind this effort and we want to keep it going, because we know that to bring about positive change, it takes the help of the community, and having these bike rides is a great way to work towards a better relationship,” he said.



Director Alfredo Ramirez III and dozens of officers participated in the “One Miami Community Bike Ride” on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18, 2021, in Liberty City. Another ride was held on the same day in the South District, where dozens of officers rode with citizens. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

Two Miami-Dade Police Officers Help Rescue Four After Offshore Airplane Crash

By Brian Ballou



Officers Raniel D. Castillo and Orestes Martinez Herrera were among a group of six friends who came to the rescue of four people after their plane crashed into the ocean on Friday, January 22, 2021, just off the coast of the East Cape within the Everglades National Park. (Photo by Ernesto Camarazas)

Finding a secluded camping spot took hours of driving, and then rowing in kayaks for ten miles, but for a group of six friends, it was all worth the effort to arrive at a pristine stretch of beach along the East Cape in the Everglades National Park on Friday, January 22, 2021. The expanse of crystal-clear water and azure sky was the perfect background to their getaway.

The group carried everything they needed for their overnight stay; food, tents, and basic survival gear. As the men started unloading their provisions from two kayaks and a small inflatable raft, they saw a small plane flying so low that it appeared to be making a landing in the water about a mile off the coast.

“My initial thought was that it was a seaplane,” said Miami-Dade Police Officer Orestes Martinez Herrera, of the Hammocks District, one of the six campers, along with MDPD Officer Raniel D. Castillo, Hialeah Firefighter Robert Bastori, and three men who are experienced pilots, Jose Oliva, Angel Brugal, and Ernesto Camarazas. The pilots among the group all knew immediately that the plane was not a seaplane designed to land on water, but a Piper Saratoga that was likely having a malfunction.

“When they told us that it was not a seaplane, that’s when we kicked into rescue mode,” Officer Herrera said. The plane dropped lower and then skipped atop the water several times before coming to a stop with an immense splash. The plane’s nose dipped into the water and the tail rose up.

Messrs. Bastori, Oliva, Brugal, and Camarazas jumped into the raft, which was equipped with a small motor, and headed for the sinking airplane.

Officer Castillo remained at the campsite and called Park Rangers. Officer Herrera ran towards another campsite

about a half-mile away, because he saw a motorized boat there and wanted to ensure there would be enough room to rescue everyone from the airplane. The first boat arrived to the downed airplane in about eight minutes, and the second boat got there in about ten minutes.

There were four passengers in the water, Ms. Nancy Reinke, 69, Ms. Rhonda Culmer, 46, Mrs. Diane Murphy, 71, and her husband, Mr. Gary Murphy, 72, the pilot. The water was chilly enough that prolonged exposure could have caused hypothermia, said Mr. Bastori, who is also a certified paramedic. There was another threat; Bull Sharks are often seen in the area.

Mr. Bastori assessed the scene upon arrival, asking the passengers if they were hurt and if anyone else was inside the plane. The passengers responded that they were not injured and that there was no one else inside the plane. The rescuers observed that Ms. Reinke’s life vest was deflated, and that she was having trouble keeping her head above water. She was the first person to be pulled onto the raft.

“We were having to share life jackets and I don’t think we would have made it to shore, and we look up and here comes a boat with these guys on it that knew what they were doing, strong enough to hoist us into the boat,” Mr. Murphy said.

Training for mass casualty incidents is part of the job of being a police officer and a firefighter, but the six friends had a lot to talk about for the remainder of their camping trip. “The good thing is that it gave us a lot to talk about, at night, around the fire pit,” Mr. Bastori said. “Somehow, somehow, God put us there for them. I think they felt that maybe some angels came.”

MDPD and North Miami PD Put on Parade for Boy Suffering from Seizures

By Brian Ballou



The Department, along with the North Miami Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, held a parade for Justin Floyd, a ten-year-old boy who suffers from seizures, who dreams of becoming a police officer. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

Ten-year-old Justin Floyd loves to learn about animals and planets. One thing that he recently discovered is that horses love peppermint.

Justin started having seizures when he was nine, they occur often and without any warning, and sometimes Justin falls during a seizure and injures himself. Recently, when WSVN Channel 7 aired a segment about Justin and some of the difficulties that he has encountered because of his medical condition, Justin mentioned that he wants to be a police officer. Major Fernand Charles Jr., of our South District, viewed the segment and suggested that the Department reach out to Justin and his family.

The story drew lots of interest not just within the Department, but also with other law enforcement agencies and the public. Donations flowed in for Justin. The biggest surprise for Justin was a parade on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, that included dozens of police cruisers with flashing lights and balloons, a Department helicopter on a trailer, and mounted units from the North Miami Police Department. Pitching in to help make Justin's day special was the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, and

the Miami Dolphins.

When Justin saw the parade, he jumped up and down and danced, and as the helicopter went by, he exclaimed, "I can't believe it!" There were more surprises. Police Explorers carried stacks of donated gifts to Justin. Among the gifts were board games, clothes, toys, a bike, and a desk. There were also cupcakes and music, a veritable block party for Justin, but he appeared most thrilled by the horses. An officer gave Justin a bag of peppermints and Justin hand fed a horse.

"This was like the thrill of my entire life," said Justin. "It was unbelievable. I've always wanted to be a police officer. One day at school, I saw a boy take my friend's money, and another day I saw a friend fall. I wanted to help them, it would be nice to be a police because they help people."

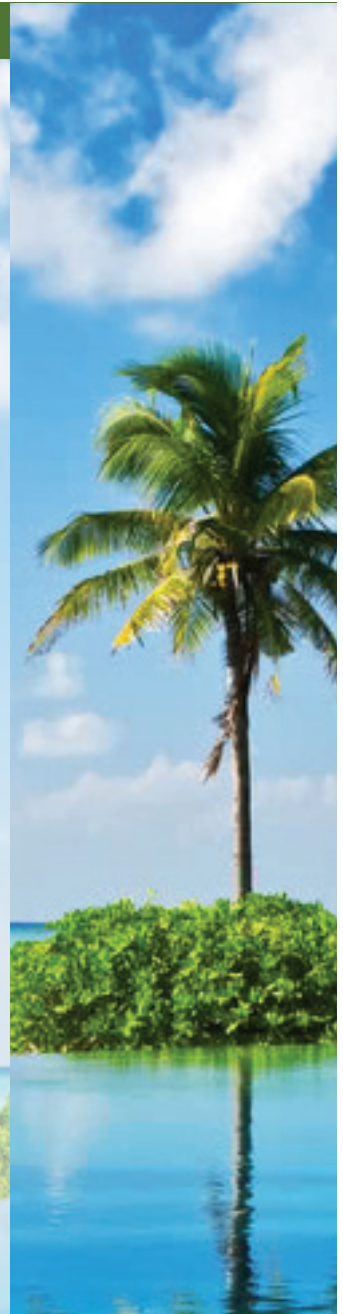
"I can't believe it!"



MDPD recently said farewell to 39 employees (27 sworn personnel and 12 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 33 to 8 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.

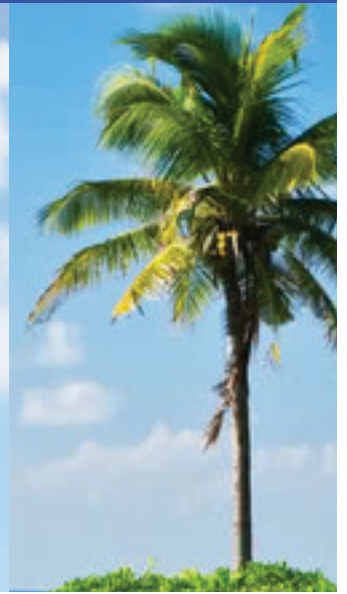
Sworn

Police Division Chief Hector Llevat.....	27
Lieutenant Caroline S. Klaus	26
Lieutenant Kenneth Ottley	32
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Lieutenant Melanee Taylor-Pierre	30
Sergeant Melinda C. Matt	26
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Sergeant Edward E. Vazquez	22
Officer Armando Boucourt	26
Officer Madeleine Brodeur	26
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Officer Jose R. Edreira	26
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Officer John McLaughlin	29
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Officer Lazaro A. Perez	28
Officer Cesar H. Rodriguez	21
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Professional Staff

Police Records Specialist 1 Rosemary Adams	27
School Crossing Guard Michel Alexis	10
School Crossing Guard Marie Chery	13
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School Crossing Guard Jeanne Guerrier	22
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Accreditation Manager Melenda Knox	31
School Crossing Guard Alberto Maceo	14
Administrative Secretary Bella E. Mompierre	30
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Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held a successful blood drive at MDPD's Headquarters on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Lieutenant Christopher J. Diaz
 Sergeant Javier J. Baez
 Officer Alejandro Munoz
 Officer Andres Saenz
 Criminalist 2 Christopher Barr
 Police Records Technician 1 Catherine E. Buckland
 Police Records Technician 1 Myrlande Desulme
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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SAFETY TIPS

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

**Wear a face covering.**

Use una máscara facial. • Mete yon kouvèti vizaj.

**Practice social distancing.**

Mantenga la distancia social. • Pratike distans sosyal.

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

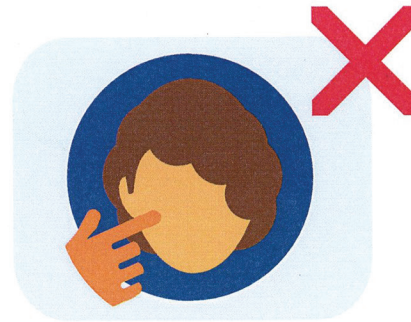
Lávese las manos frecuentemente. Si no tiene agua y jabón, use desinfectante de manos. • Lave men w souvan. Lè savon ak dlo pa disponib, sèvi ak dezenfektan pou men.

**Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**

Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y superficies que se tocan a menudo. • Netwaye epi dezenfekte souvan objè ak kote moun manyen.

**Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.**

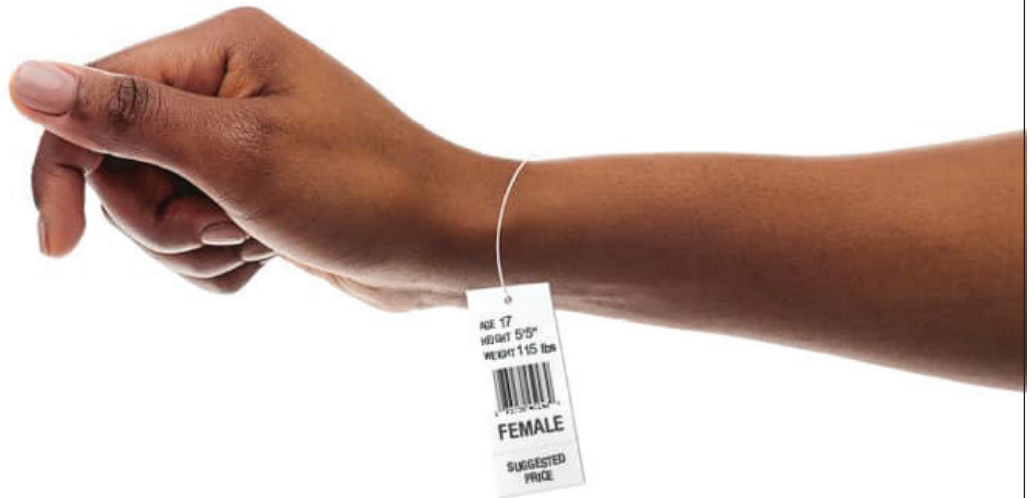
Quédese en casa si está enfermo, excepto para buscar atención médica. • Rete lakay ou lè w malad, sof pou ale chèche swen medikal.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**

Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca. • Evite manyen je w, nen w ak bouch ou.

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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