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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ALFREDO "FREDDY" RAMIREZ III

I had the opportunity, once again, to swear in a new class of officers, this time it was Basic Law Enforcement Class #137. Among that class were several lateral officers and several officers whose parents or other family members were officers with this Department, including Officer Bryan Castillo, the son of Officer Roger Castillo, who was killed in the line of duty in 2011. There is nothing more powerful than the determination of a son or a daughter, when they make the decision to follow a career path, no matter what. Bryan represents what a legacy is. We are family forever.

We know that being a police officer can be dangerous work, but I will not tolerate anyone, in any way, threatening my officers or anyone bearing the badge on their chest. In late February, we arrested an individual who had previously made a threat against one of our officers, while holding a rifle, and posted his threat on social media.

Over President's Day weekend, our traffic enforcement units, along with our law enforcement partners, impounded 44 bikes, recovered 5 stolen bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), made 40 arrests, and seized 14 firearms. Over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in January, we made 63 felony arrests, and impounded 2 ATVs, and 8 motorcycles and dirt bikes. Prior to that holiday, we held a press conference emphasizing the importance of ATV, motorcycle, and off-highway vehicle safety, and provided tips on the proper usage of these vehicles, where they can be safely and legally driven, and the laws which govern their usage. Those who take to our roadways performing reckless stunts that pose a serious threat to the health and safety of law-abiding citizens, will be arrested. We will not stand for this behavior.

We are currently conducting the "2023 Traffic Enforcement Campaign," which started on Wednesday,

March 1, 2023, and will run through Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The purpose of the campaign is to increase safety and decrease the number of injuries and fatalities throughout Miami-Dade County. Our Motorcycle Unit has been conducting high visibility enforcement targeting impaired driving, excessive speeding, aggressive driving, motorcycle safety violations, and other violations.

Our latest Table of Organization went into effect on January 9, 2023, and it reflected numerous changes. We renamed a few entities, shifted a few around, and created a few, so that we can streamline how we function, and improve the service we provide our community. Along with those changes, we made numerous personnel assignments to align the experience, leadership, and skills of selected individuals with the goals and objectives of the Department going into 2023 and beyond. Solid leadership is key, and our Command Staff reflects the diversity of our community and the strength of our entire staff. We recognized Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, and are proud to count strong representation among our leadership and throughout our Department.

We are bringing back the Mounted Patrol Unit, with stables at Tropical Park. The Mounted Patrol Unit will be a great way for our officers to interact with the community at events, and will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression in the minds of young boys and girls, and perhaps be the inspiration that leads them to consider a career in law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Director



On a Vacation Week With His Family, Lieutenant Rescues Two People From Lake, Awarded Department's Distinguished Officer of the Year

By Brian Ballou



On Friday, March 3, 2023, Director Ramirez presented Lieutenant Nelson Andreu Jr., with the 2022 Distinguished Officer of the Year Award. To the left of Lieutenant Andreu Jr., is his father, Retired West Miami Police Chief Nelson Andreu Sr. (Photo by Angelica Kellner)

The skies were clear, the weather warm, and a gentle breeze hung in the air. Lieutenant Nelson Andreu Jr., his family, and several friends were spending a vacation week at his summer home inside the gated Ocean Village community, just a short walk from the beach in Fort Pierce. It was the perfect day to play golf. He put on a polo shirt, golf pants and golf shoes, and headed to the pint-sized course that is embedded in the community's landscape. He had two golfing partners with him, his 10-year-old son Aiden, and his 10-year-old goddaughter Celeste. The Lieutenant envisioned that they would have lots of fun sprinkled with a little exercise.

What the Lieutenant did not envision that Monday afternoon, June 20, 2022, was that he would rescue an elderly woman from a car submerged in a murky lake along the course. For his quick actions, Lieutenant Andreu has been awarded the Department's Distinguished Officer of the Year Award, and the Silver Medal of Valor, the Department's second highest award. He has been with the Department for 24 years, and currently serves in the Police Officer Service Training Unit at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center.

It was a short walk from the summer home to the nine hole golf course. The trio played two holes. On the third putting green, Lieutenant Andreu stood near the hole, holding the flagstick, and gave his young partners

some advice on how to perfectly line up their putt. Aiden readied himself for an attempt, but then he abruptly dropped his putter and ran towards his father with a shocked expression on his face. Aiden pointed to a lake approximately 150 yards in the background, and his father turned around to check on what had caused his son so much alarm. A dark-colored SUV had just plunged into the water.

Lieutenant Andreu ran towards the lake, and as he did, he observed that the two front windows of the sinking vehicle were down, but the two rear windows were up. An elderly woman was in the driver's seat, and there was no front passenger. He wondered if there were occupants in the back seat, because the windows were darkly tinted and he could not see in. Lieutenant Andreu took his cell phone as he approached the lake, and called 911. He told the dispatcher what was happening, gave the location, the license plate number of the vehicle, and indicated he was going in. He dropped his phone near the edge of the lake, took off his shirt and shoes, and ran as far as he could before he had to swim. As he swam, the SUV dipped and turned, so that the driver's side was opposite his approach and was lower than the passenger's side.

When he arrived and told the woman to move over to the passenger's side so he could pull her out of that window, he realized that she was disoriented. "She looked at me, but as if I wasn't there," Lieutenant Andreu said. He later learned that the woman had experienced a medical emergency which caused her to lose control of her vehicle. He swam over the hood of the vehicle, got to the driver's side, and pulled her out, as water was gushing in. As she was being pulled out, she clung to the window column between the front and back seats, and Lieutenant Andreu had to pry her grip. Once free of the vehicle, he asked her if she knew how to swim and she told him "a little bit." He instructed her to kick her feet. He held onto her shirt and pulled her with him. Lieutenant Andreu did not see another occupant, but as they approached land, he asked her if anyone else was in the car and she told him that she was the only occupant.

By the time they had reached the shore, an elderly man who saw the commotion, and was under the assumption that someone remained in the SUV, had gone into the water and was attempting to get to the submerged SUV. Lieutenant Andreu returned to the water, swam to the man,

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Distinguished Officer of the Year

Continued from page 2

and assisted him in getting back to shore. The vehicle sank below the surface.

“That definitely was a harder struggle than I had with the woman,” Lieutenant Andreu said. He checked the woman’s vital signs to make sure she was fine, and about five minutes later, emergency crews arrived. Paramedics evaluated the woman and determined she was Okay.

“I decided we were done playing golf,” Lieutenant Andreu joked. Aiden gave him a “high-five” and the

three walked back to the summer home. Several hours later, there was a knock on the door. It was the elderly woman who Lieutenant Andreu saved.

“She was crying, and told me that I was her hero,” he said. “I didn’t do it for any kind of award or recognition, I did it because she needed help. I think God put me in the right place at the right time. Had we hit better shots and moved along quicker, we definitely would not have been there to see it. Everything happens for a reason.”

Police Complaint Officer Receives Civilian of the Year Award For Helping Caller to Safety *By Brian Ballou*

Although the caller had asked to place a food order, Police Complaint Officer (PCO) Lorena De La Torre knew that was not the purpose of the call, but rather to surreptitiously relay that she was in distress.

It was April 14, 2022, and the caller was inside a Lyft ride-share vehicle, and the driver was refusing to stop and allow her to get out. After calling 911, she initially stated, “I would like to order food to my best friend’s house, but I’m on the highway right now.” PCO De La Torre replied “Okay, so you want to order food? You called 911.”

The caller indicated that she knew she had called 911, and Ms. De La Torre immediately understood what was transpiring, that the caller had indeed called on purpose, but she couldn’t speak out exactly what was happening out of fear that someone in her close proximity would do her harm.

Through emergency location tracking technology, PCO De La Torre verified that the caller was on the Florida Turnpike. PCO De La Torre asked the caller to describe the vehicle she was in. When the caller was unable to answer, PCO De La Torre began naming colors until the caller answered yes. This method of extrapolating information from the caller continued, and PCO De La Torre was able to find out additional details, including that the driver was refusing to stop and allow the caller



On Friday, March 3, 2023, Director Ramirez presented Police Complaint Officer Lorena De La Torre with the 2022 Civilian of the Year Award. (Photo by Angelica Kellner)

to get out of the car.

PCO De La Torre contacted the Florida Highway Patrol and Troopers stopped the vehicle and took the driver into custody. Her quick thinking likely saved the passenger from further harm. When she received the award on Friday, March 3, 2023, she thanked her trainers, and said, “I love what I do and I hope to continue doing what I do for a long time.”

Director Ramirez said during the award ceremony at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building “Our Complaint Officers and our Dispatchers, they are our angels, that voice that guides our officers

in the street, and receive those calls of distress that we get from the community. The professionalism, your tenacity, the way you are able to handle situations from far away, it’s just amazing and a testament to your work ethic and the Communications Bureau.”

“I love what I do and I hope to continue doing what I do for a long time.”

Roadway Named in Honor of Miami-Dade Police Sergeant Who Died in the Line of Duty

By Brian Ballou

MDPD Sergeant Jermaine Brown left an indelible impression in his community, and now his name will forever be affixed to a roadway he often drove on during the course of his patrols, and near the place he called home.

Sergeant Brown, a father of three, died while on duty on December 12, 2018. He was responding to complaints of illegal activity when the ATV he was driving hit a tree. He was 49 and had been with the Department for over 15 years. At the time of his passing, he was on the Sergeant's promotional list. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

Sergeant Brown ran an MDPD summer camp for youth, served as a volunteer football coach, and hosted annual fishing trips for at-risk youth, using his own personal boat. Assigned to the South District, he made himself available to residents, by giving out his personal cell phone number and encouraging them to call if they had any concerns.

On Thursday, February 16, 2023, Sergeant Brown's birthdate, approximately 200 people attended the naming ceremony, held at the intersection of US 1 and SW 117 Avenue. A stretch of SW 211 Street, from SW 112 Avenue to SW 117 Avenue was co-designated "Police Officer Jermaine Brown Way," under a resolution passed in 2019 by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

During the ceremony, Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee, who was elected in 2020 to serve District 9, pledged \$10,000 to start a scholarship fund in Sergeant Brown's name.

MDPD Sergeant Jannene Howard-Brown, Sergeant Brown's widow, unveiled the sign. After descending a small ladder, she took several steps back to look at the sign, and then she cried and held her hands to her face.

"I always wanted to keep his legacy alive and now it will stay alive," said Sergeant Howard-Brown. "We live not too far from here, so every time we go out we will pass by here," she said.

Sergeant Jermaine Brown's mother, father, sister, and other relatives traveled by car for ten hours from Georgia to attend. "This was beautiful," said Sergeant Jermaine Brown's sister, Ms. Jeanette Sánchez. "It is very emotional, and I know he's smiling down from heaven. I always looked up to him and wanted to be like him, he cannot be replaced."

Director Ramirez spoke of why his fallen officer's work made such a difference, that in addition to the many felony arrests he made working in South District, he positively

affected the lives of at-risk youth.

"To the family, we told you on that very day, we will never forget, we will never leave you behind, and that legacy continues here today," Director Ramirez said. "His name is on the street looking over his community and looking over his fellow officers whom he adored."

The naming ceremony comes just a month after commissioners voted to extend the same distinction to another MDPD officer killed in the line of duty. A portion of SW 167 Avenue was co-named to honor Detective Cesar "Echy" Echaverry, who was only 29 when he was fatally shot last August by a suspect he was pursuing, as part of the Robbery Intervention Detail. The road is one that Detective Echaverry often traveled as a youth growing up in the area. Like Sergeant Brown, Detective Echaverry distinguished himself by going beyond the scope of his job to help others. The streets are "co-designated" so that they retain the original address, but are also officially known by the names.

Plaques honoring Sergeant Brown and Detective Echaverry have also been affixed to the "Hall of Honor," located on the first floor, east wing, of the Miami-Dade Police Department's Fred Taylor Headquarters Building in Doral. There are a total of 44 plaques there for MDPD officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.



On Thursday, February 16, 2023, a stretch of SW 211 Street, in South District, was co-named to honor the late Sergeant Jermaine Brown, who died in the line of duty on December 12, 2018. His widow (standing next to Director Ramirez, in black t-shirt) unveiled the sign.

A Neighborhood Road That Was Familiar to Fallen Officer Cesar “Echy” Echaverry Jr. Now Bears His Name By Brian Ballou

On an overcast, chilly, and blustery Monday morning, March 20, 2023, the road that borders John A. Ferguson Senior High School to the west, was co-named “Officer Cesar “Echy” Echaverry Jr. Way,” a poignant tribute to a man who, at the age of 29, was killed in the line of duty while pursuing a dangerous, armed felon.

Echy had ties to SW 162 Avenue. It is just 200 yards away from the baseball field where he played as a member of the Ferguson Falcons varsity baseball team. Echy lived in the neighborhood and traversed the road almost daily, whether it was walking to school, to the gym, to church, to hang out with his childhood buddies, or to his longtime girlfriend’s house.

Echy’s parents and sister, and his girlfriend, attended the ceremony, as did numerous elected officials and residents from the surrounding community. Members of the Department’s Robbery Intervention Detail were in attendance as well. Echy was a devoted member of that unit, which is responsible for patrolling some of the County’s most crime-ridden neighborhoods.

The current Falcons varsity baseball team also attended. As the event got underway, two Miami-Dade Police Department helicopters and a U.S. Customs and

Border Protection helicopter, performed a fly-by, passing directly over the white canopy tent that Echy’s family, and legislators, sat under. Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez spoke briefly and presented Echy’s parents with a U.S. flag that was flown over the State Capitol.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez said, “We are standing here today in a neighborhood where a hero grew up...The memory of the legacy of this local hero will forever live on.”

Commissioner Kionne McGhee said that the “Way” in the street name goes beyond signifying it as a major road in the community, but also symbolizes the code that Echy lived by, or Echy’s Way. “A man who stood on principle and courage, something that was given to him by his family early on,” Commissioner McGhee said.

Director Ramirez said Echy’s professionalism and his dedication to his job and courage under dangerous situations, will live on. “His legacy has invigorated that unit,” the Director said as he pointed to members of the Robbery Intervention Detail. The Director also spoke directly to the family, in Spanish, telling them they will always be a part of the Miami-Dade Police Department family.



Central Records Bureau - More than Microfilm and File Cabinets

By Brian Ballou



The Central Records Bureau has continued to update its data storage and the way it operates, such as with these new readers, that can magnify, scan, and print information from microfilm. Here, Police Records Technician 2 Anitria Roberts-Flanders scans a microfilm card. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

The Central Records Bureau is the Miami-Dade Police Department's memory bank-keepers of vast historical data dating back to the 1950s, but the Bureau performs so much more.

"Central, as the name implies, is central to the Department," said the Bureau's Commander, Oliver Spicer Jr.

The antiquated way of record keeping, with rows and rows of file cabinets filled with yellowing paper, has given way to digital uploading. Electronic data is stored and disseminated daily by the Bureau, and that information is crucial to policing, helping officers on the road determine their best course of action when responding to calls. The Bureau also performs a fundamental role of government, by completing public records requests.

As the central repository of records for the Department, the Bureau operates the "GovQA" system, which is a public records management system that services all requests for information from citizens, including the news media, and from other law enforcement agencies, and even from private attorneys gathering information to prepare for cases. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the Bureau processed 64,000 public records requests, and in FY 2022, it processed 142,000 requests.

"The thing about records is, we are not 'records-are-us,' we don't have every single record, they have to come from other sources," Commander Spicer said. "Say for instance, we get a request from a law firm, requesting records from the laboratory, obviously we don't have lab reports, so we would have to reach out to the laboratory, so we are responsible for ensuring those requests are filled."

While the work has increased, the Bureau has still provided a high level of service with staff vacancies. There are 131 positions, but there are numerous vacancies due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and promotions within the Department. There is a perception that the jobs within the Bureau are entry level, springboards to other jobs in the Department, Commander Spicer said. "But that perception does not reflect the importance of what is being done at the Bureau, these positions are critical to what MDPD does," he said.

The Bureau also makes entries into the Florida Crime Information Center, which is maintained by the Florida Department of

Law Enforcement and the National Crime Information Center. Both Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) systems, serve as central repositories of criminal history records and provide agencies with access to federal, state, and local criminal justice information. The Bureau may update information pertaining to a case, or make queries related to investigations by the Department. Additionally, the Bureau enters CJIS data on behalf of 12 smaller law enforcement agencies in Miami-Dade County that do not have terminal access to CJIS.

"We enter all sorts of information electronically, from missing persons, wanted persons, stolen tags, stolen articles, guns, risk protection orders, and we work directly with the Fingerprint Identification Section to make sure that a person who has been arrested and incarcerated actually matches the individual we have on file, so we work closely with the Clerk of Courts and Department of Corrections," Commander Spicer said.

"In addition to that, everyone is familiar with the infamous public records counter, that is synonymous with records, so we do service the public, and we are responsible for disseminating whatever it is, primarily clearance letters.

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More than Microfilm and File Cabinets *Continued from page 6*

The large window that faces the front parking lot at the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building is not walk-up, but by appointment. The Bureau controls the flow of visitors with an automated appointment system that was implemented nearly three years ago. An average of 40 people are serviced every hour, and their requests are typically compiled prior to their arrival. “That helps us in terms of being more efficient and responsive to citizens,” Commander Spicer said.

The Bureau also helps facilitate records requests of contracts and bids maintained by the Department. Should a business seek to find out why their bid was not chosen by the Department, for example, they can request public records related to the entire process.

Since 1995, the Bureau has kept track of false alarms in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, primarily to reduce the numbers of calls to businesses and homes so that officers can focus on higher priority calls for service. That alone brought in \$1.3 million in FY 2021 to the Department in fines and registration fees, money that is being used in other areas to fund anti-crime measures. There are approximately 40,000 registered alarm systems. In FY 2022, it increased to \$1.6 million.

Microfilm, widely used in the 1970s and 1980s by libraries and other organizations to catalogue vast amounts of information, is still maintained by the

Department. Microfilm is 35 mm film on which printed materials are photographed and reduced so small that it requires optical assistance to view. For many years, the Department relied on several bulky microfilm readers that were the size of desks, but recently purchased desktop scanners that perform the same function as those larger readers, and fits compactly on a single desktop. The new scanners allow the user to read, print, and scan information.

The Bureau also processes court orders related to the sealing or expunging of arrests records. The Bureau will receive an order from the court, and will then research local criminal history and charges to take appropriate action, whether it is sealing or expunging a record.

Crime statistics are kept by the Bureau, including the number of homicides, forcible sex offenses, robberies, among other crimes, and the annual tally for all those categories is forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which includes the information in its Uniform Crime Report (UCR), the official repository of crime in America.

“This is a line of work that has really been overlooked,” Commander Spicer said. “When people think of records, they think of files folders with paper, but that’s contrary to what we actually do here.”

Deputy Director Stephanie V. Daniels Recognized for 30 Years of Service *By Brian Ballou*



Director Ramirez presented Deputy Director Daniels with a plaque and trophy in recognition of her 30 years of service. (Photos by Gaston De Cardenas)

Congratulations to Deputy Director Daniels, who on February 15, 2023, during a Command Staff briefing at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center, was presented by Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, with the Department’s “Service Award” in recognition of 30 years of service.

Deputy Director Daniels actually reached that milestone in February 2022, but there had not been a full in-person Command Staff meeting since the COVID-19 Pandemic struck in early 2020.

Born and raised in Liberty City, her first job with a police department was as a dispatcher with the Miami Police Department. In 1992, she joined the Miami-Dade Police Department, and since then, she has mentored countless officers, and is regarded as a role model for girls and women.

When she was named Assistant Director in March 2016, she was the first woman, and the first black woman, to reach that rank in the Department’s history. Deputy Director Daniels rose from Assistant Director to Deputy Director on March 1, 2022.

In Partnership With Businesses, Project Green Light is a Go!

By Brian Ballou

As part of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Peace and Prosperity Plan, the Department will soon launch Project Green Light Miami-Dade, a video monitoring system that links live, high-resolution footage from private businesses to our Real-Time Crime Center.

Miami-Dade County will become the second region in the U.S. to utilize Project Green Light. The City of Detroit implemented it in 2016, and according to the Chief of Police for the Detroit Police Department, incidents of violent crime and property crime have dropped significantly in and around Project Green Light businesses.

Four "Virtual Patrol Officers" at the Real-Time Crime Center will monitor from their workstations live video feeds that come from businesses throughout the County. Should the Virtual Patrol Officer observe criminal activity, he or she will notify a police dispatcher, who will send out a call for service to the location. Each workstation will also have a screen displaying 911 calls, and if the call is from a business that has enrolled in the Project, the address will be highlighted in green as an indicator to the Virtual Patrol Officer to watch the video feed from that location. They can also listen to radio transmissions from the Department's 911 Center to officers, as police dispatchers will specify Project Green Light business. The Virtual Patrol Officer will relay his or her observations from the video feed to the responding officer.

A handful of businesses have already signed up, and the Department is optimistic that many more will take advantage of this ground-breaking, high-tech crime-fighting tool. The Department will add more Virtual Patrol Officers as the Project expands.

Since mid-2022, our Neighborhood Resource Officers have been reaching out to businesses, and to organizations such as the Rotary Club and the Better Business Bureau, to inform owners about the Project. The Project is designed to help reduce violent crime, property crime, and disorder, and to increase business growth, which have been top priorities of Mayor Levine Cava.

Gas stations, convenience stores, food service establishments, and all other types of businesses that join will be required to have signage, high-resolution cameras, and an actual flashing green light affixed to the exterior of the business. A minimum of four cameras would be mounted indoors and outdoors. The green light



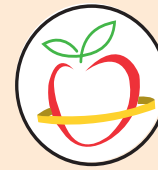
and the signs are intended to signify to customers, and to the community, that the business participates in Project Green Light Miami-Dade. As part of that agreement, establishments are required to provide adequate lighting outside, if they do not already have it, and high-speed network connections.

The cost of the system can be up to \$10,000, but grants may become available to some businesses if they qualify, to offset the cost partially or fully. The grant would not cover any outdoor lighting expense. There is a Miami-Dade County residency requirement for business owners who receive grants, but for those who participate self-funded, there is no such requirement.



Since mid-2022, our Neighborhood Resource Officers have been reaching out to businesses, and to organizations such as the Rotary Club and the Better Business Bureau, to inform owners about the Project.

The WELLNESS CORNER



Tactical Strength and Conditioning - the Miami-Dade Police Department Continues to Innovate

The Miami Dade Police Department has seen fitness and nutrition as an important part of the training process since the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center opened in 1989 (the MDPD has been providing psychological support even earlier than that). Nationwide, there has been a seismic shift towards improving fitness and wellness resources for law enforcement. The U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) has been working on providing more support nationally to law enforcement because they understand that without a healthy workforce, our national security is at risk. In 2010, the USDOJ created the VALOR program for officer safety and wellness to provide more support to law enforcement in response to the increase in felonious assaults on law enforcement. Until the last couple of years, the largest departments in the country didn't have internal resources or personnel dedicated to providing information on physical fitness, psychological support, or personnel to help guide nutrition.

Police Wellness (which includes fitness, nutrition, and psychological services) has been part of Miami-Dade Police culture for over 40 years. Interestingly, many departments around the country still continue to struggle with acquiring positions for their departments and financial support to create infrastructure to push content out to their officers. Instructor training is at the center of this initiative. We have been offering a course called MDPD Fitness Instructor at the Miami-Dade Police Department to help our officers understand the foundations of all aspects of fitness training and instruction. This class has been offered years before this nationwide initiative towards fitness and wellness, and before the National Strength and Conditioning Association created the Tactical Strength and Conditioning Facilitators Course in 2005.

The Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center is offering this updated version of the

40-hour class again from March 27-31. Over the years, this class has continued to evolve to include the most important aspects of fitness training, injury reduction, and a contemporary view into all aspects of fitness as it applies to law enforcement. The goal of this class is to help improve physical progress while preventing heat illness and overuse conditions that can cause lasting changes in the personnel impacted. This class was modeled after a college course taught at Florida International University called Foundations of Fitness. In that class, the hallmark of this coursework was the five components of fitness, nutrition, and stress reduction. Over time, the class format started to evolve to include all the most important considerations and challenges of law enforcement training, common injuries, overuse conditions, and best practices for improving recovery using nutrition.

Today, the Department provides support to its employees through the Wellness Unit, Mental Health & Wellness Services Bureau, and Wellness Works Health Coaches that are provided from AvMed. Instructor development is a great way to keep improving outcomes in the people they work with. Any person interested in improving the aspects of knowledge in fitness training, sports nutrition, injury reduction, and instruction should take this class. Interestingly, fitness is the common denominator in many aspects of law enforcement, but also in chronic diseases that impact longevity after retirement.





MDPD recently said farewell to 38 employees (22 sworn officers and 16 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 9 to 44 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

Lieutenant Brenda J. Ferbee-Blackshear	28
Lieutenant Miguel A. Palacios	30
Lieutenant Susana L. Sarasa	28
Sergeant Julio C. Benavides Jr.	25
Sergeant Rufus BoClair III	29
Sergeant Albert Falcon	30
Sergeant Miguel E. Fleitas	44
Sergeant Douglas L. Peacock	34
Sergeant Marc A. Pierre Louis	30
Sergeant Jose Pineda	26
Sergeant Joy Williams	32
Officer Kenneth S. Bonnet	9
Officer Erica S. Chung	25
Officer Pablo J. Del Toro	29
Officer Inez G. Dominguez	31
Officer Grace Green	27
Officer Jorge Gonzalez	32
Officer Gasper J. Hechavarria	17
Officer Joseph L. Johnson	30
Officer Gisele T. Levison	34
Officer John Pinera	24
Officer Eduardo O. Quiroga	30



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Professional Staff

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Imaging Records Technician Yyonne Arrate 18

Police Station Specialist Sherry Barrios 36

Criminalist 2 Karen L. Bromfield 22

Administrative Officer 3 John F. DiCarlo 30

Police Administrative Coordinator Delivette Gonzalez 37

MDPD Community Education Specialist Rita M. Gonzalez 33

Police Complaint Officer Virginia M. Holleran 35

Fingerprint Analyst 1 Deborah A. Neuland 24

MDPD Building Management Supervisor Edwin Pantoja 30

Administrative Secretary Lynda J. Pantoja 33

Public Service Aide Sandra P. Ramos 24

Police Property Evidence Specialist 2 Ivia Ramunas 35

Police Complaint Officer Margaret T. Rojas 24

Maintenance Mechanic Carlos O. Santacruz 34

Personnel Technician Maribel Valdes 30

Secretary Julia M. Wolson 35



Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held successful blood drives at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center on January 27, 2023, and at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on March 6, 2023. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Major George S. Perera Jr. | Criminalist 2 Christopher Barr | Ms. Anamaria Colina |
| Officer Steven L. Hackett | Stenographic Reporter Renee Fuentes | Mr. Joseph Cox |
| Officer Carlos E. Herrera | Imaging Records Tech Jeffrey H. Johnson | Mr. Desi Daniels |
| Officer Leon Mitchell Jr. | Police Prop. Evidence Spec 1 Helena Lyons | Ms. Yohagny H. Rodriguez |
| Officer Octavio J. Tellez | Personnel Technician Oneida Ortega | Mr. Michael Samuels |
| Officer Christian G. Winch | Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson | Ms. Silvia Sanchez Almeida |
| Information Officer Brian R. Ballou | Mr. Erick Blandon | |

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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Mayor



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