



Alert Newsletter



"Committed to Excellence"

@MiamiDadePD

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July – September 2020

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ALFREDO "FREDDY" RAMIREZ III



Starting with this edition of the quarterly Alert Newsletter, I am bringing back the "Director's Message" that was used so effectively by my predecessors to communicate with you, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) family. First, I want to say that my thoughts and prayers go out to employees who have contracted COVID-19 or have loved ones who have contracted it, or have lost jobs in recent months. This is a stressful time, but we are resilient and will recover from this.

This year has brought with it significant challenges that have made us adjust our everyday routines and reevaluate our interactions with the public, but our focus has remained steadfast in these difficult times, to protect our community while adhering to our core values of integrity, respect, service, and fairness.

I am proud of how you have answered the call in this pandemic, some have worked remotely to keep things running efficiently, and others taking on tasks outside the scope of your normal duty. This is true teamwork and it is impressive.

The impact of your performance is clearly reflected in the public realm. Take a look at other major metropolitan areas around the country. Miami-Dade County has largely remained a place devoid of looting, rioting, and anarchy, even as we have monitored demonstrations protesting our very existence as a profession. You have stood on the front lines, and through your enforcement of the County's state of emergency orders, you have helped bring the region closer to reopening, and a much needed economic boost. This didn't occur by happenstance, it is the result of careful planning, the support of our community partners, and your diligence.

The reputation of the MDPD has been built by generations of men and women who have represented the Department since its incipency, and it is a legacy that the public appreciates and respects. That trust is crucial and needs to be protected. When an officer or any employee violates MDPD standards, it is my responsibility to take appropriate action. The MDPD will always hold itself accountable for its actions.

As your Director, I will always have your back, that is my ongoing commitment to you, and I encourage you to offer your feedback or contact me with any concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Director

ARE YOU READY?

Hurricane Season | June 1 - November 30

2020



MDPD's Lieutenant Benny Solis Awarded Florida Sheriffs Association's 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

By Brian Ballou

Gunfire erupted on May 20, 2019, as MDPD Lieutenant Benny Solis arrived in his unmarked County vehicle to a house in Miami Gardens, in a neighborhood bordered to the north by the Calder Casino and to the south by the Hard Rock Stadium.

A man opened fire on MDPD detectives as they approached him in the front yard of the house, and the staccato blasts from his rifle echoed off homes as the detectives sought cover and returned fire. The suspect, who was wanted for a murder in Opa Locka on the previous day, took aim at Lieutenant Solis as his vehicle pulled up, striking the driver's side of his car several times.

"I can't describe to you what it is like being in a shootout, I think it is something that only people who have been in one can understand," said Lieutenant Solis, who was awarded on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, the Florida Sheriffs Association's (FSA) 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, for bravery he exhibited on that day. Lieutenant Solis also received MDPD's highest award, the Gold Medal of Valor.

Lieutenant Solis is a 20-year veteran of MDPD. His first seven years were in the General Investigations Unit and he has been with the Homicide Bureau for 13 years. He oversees MDPD's Homicide Street Violence Task Force (HSVTF) and coordinates with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to target violent crimes.

Lieutenant Solis said that although the FSA plaque has only his name on it, he considers it a team award because all eight officers who were on the scene that



MDPD Lieutenant Benny Solis was recently awarded the Florida Sheriffs Association's 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for bravery, service, and honor in the line of duty. (Photo by Gaston De Cardenas)

day worked collectively to neutralize the gunman and protect each other. Detectives Jerry J. Robles, Jonathan E. Ortiz, Yunieski D. Arriola, and Sergio H. Pagliery, are members of the HSVTF and Detectives Jose A. Rodriguez, Nelson A. Figueroa, and Simeon R. Dawson, are members of the Intracoastal District's Crime Suppression Team.

Lieutenant Solis said his years of training guided his actions, and he and the detectives communicated

through the entire incident so that they knew each other's whereabouts and coordinated their movements to maintain a strategic advantage over the suspect. As the exchange of gunfire ensued, Lieutenant Solis flanked the suspect. His movements drew the suspect's attention and allowed the detectives to close in. Lieutenant Solis yelled several times at the suspect to drop his rifle, but the suspect continued to fire. The officers returned fire, killing the suspect. The suspect had recently served ten years in prison for multiple violent felonies, and investigators discovered that he had vowed not to go back to prison.

Lieutenant Solis said he knew when he was a child that he wanted to become a police officer to protect the public from deadly violence. "I was always keen on the idea of law enforcement, but specifically I always wanted to get the bad guy," he said. "That was always my drive . . . so my goal has always been to capture, investigate, and convict the worst of the worst, which are shooters and murderers."



INTRODUCING
**REAL
MEN
WEAR
PINK**
OF MIAMI CANDIDATE
**ALFREDO
RAMIREZ**
DIRECTOR
MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPT

Director Alfredo Ramirez III is participating in the "Real Men Wear Pink" campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.

Every dollar raised helps save lives from breast cancer through early detection and prevention, supporting live-saving research, and patient support, to ensuring access to mammograms for those who need them.

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/RMWPDirectorAlfredoRamirez>

Miami-Dade Police Department Officers Save Suicidal Man's Life

By Brian Ballou



MDPD Officer Randy Pineyro lunged towards a man on August 29, 2020, to grab his arm as he dangled three stories high. Officer Pineyro and five other officers from the Midwest and Kendall Districts pulled the man to safety. (Body camera footage)

The mid-afternoon temperature on Saturday, August 29, 2020, had peaked at 92 degrees as MDPD Officer Randy Pineyro rushed in his marked vehicle towards AD Barnes Park in Miami, six miles from the Midwest District Police Station in Doral. Five other MDPD officers from Midwest and Kendall Districts were also heading to the same area.

Working together, those officers saved a man's life, grabbing him as he dangled by his fingertips from a three-story high ledge. The dramatic incident was captured on video footage from several different angles, revealing just how close some of the officers who responded came to falling over the ledge during the rescue.

The 9-1-1 call came in at 3:20 p.m., a relative of his expressing concern that he was seeking to end his life. Officer Pineyro first spotted him atop the overpass of the Palmetto Expressway, where it intersects SW 40 Street. Officer Pineyro ran up the steep, grassy embankment, but stopped about ten feet from the subject, who was sitting on a concrete retaining wall, and staring down at the fast-moving traffic 30 feet below.

"A lot of things are going through my head, do I go and try to grab him, or do I wait for another unit, but thankfully I saw my Sergeant coming up," Officer Pineyro said. Through eye contact, he communicated with his Midwest District supervisor, Sergeant Cheryl Diaz, who had parked on the shoulder of the expressway and was standing close to the man. "I wanted her to move forward, and that's exactly what she did, as I was talking to him and trying to keep him focused on me." Sergeant Diaz got within several feet from the man. She was about to grab him to pull him from the concrete wall when he suddenly turned,

stood up, and moved away to a retaining wall. The man then crawled over the wall and lowered himself until he was dangling by his fingertips.

The circumstances had changed dramatically, and the officers knew that the man could only hang on for seconds. Officer Pineyro and Sergeant Diaz continued their non-verbal communication as their roles reversed. Sergeant Diaz started talking with him, pleading with him not to go through with it, as Officer Pineyro took several slow steps through the knee-high grass, until he was approximately three feet away from the man. Officer Pineyro then lunged, his body parallel to the ground and his arms fully extended. With both hands, Officer Pineyro grabbed the man's left arm but his grip slipped because the subject was covered with sweat. Fortunately, the man was wearing a watch and Officer Pineyro was able to hold on.

Sergeant Diaz rushed to help, grabbing the man's right hand. Her assistance likely prevented both men from plunging three stories to the road below, because the man's weight was pulling Officer Pineyro over the retaining wall.

"At that time, I'm thinking, yes, we got him, but we can't hold him forever," Sergeant Diaz said, but even with both officers clutching the man, they were sliding towards the edge. Help arrived in seconds, with Kendall District Lieutenant William Romero and Officers Julian Padron, Camilo Cota, and Christopher Rugel all grabbing the man, who had been fighting the rescue throughout.

"Everybody pulled with everything they had to get him back over," Sergeant Diaz said. "Without every single person in that team there, as quickly as they reacted, this poor guy would have been gone."

Professional Compliance Bureau Building Renamed in Honor of Late Director Robert “Bobby” L. Parker Sr.

By Brian Ballou

It was not the design or aesthetics of the MDPD’s Professional Compliance Bureau (PCB) building in Miami Gardens that drew the attention of retired MDPD Lieutenant Veronica Parker, the widow of late Director Robert “Bobby” L. Parker Sr.

Mrs. Parker was looking for a way to honor her late husband’s legacy by having his name affixed to an MDPD property, and when she called County Commissioner Barbara Jordan in January 2020 to discuss her idea, the PCB building became the logical choice. Commissioner Jordan sponsored the renaming resolution in the commission and it was approved on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. The renaming ceremony was held on Monday, July 20, 2020.

The 27,000 square foot, two story structure with the curved façade at 18805 NW 27 Avenue, has aged well since it was built in 2001, but it is the ongoing work by sworn and civilian MDPD employees inside the building that Mrs. Parker saw as a befitting testament to the standards that Director Parker upheld during his leadership.

The PCB has the responsibility to identify and assist employees who show symptoms of job stress or performance problems, and conducts investigations into all complaints against MDPD police personnel. The Bureau maintains profiles for each employee that includes information on commendations, complaints and uses of force, and those profiles are reviewed by supervisors on a regular basis.

“I picked this building because this is who he was, he was about professionalism, rules, and regulations,” Mrs. Parker said during the ceremony, just minutes after a large green tarp was peeled from the main

exterior of the building to reveal the new official name, “Director Robert “Bobby” L. Parker Sr. Professional Compliance Bureau Building.” The ceremony drew a crowd of approximately 100 people.

Director Parker joined the MDPD in 1976 and rose through the ranks to become the Department’s first African-American Director in 2004. He served in the MDPD for over three decades and retired in 2009. After his retirement, Director Parker’s commitment to public service continued through his volunteer work, professional affiliations,

and participation in initiatives, councils and boards that focused on law enforcement and public safety. Director Parker died on July 22, 2015.

Mrs. Parker said her husband always supported officers under his command, promoted those who deserved it, and ensured a fair review for those who came under scrutiny. “We are living in a season where social justice, racial equality, and police accountability are at the forefront of Americans’ conversations, and I submit to you, behind these walls, we can find justice and truth,” Mrs. Parker said. “Robert called it like it was, and it all happened in this building.”



The Professional Compliance Bureau Building in Miami Gardens was recently renamed in honor of MDPD’s first African-American Director, Robert “Bobby” L. Parker Sr., who retired in 2009 after a 33-year career with MDPD. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

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\$5,000

Intracoastal Officers Use Teamwork to Save a Mother and Son From Drowning

By Brian Ballou

As MDPD officers assigned to the Intracoastal District rushed to the Enchanted Lake neighborhood on Friday, July 10, 2020, to respond to a report of a woman in distress in a canal, an update came over the radio. The woman's five-year-old son had just jumped into the murky waters after her, seeking to save her, but his act of unconditional love also put his life in peril.

"He jumped into the water not knowing what he was going to face, and thank God, we arrived on time, because every second counted," said Officer Sergio Cordova.

Officers Cordova, Edwin Ramos, Anthony Martin, and Joseph Metka arrived at the home at 3:34 a.m., and had to jump over a five-foot fence to get to the backyard bordered by

the canal. The 36-year-old mother was floating and holding her son. She was screaming for help in the darkness. The officers stood on a narrow concrete walkway at the edge of the canal. With the woman and her son out of reach, Officer Cordova positioned himself on the embankment of the canal to lean as much as he could towards the woman and child, while extending his arm out to grab the child first. Officer Ramos held Officer Cordova's belt and legs to secure his position.

"When I leaned forward, he grabbed me by the back of my belt and I knew he had my back, and that's what we do, as an officer we always have each other's back, and I wasn't worried about myself, because I knew he had me, I was worried about the child," Officer Cordova said.

The mother appeared to be intoxicated and refused to

comply with the rescue attempt. The officers tried several times to reach her, but the mother pushed herself away from the officers, attempting to evade them. In the process, she dipped momentarily under water with her son and the officers lost sight of them. Officer Cordova made another

attempt and was able to grab the child's arm and pull him to safety. As Officer Cordova pleaded with the mother to extend her hands, Officer Ramos tossed a lifeguard buoy into the water and was able to pull the mother to safety.

After the mother and her son were safe and under the care of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, officers entered the residence and found the woman's daughter inside. The

daughter was yelling in apparent distress, and had numerous cuts to her left hand. An investigation revealed that the daughter had come into possession of psychedelic mushrooms that were subsequently ingested by her mother, causing her to become delusional and attempt to take her life by jumping in the canal.

Officer Ramos has been with MDPD for 13 years and Officer Cordova for 2 years. Both Officers said the incident marked the first time that they played a crucial role in helping to save lives.

"We will never forget what we did, it is gratifying to be able to say that I helped save a five-year-old and his mom, but it's part of the job . . . we are willing to do everything in order to protect and save our community," Officer Cordova said.



MDPD Intracoastal District Officers Edwin Ramos (left) and Sergio Cordova (right) recently spoke with the media regarding their role in helping to save a woman and her son from possibly drowning. (Photo by Gaston De Cardenas)



Not complying with the mask order or new normal guidelines can result in a penalty of \$100 for individuals and \$500 for businesses. **Call 305-4-POLICE to report non-compliance.**

miamidade.gov/coronavirus



Intracoastal District Officer Glenna Battle Helping Her Community

By Brian Ballou

If she is not busy assisting churches with food donations, or mentoring single mothers, MDPD Intracoastal District Officer Glenna Battle, will likely be involved in helping her community in some way.

“My mother instilled that in me, the importance of helping people in need,” said Officer Battle, as she recently helped load food, provided by Feeding South Florida, into the trunks of cars lined up outside the True Gospel Holiness Christian Center in North Miami. She helps out at three other food distribution sites throughout the area, contributing about 28 hours weekly.

Officer Battle is a member of the District’s Neighborhood Resource Unit. The Unit has a wide range of responsibilities, such as teaching neighborhood organizations about crime prevention, mentoring battered women, handling resident complaints about short-term vacation rentals, and other community issues. The Unit draws from officers who are uniquely suited to the task, those who have a special ability to connect with people and soothe frayed nerves or hostility.

Her presence in the food distribution sites helps tremendously, said Ms. Roseline Noel, who coordinates the food distribution for the True Gospel Holiness Christian Center. Ms. Noel has been dispensing donated food to needy families for 17 years, but when COVID-19 left many people without jobs and desperate to feed their families, suddenly there were hundreds more vehicles in line seeking food, and chaos ensued.

Officer Battle and other officers within the District started helping out in May, and things have been orderly since. In addition to helping load boxes full of food in cars, and even pushing hand operated forklifts laden with boxes, Officer Battle helps keep traffic flowing and diffuses tensions when arguments flare up. At a recent food distribution, she quashed an argument between two workers and got the men to refocus on their tasks.

“Officer Battle has contributed so much, beyond just standing there monitoring traffic, she really helps to keep things flowing and we appreciate her so much,” Ms. Noel said.

Officer Battle is a familiar face to many residents in the area, having grown up in the community. She has been at the Intracoastal District her entire seven-year career with MDPD. She coordinates an annual toy drive during the holiday season, which benefits approximately 500 children.



MDPD Intracoastal District Officer Glenna Battle, has for many years, been a mentor to young women and has volunteered countless hours to helping the less fortunate in her community. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

held by the Trayvon Martin Foundation. “I went over scenarios, teaching the kids, that if you get stopped by an officer, you should comply,” Officer Battle said. “I told them don’t have attitude, do what the officer asks of you, and you will see it is not that bad, sometimes it is just to educate you, to tell you what you did wrong.” She also participated in a local radio show segment that addressed highly publicized cases in which minorities have been fatally shot by police. “I said that first of all, we can’t be Sunday night quarterbacks because we weren’t there, every situation is different,” she said.

In one of the lighter moments of her work this year, Officer Battle recently helped stage a wedding proposal for a young man who wanted to pop the question to his girlfriend in a unique way. Officer Battle pulled over their car and asked the couple to step to the rear of the vehicle and open the trunk. When the boyfriend opened the trunk his girlfriend was pleasantly surprised by a poster and balloons inside, and then the boyfriend got on one knee and proposed. His girlfriend said yes. “It was a very special moment for them and I was happy to help out,” Officer Battle said.



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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. • Pratique distans sosyal.

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

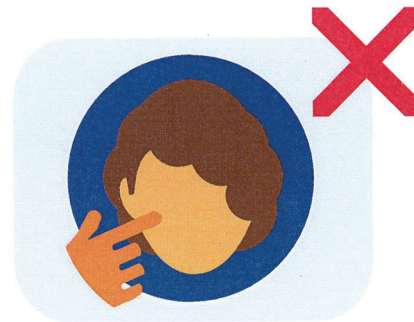
Lávese las manos frecuentemente. Si no tiene agua y jabón, use desinfectante de manos. • Lave men w souvan. Lè savon ak dlo pa disponib, sèvi ak dezenfektan pou men.

**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.



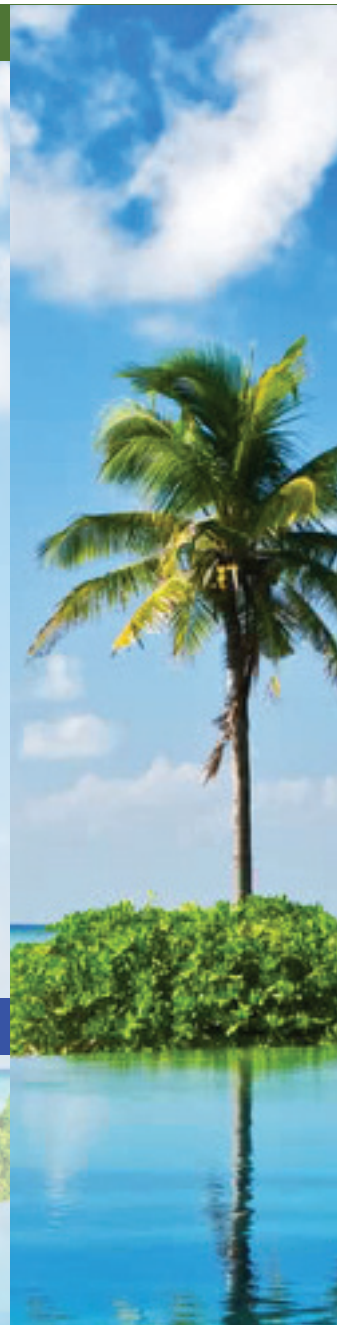
MDPD recently said farewell to 25 employees (20 sworn personnel and 5 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 35 to 13 years. Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, the Department’s command staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Sergeant Doris Escobar	30
Sergeant Thomas J. Gilligan	30
Sergeant Richard Gonzalez	30
Sergeant Mildred Hasmi	35
Sergeant Alejandro Martinez	32
Sergeant Joseph T. Nagy	30
Officer Kiriakos A. Beruty	30
Officer David A. Brooks	30
Officer Keith P. Caporelli	20
Officer Miguel Dominguez	25
Officer Nicole M. Fernandez	30
Officer Jose L. Hernandez	30
Officer Doby Lester	16
Officer Robert E. Miller	30
Officer Wayne A. Peart	30
Officer Calvetta Phillips	24
Officer Patricia A. Porter	25
Officer Kerensa M. Smith	29
Officer Paul L. Terry	27
Officer Terence A. White	30

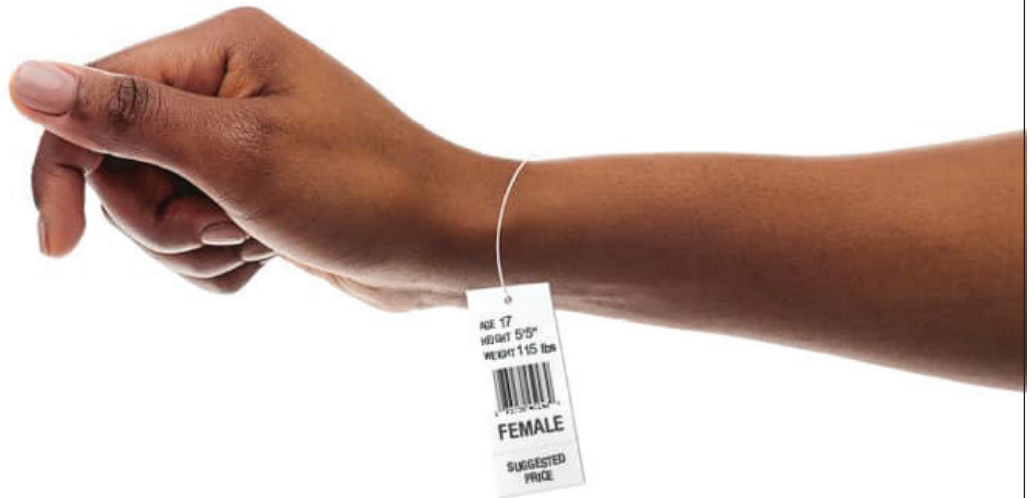
Professional Staff

Intelligence Analyst Dante Fonseca	34
School Crossing Guard Patricia Hepburn	13
School Crossing Guard Esther Hernandez	30
Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1 Claudia Reigada	35
Criminalist 2 Karen D. Wiggins	32



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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Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. “It is the policy of Miami-Dade to comply with all of the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act.”