



Alert

Newsletter
Miami-Dade Police Department



@MiamiDadePD

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“Committed to Excellence” July-September 2019



Join Us

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019

Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way (NW 16 Avenue)
Miami, FL 33125

Be in the Team Photo – arrive at 7:30 a.m. sharp!



POLICE POWER IN PINK TEAM



Real Men Wear Pink 2019 Campaign Supported by Director Juan J. Perez

By Brian Ballou



From left to right, MDPD Director Juan J. Perez shows off his Police Power in Pink socks designed by brothers Sebastian and Brandon Martinez, of Are You Kidding Socks. Information Officer Brian Ballou also showed off his socks. The event, hosted by the Well Groomed Gentlemen barbershop in Coral Gables, was the launch of the Real Men Wear Pink Campaign to raise awareness and money for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Campaign. (Photo by Allison Bishop-Cooner)

When the Real Men Wear Pink Campaign began in 2016, to benefit the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Making Strides Against Breast Cancer initiative, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Director Juan J. Perez joined other community leaders to help raise money for the cause. He has participated in the Campaign every year since, collectively helping to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the ACS. On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, he attended the launch of the 2019 Campaign, wearing his Police Power in Pink socks and an MDPD Badge/Pink Ribbon lapel pin. These items are for sale in connection with the fundraising campaign.

"Clothes don't make the man, but they can make a huge difference in the fight against breast cancer," said Brittany Perets, Senior Community Development Manager for the ACS Southeast Region, based in Doral.

Director Perez is one of 23 candidates in this year's Real Men Wear Pink Campaign, a friendly competition to crown the highest fundraiser. The candidates have committed to raising at least \$2,500 each and to wearing pink every day in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Other candidates include MDC Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, MDC Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Chief John W. Johnson, and President and CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau William D. Talbert III.

"This is an incredibly important fundraising effort, one that I am honored to be a part of," said Director Perez. Nationwide, more than 268,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. In 2019, 41,760 women are expected to die from the disease, according to statistics from the ACS. Breast cancer does not just affect women, as more than 2,500 men in the U.S. are diagnosed each year.

The launch was held at the Well Groomed Gentlemen barbershop in Coral Gables, Florida. Among the attendees were two brothers, Brandon and Sebastian Martinez, who designed the Police Power in Pink socks. Their company is named Are You Kidding Socks, and Brandon is the Director of Sales and Sebastian is the CEO. "We wanted to do something special for people who are affected by cancer, and to help raise money so that a cure can be found," Brandon said.



**POLICE
POWER IN
PINK SOCKS**

**Get Your Police Power in Pink Socks
Now!**

Cash Only

- Approved to wear with MDPD uniforms during October
- Great quality – wear for years to come
- Excellent gifts

Please contact SPA 1 Allison Bishop-Cooner at 305-471-1751, or abishop-cooner@mdpd.com

Major Ricky Carter Receives Award From Embrace Girls Foundation

By Brian Ballou



Major Ricky Carter, of the Robbery Bureau, has contributed to the Embrace Girls Foundation for more than five years, including hosting tea parties for the girls at MDPD Fred Taylor Headquarters Building. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

A long table was decorated with pink roses and all the settings of a formal tea party. Around the table sat more than a dozen young girls wearing matching pink dresses and white beaded necklaces, with their hair swept back in perfect buns. At the head of the table sat Major Ricky Carter, of the MDPD Robbery Bureau.

The “Princess High Tea Party,” held at MDPD Fred Taylor Headquarters Building last year, was one example of Major Carter’s commitment to the Embrace Girls Foundation. This summer, CEO Velma Lawrence presented him with the Embrace Girls Foundation Champion for Children 2019 Community Award during the third annual Champions for Children Honors Dinner and fundraiser. Approximately 300 people attended the event, where four other community leaders were honored with the same award.

The non-profit Embrace Girls Foundation, established in 2001, helps elementary and middle school girls to become the best version of themselves, and to be change

agents in society. The primary focus is to empower girls through academic tutoring, leadership, life, and character educational training, coupled with social and cultural opportunities. The Foundation’s staff members coordinate after-school programs and field trips, and serve approximately 200 girls monthly in MDC.

“I first met Velma and the Embrace Girls Foundation approximately five years ago, and as all of you know, you never tell Velma no, you don’t hesitate, you make it happen,” Major Carter said. “When she first contacted me and told me about the tea party, I started doing some research. I wanted to see what the Foundation was all about. As I was doing my research, I saw all the amazing things these young ladies achieve, and the fine accomplishments of the Foundation. As a parent of a young lady, their actions really struck a chord in me and I saw the importance of this Foundation.”

MDPD Officers Help Save a Life

By Brian Ballou

Mr. Vladimir “Bobby” Ruiz is a familiar face at Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah, FL. The park is a peaceful place, and its 515 acres feature five lakes, a farm village with a petting zoo and pony rides, a skate park, mountain-bike trails, and a 5-acre “bark park” for dogs. Mr. Ruiz does not get paid to pick up trash there, but he does it anyway. He has logged many miles circling the park’s bike path with other cyclists affectionately known as “The Amelia Hooligans.”

For weeks, Mr. Ruiz had been eating healthier after a routine physical examination revealed that he had high cholesterol. Cycling was already part of his normal exercise routine, as he had been doing that for years at the park, and he had even started a special Thursday ride with friends.

Mr. Ruiz had a follow-up appointment with his doctor on June 7, 2019. On the afternoon of June 6, 2019, he showed up early at the park and rode a warm-up lap alone. When his friends arrived, they set off on the path as a group, but barely into the first lap, Mr. Ruiz felt queasy. He stopped and got off his bike. Seconds later, he collapsed from a heart attack.

MDPD Officer Miguel Siverio, assigned to the Northwest District, was on a detail at the park. Earlier in the day, he had met with Officer Jose Martinez to go over their patrol plan for the day. They decided that Officer Siverio would patrol the west half of the park and Officer Martinez would patrol the east half.

The 911 call came in and Officers Siverio and Martinez drove their vehicles as close as they could to the location where Mr. Ruiz fell. However, they were still a considerable distance away when they parked. The officers grabbed their portable automated external defibrillator (AED) units as they got out of their cars. Officer Martinez then commandeered a bicycle from a park visitor and pedaled to where Mr. Ruiz was laying, while Officer Siverio ran as fast as he could to the scene.

When Officer Siverio arrived, a man was talking on his cell phone with MDPD Dispatcher Beatriz Perez, and she



The family of Mr. Vladimir “Bobby” Ruiz recently attended an awards ceremony at MDPD to personally thank MDPD Officers Jose Martinez and Miguel Siverio for helping to save his life. In August 2019, both officers also received the MDPD Lifesaving Award. Pictured from left to right are Ms. Carmen Sandoz, Mr. Ruiz’ mother; Ms. Annette Arroyo-Velez, Mr. Ruiz’ cousin; Officers Jose Martinez and Miguel Siverio; Ms. Roxana Carnet, Mr. Ruiz’ cousin; and Mr. Salustiano Ruiz, Mr. Ruiz’ father (Photo by Brian Ballou).

was instructing him on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on Mr. Ruiz. Quickly, Officer Martinez took over the CPR. He first checked Mr. Ruiz’ vital signs and did not detect a pulse or breathing. He then ripped open Mr. Ruiz’ shirt and connected the sensors from his AED to Mr. Ruiz’ chest.

As Officer Siverio ran to the scene, he heard chatter on his radio. “When I overheard that Officer Martinez was performing CPR, I knew it was serious,” Officer Siverio said. When he reached the scene, he told the crowd of people gathered near Mr. Ruiz to back away so he and Officer Martinez would have room to render aid, and so emergency crews would have a clear path on arrival. “Mr. Ruiz had a non-responsive stare, as if he was asleep, but with his eyes open,” Officer Siverio recalled. The two officers continued CPR on Mr. Ruiz, with Officer Martinez administering chest compressions and Officer Siverio using the CPR mask to provide forced oxygen.

Dramatic footage of the officers focusing on resuscitating Mr. Ruiz was captured on Officer Siverio’s body-worn camera. Several minutes into the CPR, they saw Mr. Ruiz’ abdomen expand and contract, a sign that he was breathing

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MDPD Officers Help Save a Life

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on his own again. “You know he’s not there and you’re fighting to bring him back. That moment he takes his first breath, your emotions are all over the place,” Officer Martinez said.

A few moments later, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue arrived. Mr. Ruiz was still breathing on his own when he was placed on a stretcher. “I would say that our training just kicked in, the Department does a very fine job of training us and properly equipping us,” Officer Siverio said. “We got the AEDs earlier this year and went through a course on how to operate them. The way we acted was exactly what I expected of myself and Officer Martinez, based on our training.”

Mr. Ruiz underwent surgery and is expected to fully

recover. He recently met with both officers and thanked them for saving his life. By coincidence, both officers knew some of Mr. Ruiz’ relatives, who were connected through former employment. That connection made the reunion even more special. “Some people call it coincidence, others call it divine intervention,” Officer Siverio said.

Mr. Ruiz plans to return to his beloved bicycling when he is cleared to do so by his doctor. Officer Martinez promised Mr. Ruiz that he would accompany him on that first ride back.



MDPD’s Soccer Team Won the Open Division at the United Way’s 12th Annual Soccer Tournament

By Brian Ballou



Congratulations to MDPD’s Soccer Team which recently won the Open Division at the United Way’s 12th Annual Soccer Tournament. Comprised of MDC employees, 18 teams entered the challenge and raised more than \$5,000 for the non-profit organization. Sincere kudos go out to Major Christopher Carothers, of the MDPD’s Special Victims Bureau, along with Mr. Ronald Rojas, from the Port Miami, who created the tournament. Their support and expertise has greatly contributed to making this a stellar event. Over the years, the event has raised more than \$75,000 for charity. Pictured from left to right are Officer Adrien Couto, Sergeant David Segovia, Officers Kevin McBride, Cesar Ordonez, Vanessa Plasencia, Cheick Kaba, Gregory Beckford, Guerry Leonard, Sergeants Julio Martos and Safiuddin Mohammad. Kneeling left to right are Officers Daniel Garcia and Issa Itani.

(Photo courtesy of Officer Ordonez)

MDPD National Night Out Events Bring Out Hundreds of Residents

By Brian Ballou



Attended by many, Hammocks District recently hosted a National Night Out gathering and parade. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

At Gould's Park, in Miami, Florida, children jumped inside inflated bounce houses, ate hotdogs, and played video games as their parents chatted with police officers from the South District. Eleven miles north, at Sugarwood Park, a young couple from the neighborhood joined other local residents on a mile-long parade organized by Hammocks District personnel.

At five other districts throughout Miami-Dade County, similar scenes played out on August 6, 2019. Throughout the country, millions of residents gathered at block parties, parks, and police stations to mingle with neighbors and police officers who patrol their communities. National Night Out is an annual initiative held on the first Tuesday in August.

"When I was walking the parade, I got this sense of nostalgia, felt like I was a little kid again, back in elementary school. It was a very feel-good moment," said Mrs. Michelle Sosa, who attended the event at Sugarwood Park with her husband, Mr. Arthur Sosa, and their infant son, Arthur Jr.

A school band was part of the parade, as was the MDPD Honor Guard. About a dozen booths were set up on Sugarwood Way, the start and finish point of the parade. "To see that many people outside, I told my husband that I haven't seen a parade like this in so long, it's something

we need more often," Mrs. Sosa said.

That sense of community, of building relationships with neighbors and police officers, is the primary aim of National Night Out, according to the National Association of Town Watch, which introduced the program in 1984. Last year, an estimated 38 million people participated in 16,000 communities.

While barbecues, face painting, and bounce houses are ubiquitous to National Night Out, it is also a chance for residents to chat with police about quality-of-life issues in their neighborhood. "The only way to be more successful in eradicating crime is for law enforcement to partner with our residents and our businesses, to take a stand and send a message that we don't want crime in our community," said Major Michael Dieppa, of the Hammocks District. He said the parade was a way to carry the message to more people. "We are a very populous community. We figured if we took a small walk, about a mile, we'd have an impact on a lot of people. We wanted to have minimal impact on the traffic, but did want to get some attention and have people come back to the area where there are events and food. This way they could interact with law enforcement and other residents accordingly."

Meet Major Fernand Charles Jr., the New Commander of MDPD's South District



Major Fernand Charles Jr. is in charge of the South District, the largest MDPD District, with more than 460 square miles. (Photo by Gaston De Cardenas)

Employed for more than 17 years with MDPD, Major Fernand Charles Jr. has experienced a wide array of assignments. He worked the Northwest District's Bike Patrol Unit, was a detective in the Domestic Crimes Bureau, handled community outreach with the Kendall District's Team Police Unit, worked in the Professional Compliance Bureau, oversaw departmental hiring at the Personnel Management Bureau, and supervised all investigations as the Northside District's General Investigations Unit Commander. In April 2019, he was promoted to Major and appointed as the South District Commander.

"I've experienced a lot of highs and lows since graduating from the police academy in 2003, and I've learned from each and every one of those experiences," said Major

Charles. "I've been fortunate to be in a position to help people, to try to be a positive influence on their lives, and I look forward to continuing that in my latest role."

Major Charles oversees approximately 223 police officers and civilians, and a coverage area of 460 square miles with 141,676 residents. Much of the District's wide geographical layout is agricultural, with sprawling residential communities.

Major Charles said there was no specific moment in his youth when he made the decision to become a police officer and dedicate his life to helping others. "It was just always there, I've always been fascinated with law enforcement," he said. "My main objective in life is to help people, I don't do it to for recognition, I do it because that's how I was raised," said Major Charles. "I'm always looking to help the underdog."

Major Charles said his character reflects his mother's attitude. "She is phenomenal. She always had an open door, and she was always willing to feed people. If you were down on your luck, whether a relative or friend, she was there to lend a helping hand, and always encouraged me to check in on people."

Major Charles grew up in Broward County and graduated from Nova High School in Davie, Florida. He then attended Alabama State University in 1998, and earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

To meet Major Charles and get involved with the South District, come to one of the monthly Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings held at the South District Station, 10800 SW 211 Street, Miami, FL 33189. The meetings are held at the District's conference room on the second Monday of every month.

Longtime Retired MDPD Sergeant Alfred E. Streetzel Remembered for Being "Hands-on."

By Brian Ballou

When the outdoor sprinkler system needed fixing, former MDPD Sergeant Alfred E. Streetzel did the necessary repair. When the lines on the handicapped parking faded to the point that they were indistinguishable, Sergeant Streetzel took a paint brush to the asphalt.

"He did a lot of hands on stuff," said MDPD Officer Jonathan A. Streetzel, his son. "People would make fun of him, but he loved the Department." Sergeant Streetzel died on June 28, 2019, of natural causes after a life filled with charitable work and serving 43 years on the Department,

from 1950 until 1993.

At Sergeant Streetzel's retirement party, officers who had worked alongside him talked his son into applying at MDPD. A year later, Jonathan A. Streetzel followed in his father's footsteps, and is now assigned to the Narcotics Bureau. Grandson, Jonathan G. Streetzel, also joined MDPD in 2016, but then switched to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, so he could work closer to home.

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MDPD Sergeant Alfred E. Streetzel

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Sergeant Streetzel's imprint on the Department is everlasting. There is a black and white photograph of him standing proudly in formation with members of the motor patrol, his chin up and chest out, as former President John F. Kennedy approaches him with his hand extended. Sergeant Streetzel also poured countless hours into honoring fallen officers. Prior to each Police Memorial Ceremony, he set up chairs, tents, and other displays, and even drove a mobile home to the site to ensure security. His contributions were crucial to what became the current memorial at Tropical Park. He was also a key committee member of the Pig Bowl, a popular annual tackle football game between the then Metro and other law enforcement agencies, which generated tens of thousands of dollars for charity.

Sergeant Streetzel started as a patrolman and in 1960 was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1967, he returned to uniform patrol. He mostly worked in Miami's north end, but was also assigned to several units, including the Homicide and Special Patrol Bureaus. In 1987, he was assigned to the Airport District. He also honorably served in the Army National Guard and retired with the military rank of Captain in May 1970.

Sergeant Streetzel is survived by his son, Officer Jonathan A. Streetzel; daughter-in-law, Jacqueline Streetzel; and three grandchildren, Charlotte Streetzel, Karlee Grab, and Palm Beach Deputy Jonathan G. Streetzel.



Sergeant Alfred E. Streetzel

Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood recently held successful blood collection drives at MDPD Headquarters. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Captain Jorge Aguiar
 Captain Alejandro Acosta
 Lieutenant Aviel A. Sanchez
 Sergeant Luis M. Perez Jr.
 Officer Manuel L. Acosta
 Officer Jason A. Hammond
 Officer Mark Martinez
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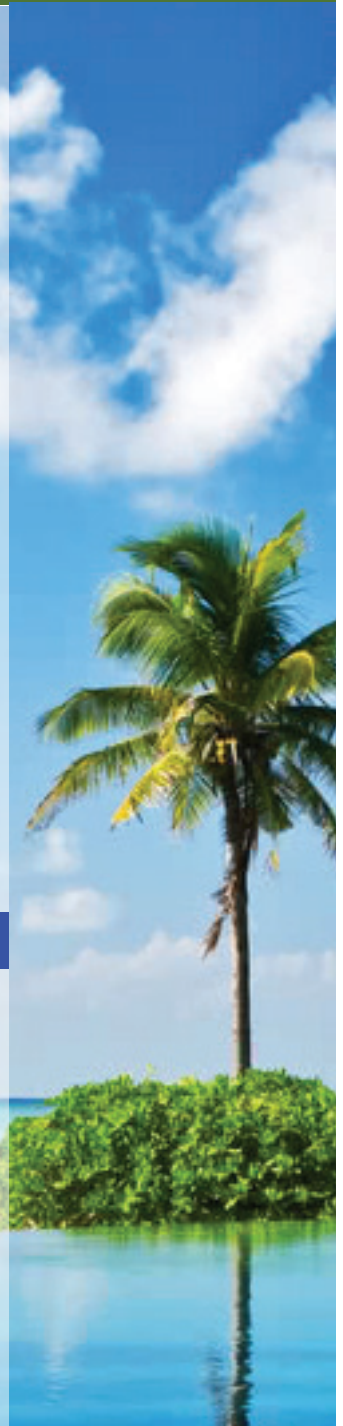
MDPD recently said farewell to 33 employees (22 sworn officers and 11 civilians) who retired after periods of service ranging from 38 to 7 years. Director Juan J. Perez, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Lieutenant Denise J. Bernhard.....	24
Lieutenant Rudy Gonzalez.....	29
Lieutenant Margie A. Marquez-Cicillini.....	23
Lieutenant Margarita J. Varela.....	22
Officer Douglas Bartelt.....	22
Officer Gerald C. Bertrand.....	31
Officer Dennis Colon.....	25
Officer Gregory D. Darling.....	32
Officer Harris G. Dowd.....	27
Officer Kenneth L. Hendon Jr.....	30
Officer Thomas Hodges.....	14
Officer Lupo Jimenez.....	29
Officer Daphney A. Joseph.....	30
Officer Nathaniel C. Koonce Jr.....	32
Officer Kurtis Lueck.....	23
Officer Carlos M. Menendez.....	30
Officer Stacey O. Payne.....	21
Officer Tracy M. Postell.....	24
Officer Nicole L. Romero.....	29
Officer Steven C. Valladares.....	21
Officer Lily Gonzalez Young.....	31
Officer Tarrika Williams.....	18

Civilians

Police Station Specialist Everlina Chandler.....	38
Police Records Specialist 1 Jesus Fernandez.....	13
Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Jorge D. Mackenzie.....	3
School Crossing Guard Rosalind Parker Marshall.....	7
Court Support Specialist 1 Ella J. Morris.....	32
Mail Center Supervisor Rafael E. Perez.....	13
School Crossing Guard Rodolfo Perez.....	11
Secretary Ana Quintana.....	30
Investigative Specialist Cheree Skyers.....	33
Clerk 2 Frank Washington.....	27
Court Support Specialist 1 Deborah L. Wilson.....	25





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 information and tips, call 311 or visit www.miamidade.gov/fraudfree.



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