



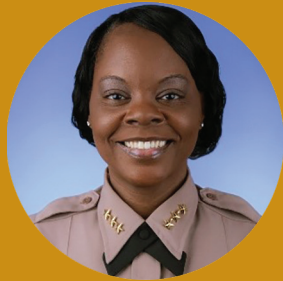
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Stephanie V. Daniels
Interim Director



As your Interim Director, I am humbled by the responsibility bestowed on me to lead the Department on a temporary basis. The unforeseen circumstances that led to my elevation is a somber reminder of the toll this profession can take on our mental health. My thoughts and prayers are with Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III and his family as he continues to recover.

The profession of police officer carries inherent risks, as is evident from a traffic stop in early July, when Robbery Intervention Detail (RID) officers were shot at. Thankfully, those officers were not struck, but such an incident reminds us that we are just a call away from dangerous situations. We are relied on almost every day to resolve disputes, disarm felons, and save lives while putting our own lives at risk. Such constant exposure can affect our mental health. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to take advantage of the services available through our Mental Health & Wellness Bureau.

We recently embarked on a recruitment campaign. Our standards are high and our training is rigorous, and I am confident that through this campaign, we will add officers who will continue to uphold our reputation as one of the best police departments in the country. A big part of what makes us special is our senior officers mentoring the younger generation. Recently, 20 employees retired, who have 525 years of experience collectively. On Friday, July 7, 2023, we welcomed 40 new officers from Basic Law Enforcement Class #139. And on Thursday, September 14, 2023, we added 43 more officers from BLE Class #140. To all of our veteran staff, let us continue to pass along our rich tradition, our high ethics, and core standards.

The Mounted Patrol Unit is back, after a 14-year absence due to budget cuts. The Unit’s first public appearance was Saturday, June 17, 2023, and it has been a part of more than a dozen events since then. The popularity of the horses

is undeniable, they draw in citizens, and in the process, those citizens have conversations with our officers, further strengthening our relationship with the community.

School is back in session, and there are hundreds of children who carry backpacks and supplies with them to their classes, that they received during our Back-to-School events. Our donation drives are a testament to our commitment to the community. I would also like to acknowledge our School Crossing Guards who usher our most precious members of society, our children, to safety every school day, we are thankful for what you do. And speaking of school children, it was my pleasure to attend a recent ice cream party for The Embrace Girls Foundation, Inc., at Arcola Lake Elementary School. The interaction between those young girls and our officers was incredible.

In ending, I want to express my deepest condolences to two families.

Broward Sheriff’s Office Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Terryson Jackson died in the line of duty on August 28, 2023, in a helicopter crash. He was part of a crew flying to assist a citizen in need. Chief Jackson’s ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Seven-year-old Gabriella “Gabby” Elizabeth Rivera passed away on September 6, 2023, after battling a rare form of brain cancer. She is the daughter of RID Detective Roberto Rivera and his wife Tracie Rivera. On behalf of the entire Department, our thoughts and prayers are with you. As our newest tribute car states on the rear bumper, “NO FAMILY FIGHTS CHILDHOOD CANCER ALONE.”

Sincerely,

Stephanie V. Daniels
Interim Director



In Latest Contribution to Miami-Dade Police Department, Milton Family Creates a Stable Home For Mounted Patrol Unit

By Brian Ballou



For 14 years, a section of stables at Tropical Park's Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center went unused, except as a storage space for landscaping tools, broken cabinets, dusty boxes stuffed with papers, and other assorted detritus jam-packed to the ceiling.

The center was the home of the Miami-

Dade Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit until 2009, when the U.S. financial crisis forced deep budget cuts, and the Unit was slashed. There were several attempts in subsequent years to bring it back, but each one fell short. By the time the Department finally did get approval, in 2022, the stables had fallen into disrepair.

The Department did not have to look far to find a local family company capable of pumping new life into the 20 stalls. It is the same firm that first partnered with the Department more than 30 years ago and has continued to contribute through monetary donations, fundraising events, sponsorships, and restoration projects.

"This was really a labor of love for our family, we love horses, we love our police, and we think that the marriage of horses and police and community policing, is perfect," said Ms. Ana VeigaMilton, president of the José Milton Foundation, the philanthropic arm of José Milton & Associates, one of South Florida's leading developers and managers of rental communities and other commercial properties. The company was established in 1965 by the late José Milton, who, along with blueprints and shovels, brought to work a philosophy of giving back to the community.

It took several weeks for two Mounted Patrol Unit officers to clear out the stalls, revealing crumbling and uneven floors, cracked woodwork, and rusted ironwork. After months of work, the stalls had undergone a dramatic transformation, thanks to the José Milton Foundation. Eight of the stalls were converted into utility rooms and a tack room for storage and maintenance of saddles, bridles, and other riding equipment. The Unit's on-site workspace was updated to include air conditioning and a new floor. The roof and doors of the entire section were restructured, sanded, primed, and repainted. The gravel floors were

excavated and leveled for proper drainage. Misting systems were attached to the stalls to cool down the horses and to dispense mosquito repellent when necessary.

Director of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, Ms. Maria Nardi, said during the Grand Reveal press conference on August 30, 2023, "This is just one great example, that with partnerships and donations like we are seeing here today, from the Milton family, we can see extraordinary improvements that will be long-lasting, and will contribute greatly to the common goals and mission and vision that we have to build an extraordinary community."

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said during that event that the Milton family has a "special spot in their heart for law enforcement" and that the family was not content to just restore the site, but that it wanted to create a facility that would serve as a model for other equestrian centers across the country. "What we have here today, is not just restored stables, but a whole new standard of care for our horses and the mounted patrol," Mayor Levine Cava said.

The family's support of the Department began in the early 90's with sponsorship of several fundraising golf tournaments organized by the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT), which raises money for the families of officers killed in the line of duty, and for officers who have experienced debilitating injuries or sickness that prevents them from working. The foundation also sponsored several 5K races that raise money for POAT. The support has since grown beyond donations and fundraising events.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the family donated 5,000 specially designed masks to the Department, along with a \$25,000 check to POAT. On that same day, June 9, 2020, Ms. VeigaMilton learned of another way the family could help the Department. As she was leaving headquarters, she got a call from a longtime family friend, Miami-Dade Police Department Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Hernandez. Over the years, Mr. Hernandez had served as a liaison between the Department and the family, acting as a facilitator. Ms. VeigaMilton returned to headquarters that day for a tour, and after seeing the worn-out condition of three breakrooms, she resolved to give them a makeover. The rooms were heavily used. Staff ate lunch there, personnel took breaks to recharge, and officers and Victim Advocates occasionally met with families. On Wednesday, September 13, 2021, the newly remodeled rooms were unveiled, with new granite counters and cabinetry, new appliances and furniture, domino tables, and flat-screen televisions provided by Legacy Cabinets, operated by brothers Alec and Eric Milton, Junior Board members of the José Milton Foundation.

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Milton Family Creates a Stable Home For Mounted Patrol Unit

Continued from page 2



On Wednesday, August 30, 2023, Members of the Milton family attended the Grand Reveal of the Department's refurbished stables at Tropical Park. The Jose Milton Foundation donated work and materials for the project, and the family has a long history of contributing to the Department. Pictured from left to right, Mr. Alec Milton, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Mr. Cecil Milton, Ms. Ana VeigaMilton, and Mr. Eric Milton (Photo provided by MDPD Social Media Team)

The family again presented a \$25,000 check to POAT.

The family also sponsors a military appreciation luncheon to recognize members of the Armed Forces prior to Veterans Day. The Department has many officers who serve in the military or continue to serve as reserves. The luncheon has become an annual event. During last year's luncheon, Mr. Hernandez brought another project to the attention of the family.

He told Mr. Cecil Milton, the President of United Property Management, about the Mounted Patrol Unit and how the stables needed a lot of work. Mr. Milton did not hesitate to pledge his support.

"It was almost 15 years of abandonment, overgrown weeds, things falling apart, the walls, the ceiling, everything needed to be completely redone," Mr. Milton said during the Grand Reveal. He and his wife, Mrs. VeigaMilton, visited one of the transformed offices. The temperatures outside were sweltering, but the air-conditioned room was pleasant. The company also converted two rooms into office space for POAT.

"We jumped right on it, we're developers, so rehabbing stables was really easy for us; it's been a pleasure," Mr. Milton said.



Collaboration Between Intracoastal District and its Law Enforcement Neighbors Yields a Reduction in Gun Violence

By Brian Ballou

Working with the North Miami Police Department and the North Miami Beach Police Department in early 2023, the Intracoastal District developed a plan to reduce gun violence in all three jurisdictions. The strategy relies on sharing information between all three agencies, and input from officers and supervisors who are familiar with the trouble spots, and the troublemakers.

At the start of the summer, the plan went into effect. A group of approximately 12 officers from all three agencies saturated the trouble spots at least twice a week, particularly during overnight hours. Through mid-August, they made over 35 felony arrests, confiscated over 20 firearms, and almost 500 rounds of ammunition.

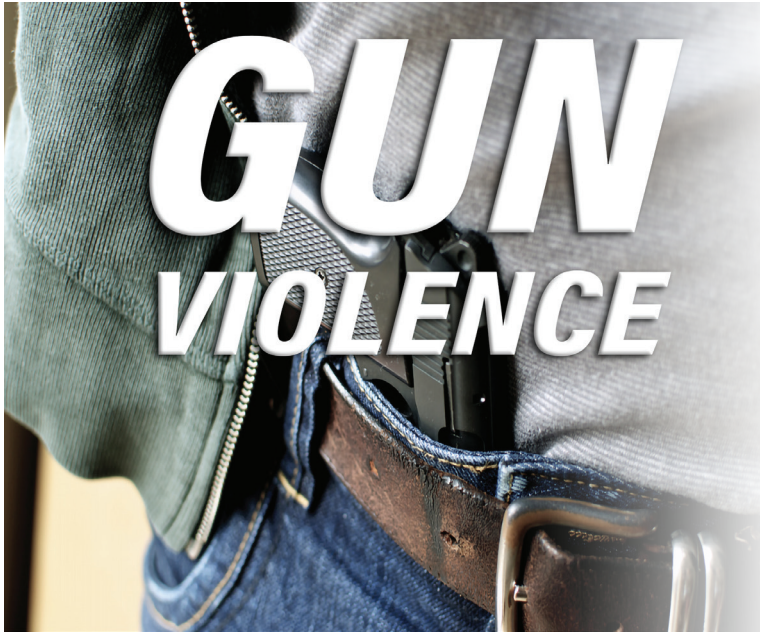
“A lot of our criminal elements, they intersect between the three of us, so beginning in the summer, we worked closely together, doing proactive details in their jurisdictions and in our jurisdiction,” said Intracoastal District Major Jean Volcy. When he was assigned to the District in January 2023, reducing gun violence was his top priority. He enlisted officers from the District’s Crime Suppression Team and General Investigations Unit to be part of the joint initiative. “It has resulted in some pretty good arrests, and has taken a lot of guns off the streets,” said Major Volcy.

In August, officers seized five handguns that had devices known as “switches” on them that converted the weapons to automatic. According to Major Volcy, “To be able to take those five handguns off the streets, from a small area, is significant, our efforts have been fruitful. In comparison to the first four months of 2023, the summer has experienced a significant decline in gun violence.”

Shared intelligence is key in solving cases and diminishing crime, as the perpetrators do not stay within the boundaries of any given municipality.

“We were getting a lot of shootings related to Intracoastal’s jurisdiction and vice versa,” said North Miami Beach Police Captain Lino Diaz. “We started working together, sharing intelligence, and quickly determined that there was information that the County needed, and that we needed to connect the dots,” he said.

The initiative relies on geographic areas defined

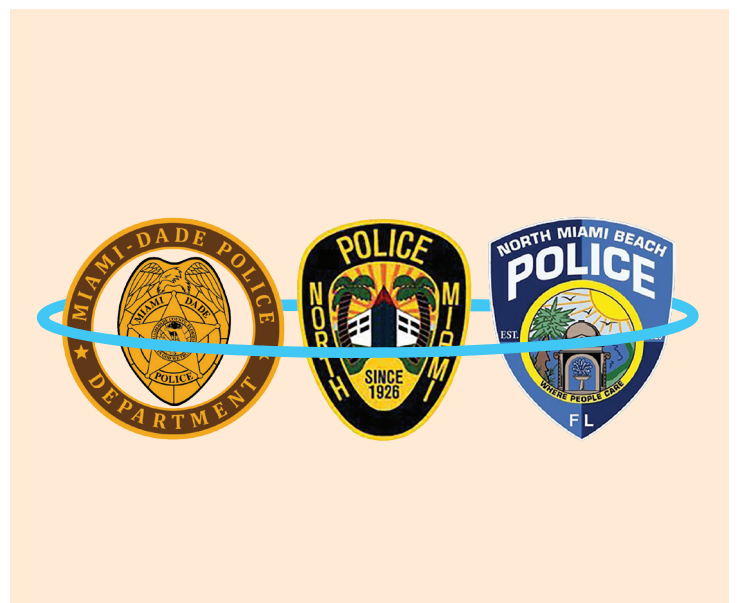


informally as “boxes” where the officers concentrate their efforts, based on intelligence, typically a PowerPoint analysis that identifies a specific area as having a high probability of experiencing gun violence.

Captain Diaz said that recently, the group’s investigation revealed there would be a high likelihood that gun violence would erupt between 1-3 a.m. in a specific area. Officers were dispatched to that box, and while they were there, at 1:30 a.m., the SoundThinking (previously known as ShotSpotter)

acoustic gunshot detection system, relayed to the officers information on a shooting about a half mile from their location. Officers rushed to the location and observed a white Hyundai Genesis leaving the area. The officers followed the vehicle to a gas station, and when they searched the car, found shell casings inside the car that matched those left at the scene.

“Every time we work together, we get the best results,” Captain Diaz said.



Detective Cesar “Echy” Echaverry Remembered

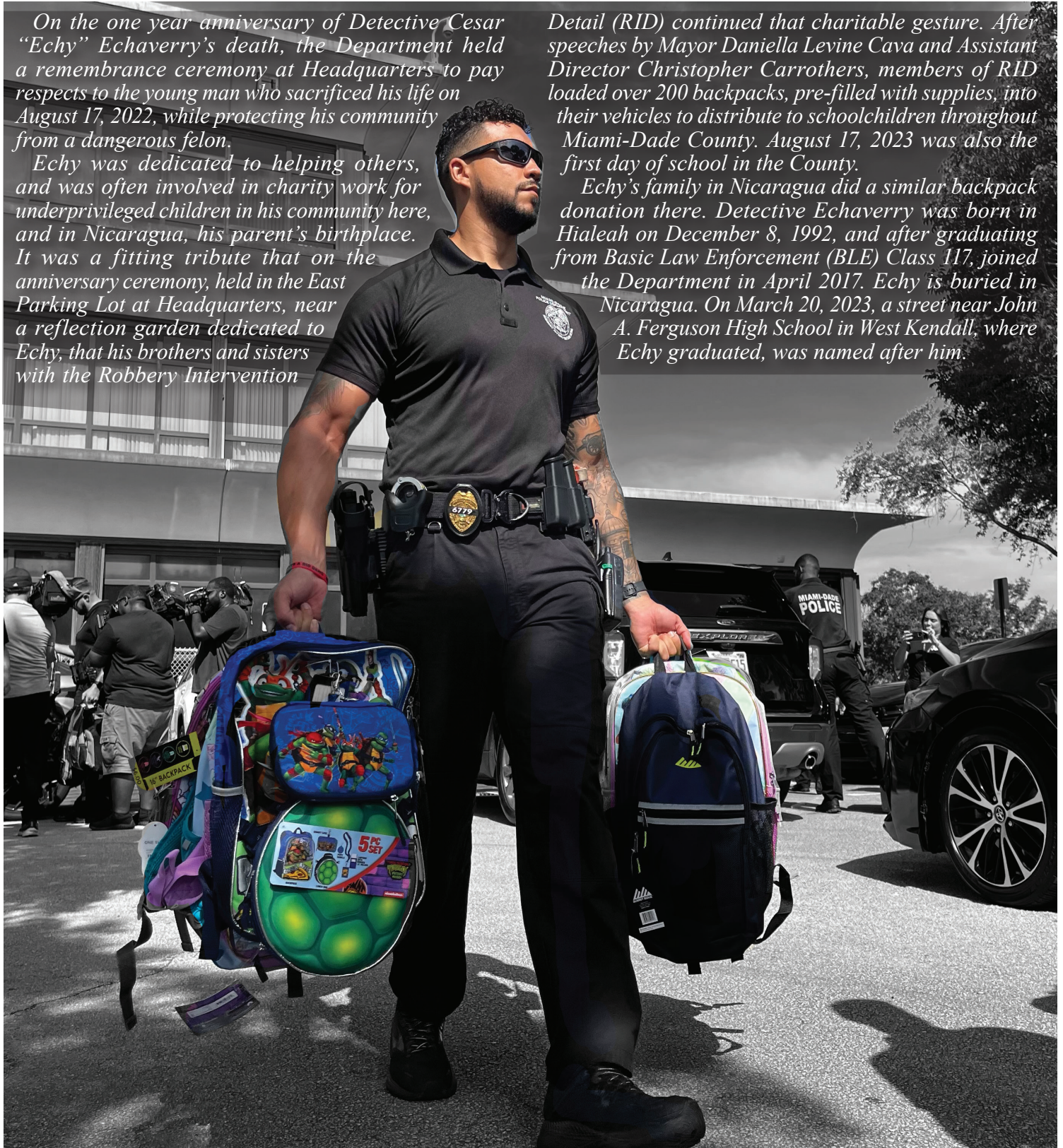
By Brian Ballou

On the one year anniversary of Detective Cesar “Echy” Echaverry’s death, the Department held a remembrance ceremony at Headquarters to pay respects to the young man who sacrificed his life on August 17, 2022, while protecting his community from a dangerous felon.

Echy was dedicated to helping others, and was often involved in charity work for underprivileged children in his community here, and in Nicaragua, his parent’s birthplace. It was a fitting tribute that on the anniversary ceremony, held in the East Parking Lot at Headquarters, near a reflection garden dedicated to Echy, that his brothers and sisters with the Robbery Intervention

Detail (RID) continued that charitable gesture. After speeches by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Assistant Director Christopher Carrothers, members of RID loaded over 200 backpacks, pre-filled with supplies, into their vehicles to distribute to schoolchildren throughout Miami-Dade County. August 17, 2023 was also the first day of school in the County.

Echy’s family in Nicaragua did a similar backpack donation there. Detective Echaverry was born in Hialeah on December 8, 1992, and after graduating from Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) Class 117, joined the Department in April 2017. Echy is buried in Nicaragua. On March 20, 2023, a street near John A. Ferguson High School in West Kendall, where Echy graduated, was named after him.



Sergeant Luis J. Molina, with the Robbery Intervention Detail, helps load donated backpacks into vehicles to be distributed to schoolchildren throughout Miami-Dade County, as part of a tribute ceremony for Detective Echaverry, held at Headquarters on August 17, 2023.

Sibling Officers Turn Lessons Learned in High School Woodshop Class Into Business

By Brian Ballou

Brothers Anthony and Peter Rodriguez excelled in their woodshop class at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School. They crafted miniature off-road trucks, and various knick knacks out of pieces of lumber. When they tried their hand at furniture, they made a nifty lawn chair by interlocking two slabs of wood. Their teacher was so impressed with the chair that he entered it into a high school woodworking contest at the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition. It took the top prize.

After graduating, the brothers joined the military, and then joined the Department. The years passed by, and woodworking, their high school passion, had all but been forgotten. But it was rekindled in 2018, by Officer Peter Rodriguez's son, Joshua Perez, also an officer with the Department, who was making wooden flags out of his garage and selling them for a little extra cash.

"When we found out, we told him that we could help to refine it, with our woodshop experience" Officer Anthony Rodriguez said. "From there it just took off."

Orders for flags started coming in from throughout the Department. The brothers rented out a 610-square foot space in Hialeah Gardens, bought the necessary industrial-grade equipment, and went to work. They call their business the 'Veterans Flag Company,' and cater to police officers and people with prior military service, but they also get requests from schools, businesses, and private citizens. As required, the brothers have approval from the Department for their outside employment.

The Veterans Flag Company was founded by Sergeant Anthony Rodriguez, his brother, Officer Peter Rodriguez, and Officer Peter Rodriguez's two sons, Special Response Team Officer Bryan Rodriguez, and Mr. Joshua Perez, who is a deputy for the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Anthony Rodriguez is assigned to the Northwest District and Officer Peter Rodriguez is assigned to the Airport Operations Bureau.

At any given time, the four have at least ten orders to fill, and on average one order takes six to eight weeks to complete. Most orders are for themed flags. They recently completed a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) flag. Another special project, a flag that promotes Autism awareness, hangs on a wall at the Angels Reach Academy & Foundation, a private elementary school in Miami Lakes. Officer Peter Rodriguez's son, Marshall, attends the school.

Some of their work adorns the walls at Headquarters, district stations, and in offices. Their pieces are on display at the Communications Bureau, and the Airport Operations Bureau. The brothers also donate pieces to charity, to use in raffles or other forms of fundraising. They make ashtrays, coasters, and other curios and personalized retirement plaques.

Retirement from the Department is on the horizon for

the brothers. Officer Anthony Rodriguez is already in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, or DROP, and Officer Peter Rodriguez will sign up in the coming year. They envision taking their woodworking to the next level when they retire, opening up a shop and working full-time, with custom furniture-making and restoration among their services.

"It's been fantastic for us to take something that we learned so long ago and use that skill to make art that has sentimental value to so many of our customers," Officer Peter Rodriguez said.

For more information on the business, and to see some of the artwork, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransFlagCo>

<https://instagram.com/veteransflagco>



Photo left: Sergeant Anthony Rodriguez oversees a project by his nephew, Officer Bryan Rodriguez. Photo below: Officer Peter Rodriguez, with his son, Marshall, holding an Autism Awareness flag created by the company.



Seeking Your Best Ideas on How to Further Progress, Department Launches Suggestion Box

By Brian Ballou

The Miami-Dade Police Department now has a virtual suggestion box and is seeking participation from all staff on how it can further progress.

The purpose of the **MY MDPD Suggestion Box** is to gather fresh ideas from our diverse staff, with the goal to implement the most feasible ones. The suggestion box should not be considered a complaint box, but rather a way to pass along positive suggestions and feedback. While the Department continues to evaluate and advance its performance through statistical-based analysis, meetings with the community, staff accountability, and training, there is value to giving employees a way to offer suggestions and feedback that can help improve their workplace and the Department as a whole. Soliciting suggestions is a clear message to all employees that they are valued and their opinions are appreciated.

The **MY MDPD Suggestion Box** is separate from the County's Idea Machine. The link to the **MY MDPD**

Suggestion Box can be found on the Miami-Dade Police Department portal. By clicking on the link, https://feedback.miamidade.gov/jfe/form/SV_9AXDACn4pwIDehE, the suggestion box page will open. Employees will be asked to provide their full name, rank or title, assignment, and a contact number. Entering the employee name and contact number is optional, and even if left blank, their suggestion will be saved and evaluated. Under "Category Feedback" there is a dropdown box that will offer seven categories. After choosing the category, employees can type their suggestion in the box, which has a limit of 200 words.

If an employee's suggestion is implemented, the employee will be featured in the Alert Newsletter, along with their photograph, rank or title, and their suggestion.



MY MDPD – Suggestion Box
Any bright ideas?

Softball League Feeds Competitive Yearnings For Some Miami-Dade Police Officers, But is Much More Than Homeruns and Double Plays

By Brian Ballou



The Miami 5.0 compete annually in the national Police Softball League, a highly competitive league that hosts a World Series tournament in October.

This is not your typical weekend softball league. Many of the players have big college experience on the baseball diamond and a few have even played professional baseball. The Police Softball League spans from Los Angeles to New York City, with over 400 teams. There is an East Division and West Division and national rankings, with perennial powerhouses like “LAPD Blue” representing the Los Angeles Police Department, usually sitting at or near the top.

Locally, there are two teams that have Miami-Dade Police Department officers on its roster, scratching at the rankings. “Miami 5.0” is ranked 20th nationally and the “Miami Metro Dawgz” is ranked 13th nationally. Lieutenant Nelson Andreu Jr., assigned to the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center, is the captain of the Miami Metro Dawgz team, and Sergeant Anthony Garcia, assigned to the Kendall District, is the captain of Miami 5.0.

The Miami Metro Dawgz has 15 players from the Department, three players from the Broward Sheriff’s Office, and two from the Miami Police Department. The team has been in the League since 2009. At least 40 players from the Department have been on the team since it started.

“We started at the bottom and have worked our way up to national recognition in the league,” Lieutenant Andreu

said. A team comprised solely of players from the Department won the annual First Responder Games softball tournament held in June 2023 in Tampa. The rules of the tournament require that teams representing large agencies, with over 500 officers, cannot have players from other agencies on the roster. Forty teams entered that tournament.

Aside from the obvious benefits of exercise, sports leagues for law enforcement agencies are a great way for police officers to build pride and comradery, and is a form of mutual support and stress relief between teammates who understand the demands of the profession. Furthermore,

events such as the First Responder Games and leagues specifically for law enforcement can be an excellent public relations and recruitment tool.

Miami 5.0 has six players from the Department, out of 22 players from 8 different agencies, including the Doral Police Department, Key Biscayne Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department, and the Pembroke Pines Police Department. The team joined the League in 2019.

“We have a great time, our families are out there watching, the kids go, they wear matching jerseys,” Sergeant Garcia said. “For us, police softball and specifically Miami 5.0 is a brotherhood. We all depend on each other on the field a few weekends out of the year but more importantly we depend on each other every day in our daily lives. Every person on this team has the full support of 21 other individuals at any second of the day, there’s no price you can pay for that.”

The two teams recently participated in a tournament in West Palm Beach and out of 20 teams, Miami 5.0 placed fourth and the Miami Metro Dawgz placed third.

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Softball League Feeds Competitive Yearnings . . .

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The Miami Metro Dawgz compete annually in the national Police Softball League, a highly competitive league that hosts a World Series tournament in October.

Both teams are projected to do very well in the League's World Series tournament in October, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The league's website is www.PoliceSoftball.com.

While not officially sanctioned by the Department - the uniforms do not have any departmental branding and the teams do not receive any funding from the Department - the teams do have the blessing of the Director's Office. "We know that as officers of the Miami-Dade Police Department, we always reflect it, and so sportsmanship is the number one thing," Sergeant Garcia said.

Given all the different agencies, it is sometimes hard to find practice times that fit everyone's schedule, but they manage to make it work. Some teams in other regions and states are organized through their respective departments and get internal practice time and funding.

The tournaments that the two teams participate in are mostly in-state, and teams have to qualify for the World Series by attaining a high rank. The first in-state tournament of the season is in February, followed by tournaments in West Palm Beach and in Jacksonville. The teams also travel throughout the East region, and each member pays for their travel expense.

The teams also coordinate and participate in fundraising tournaments to raise money for the families of officers killed in the line of duty or who

are otherwise in need of money due to unforeseen circumstances. Officer Garcia recently organized three fundraising tournaments to benefit the families of officers who died in 2022 and 2023, including Officer Cesar "Echy" Echaverry Jr., who was a member of Miami 5.0, Officer Andrew Gomez, of the Kendall District, who died of a chronic health condition, and Pembroke Pines Police Officer Charles Herring, who died in a tragic accident while riding his Department motorcycle on duty. The tournaments raised a total of over \$100,000 for the three families.

Soon after joining the league 20 years ago, the Miami Metro Dawgz held a local tournament to raise funds for the family of a

Miami-Dade Police Officer whose son was diagnosed with cancer. The team also did a fundraiser for former Northside Major Ricky Carter, who lost his legs in a motorcycle accident in 2017.

"It's competitive softball, but it is more than that for us," Lieutenant Andreu said. "It is a way for us to give back to the Department that has done so much for us, and to extend that to other officers in need."

The teams coordinate with the Department and with the Police Officer Assistance Trust to assist families.

Playing the game is not as easy for him as it was in his twenties and thirties, but Lieutenant Andreu still has moments at the plate. He prefers now to mostly play the role of manager, and allow the younger players to provide the highlights.

"We represent the Department with pride and dignity, and build bonds outside of our police work," he said. "It is nice to get away, to take time off from the stress of police work, to unplug and unwind playing softball."



Neighborhood Resource Unit Officer Is the Spark Behind an Appreciation Celebration for Former Homeless People in Northside District

By Brian Ballou

They have lived under bridges, scavenged for food, bathed in rain water puddles, and gone unnoticed by passers-by, but that dire life of homelessness is no longer the reality for many people in the Northside District, thanks to the outreach of numerous agencies, including the Miami-Dade Police Department.

The Northside District has some of the poorest neighborhoods in all of Miami-Dade County, and the District's Neighborhood Resource Unit makes contact with the homeless every day. Part of the Unit's duties include enforcing the dismantling of illegal encampments, those haphazard structures made of discarded wood, cardboard, tarp, and any other material that could serve to insulate humans from the elements. But whenever and wherever the Unit enforces such law, it also brings help.

"We bring the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust with us, or any type of social service agency that may be available to come out with us on that day, so that we offer the homeless help as we are telling them that they have to leave," said Officer Fredrieka Simpo. "We've done so many of those enforcements, and each time, you

may get one of two of them who will accept the help. And so recently, I was thinking about what happened to all those people."

After weeks of research, she learned that many of them had transitioned from homeless shelters to apartments at the Northside Commons, a modern 80-unit building on 8301 NW 27 Avenue in Miami, within the Northside District. The building is owned and managed by Carrfour Supportive Housing, a non-profit organization that was established in 1993 by the Homeless Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, to provide private, affordable housing for individuals and families in need.

"When I found out about that, I thought to myself that these survivors of homelessness should have a day of recognition and motivation, so I started putting together an event at a place where I knew they would feel comfortable, their new home," Officer Simpo said. On Thursday, August 3, 2023, the party was held on the second floor parking landing at Northside Commons, and approximately 40

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Members of the Northside District Neighborhood Resource Unit recently held an appreciation event for former homeless people who now live in the Northside Commons.

Neighborhood Resource Unit Officer Is the Spark Behind an Appreciation Celebration . . . *Continued from page 10*

former homeless residents, who now live in the building, showed up. The event was called “Survivors of Homelessness: A Day of Recognition and Motivation.”

Lieutenant Luis Perez Jr., the supervisor of the Unit, said, “As part of the Neighborhood Resource Unit, we partner with a lot of local, County and private organizations, to try to make as much of an impact as we can. I’m very happy for the turnout today because one of our major focuses is the homeless epidemic. I would like to commend all of you for coming out today, to either help towards the movement, or for taking the steps to help better your life.”

There were racks of clothing and shoes donated by Northside officers, and plenty of food for the tenants to take back to their apartments. North Operations Division Chief Shawn Browne, formerly the Northside District’s Major, donated a bike, which went to a young boy, and another member of the Unit, Officer Wideline Anestor, also donated a women’s bicycle. Detective Maguelena Aldophe donated a 50” television to a man who did not have a TV in his apartment. There were raffle giveaways, stacks of Tupperware and other kitchen and home items for the tenants, and a barbecue buffet. A representative from the Office of State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle was present to help any of the tenants navigate any legal issues that may impede them from employment, such as the process to expunge criminal records, if they meet the criteria. And there was even a barber on hand, to offer tenants haircuts at no expense.

Ms. Jeanne Albaugh, formerly homeless, but now the founder and CEO of Showering Love, gave an

inspirational speech, telling the attendees, “Twelve years ago, I went from begging for change, to accepting change, to being the change I want to be in the world.” Her organization operates two buses that are retrofitted with amenities for the homeless population, including showers, washers and dryers, and a barber’s chair with a barber on staff. The buses offer free medical screening, and is stocked with clothing and hygiene kits. The buses visit areas in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

Officer Simpo said that while the ultimate goal is for those individuals who were formerly homeless to be self-sufficient, they still are in need of assistance, whether that is help them with mental health issues, drug or alcohol dependency, education and job training, or financial assistance. “Clothing and food and rent is expensive,” she said. Leading up to the appreciation party, she organized a clothing drive in the Northside District station. She posted a flyer throughout the building and the officers and professional staff responded with plenty of items, stuffing large boxes on the first and second floors.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, who represents District 2, and the Northside Shopping Center, located directly across the street from the event, donated money to pay for the food that was served at the event.

“This came out great, and I’m excited that the message was given and that they do feel appreciated, and seen,” Officer Simpo said.

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Hurricane Season | June 1 - November 30

2023

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY



Northwest District Officer And Husband Are Prolific Barbecue Sauce Makers

By Brian Ballou



Officer Kenia Breedlove and her husband have painstakingly assembled a line of barbecue sauces that are all-natural and low sugar.

Officer Kenia Breedlove's living room and kitchen are crammed with assorted cookware, utensils, measuring cups, spices, and cardboard boxes containing plastic bottles and adhesive labels, everything that she and her husband, Chef Billy Breedlove, need to create and package barbecue sauces, wing sauce, hot sauce, and salad dressings.

Those supplies would normally be tucked away in a pantry at their 2,000 square-foot restaurant in Kendall, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it forced them to shut down. They decided to reinvent their business, and instead of serving brisket, pulled pork, ribs, and other traditional barbecue plates and sides at a restaurant, they built up a line, from home, of over 20 "Café 305" handcrafted barbecue sauces, hot sauces, and dressings; and began selling them online, and at farmer's markets.

Her kitchen resembles a test laboratory, and perfecting a single recipe can take weeks. All of their products are made with natural ingredients and no preservatives. And because the sauces have lower sugar content, they can be used as flavoring for other recipes, as a marinade, and for people who are on sugar restrictive diets. By the time they get a barbecue sauce in the bottle for sale, they have gone through about a dozen variations.

"Everything happens in my kitchen right now, my house is all business, there's no personal stuff," she said. "The whole first floor is like that, the business took over. But eventually I'd like to reclaim my house."

The couple would like to open a local restaurant again in about a year's time, and then branch out to other states, such as Tennessee, Maryland, and Illinois.

Given her side job, Officer Breedlove, who was born and raised in New York City, is in high demand at the Northwest District Station whenever there is a cookout. "Yup, every time there is an event, they want me to bring food and sauce, so I always end up cooking for the station. And sometimes, even when there isn't an event, I'll bring food, like this past Monday, just because."

In addition to the sauces and dressings, she does offer ready-to-eat barbecue locally through the website, and gets some sells through word-of-mouth.

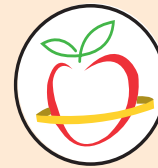
Her culinary life is a departure from her job at the station, where she staffs the front desk. On any given weekday, she helps dozens of visitors with background check applications. A line begins forming in the front of the station as early as 4:00 a.m., five hours before the lobby opens. Officer Breedlove also helps citizens with any other assistance they need, whether it is pulling paperwork on cases, or taking calls from residents about quality-of-life issues in their neighborhood. She has been with the Department since 2005.

Some days at work can be more exhausting than others, but she still puts in several hours each night working with her husband to tweak recipes until they are to their liking, and even then, they will seek feedback from their neighbors and coworkers.

"We have tasting parties at my house, take notes, and go back to the lab," she said.

Their products can be purchased from the company website: www.cafe305bbq.com.

The WELLNESS CORNER



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another intimate partner (Psychology Today). It is so much more than physical abuse. Domestic violence also encompasses verbal, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. It can also take place in different settings, such as in a marriage, domestic partnership, dating relationship, and even among former spouses. Other family members, such as children, parents, and the elderly, can be directly and indirectly affected by domestic violence in the household. Furthermore, domestic violence is prevalent in every community and affects all people. It is not exclusive to a specific gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious belief, or social economic status. Ultimately, domestic violence can impact all facets of a victim's life to include short-term and long-term effects of physical injuries, emotional or mental distress, and financial hardships.

Statistics

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. For one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the United States. Additionally, 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.

According to the Department of Children and Families, 106,515 crimes of domestic violence were reported to Florida law enforcement agencies in 2020, resulting in 63,217 arrests. Miami-Dade County reported 7,570 cases of domestic violence in 2020, according to the latest figures available from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It should be noted that domestic violence



is not always reported and may be underrepresented in statistical data. A barrier to reporting domestic violence can be due to intimidation of the perpetrator against the victim.

Flags

Power and control are the hallmark traits of domestic violence. Manipulative tactics are often used by perpetrators to maintain control over their victims. These methods of treatment indicate that the behavior of the abuser is not random or arbitrary, but purposeful and systematic. Identifying red flags in an unhealthy relationship can help prevent someone from becoming a victim of domestic violence. Some of these red flags are verbal abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, isolation, intimidation, threats to children or other family members, sexual abuse, and using citizenship or residency privilege (The Duluth Model, Power and Control Wheel).

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Since 1989, the month of October has been designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The purple ribbon is a symbol used to promote awareness and discussion about domestic violence. The goal of this

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October is Domestic Violence Awareness . . . *Continued from page 13*

yearly campaign is to help the community understand the importance of addressing domestic violence, as well as bring awareness to families who may be struggling. Awareness is a key component to early intervention and preventative measures to stop the cycle of violence. Abuse is never the victim's fault.

Unfortunately, the effects of domestic violence are associated with a wide range of chronic physical and mental health ailments. Studies have found that people with a history of abuse are more likely to report health issues such as headaches, back pain, and gastrointestinal issues. Additionally, victims have an increased risk for anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide. Ultimately, domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. Bringing awareness and learning about local resources are key to creating change.

Resources Available

Being familiar with the resources that are available can make a significant difference. The Miami-Dade

Police Department (MDPD) offers its employees a variety of mental health services. The Mental Health & Wellness Bureau, Psychological Services Section, has licensed clinicians available to assist anyone who may be impacted by domestic violence or other mental health related concerns. Additionally, the MDPD has a Victim Advocate Program that specializes in assisting victims of domestic violence. For further information, please call (305) 591-1106.

References:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement, offenses by county 2020 – <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence – <https://ncadv.org>

Psychology Today - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/domestic-violence>

The Duluth Model - [Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs \(theduluthmodel.org\)](http://theduluthmodel.org)

STOP 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)



Longtime Miami-Dade Police Department Explorer Program Advisors Helping to Shape Young Lives

By Brian Ballou



Hammocks District Officer Arlene Jimenez was advisor to Gerardo Perez III when he was an Explorer from 2005 to 2011. Officer Perez is currently assigned to the Hammocks District.

Tucked inside Officer Arlene Jimenez's desk drawer is a folder stuffed with snapshots, some Polaroids, of the hundreds of young men and women she has supervised over the past 20 years at the Hammocks District, as part of the Miami-Dade Police Department Explorer Program. Mixed in with the photos are letters from former cadets, thanking her for the time she took to mentor them, and giving her updates on milestones in their lives, like births, marriage, and new jobs.

Many of her former cadets work in the criminal justice field, including within the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal agencies, or as crime analysts, attorneys and probation officers, and some serve in the military. The Department counts dozens of former Explorers in its ranks.

Twenty years ago, Officer Jimenez was on road patrol, working midnights in the Hammocks District, when the position of Police Explorer Program Advisor opened up. She applied and got the job. Advisors are selected based primarily on their interpersonal skills, and work out of their district's Neighborhood Resource Unit. Eight districts have an Explorer post; Intracoastal, Northside, Northwest, Midwest, Hammocks, Kendall, South, and the Town of Miami Lakes. The program is year-round, and includes a summer academy that is modeled after the Department's

police academy, weekly meetings, and the South Florida Explorer Competition, a three-day event held during spring break, between Explorer posts throughout Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward Counties.

As she leafed through the photos recently, Officer Jimenez beamed with pride at the achievements of many of her former cadets, including one who was awarded "2022 Officer of the Year" by the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. Doral Police Department Officer Daniel Vilarchao had only been on the job for six months when he helped subdue an armed subject on October 21, 2021, likely preventing innocent civilians from being harmed. Officer Vilarchao sustained facial injuries from one of the rounds fired by the subject, but he made a full recovery.

Officer Jimenez recently ran into another former cadet who is an attorney in the Kendall area. He is married and has two children, and invited Officer Jimenez to

his house to meet his family. He told her that his time as a cadet helped shape him as an adult. "It's rewarding to hear that, to know that I was a positive influence in his life," Officer Jimenez said.

Officer Rosmel Hurtado, who is a co-advisor with Officer Jimenez at the Hammocks District, said, "She has a special way with the cadets, and I've learned patience and discipline from her. The kids call her Momma Arlene. We really care about the kids, treat them like they're our own, because we want them to be something, to have success."

At the Hammocks District, there are seven officers who were cadets there. Officer Gerardo Perez III was an Explorer from 2005 through 2011. When he was 18, he was contemplating asking his girlfriend to marry him. He even carried around an engagement ring. After a weekly Explorer meeting at the Hammocks District, he asked Officer Jimenez for her opinion, and she spoke privately with him. Officer Perez eventually decided to hold off from getting married at such a young age.

"I've known her since I was 14," Officer Perez said. "She has always been there for me, she is like a second mom." He said his time as an Explorer convinced him to become a police officer. "It was a great experience, I got to see what police officers go through."

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Explorer Program Advisors Helping to Shape Young Lives

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Midwest District Officer Sabrina Toledo was advisor to Oman Galban when he went through the Explorer Program in 2014. Mr. Galban is now an officer with the Medley Police Department, and won that Department's 2022 Officer of the Year award.

Officer Sabrina Toledo, assigned to the Neighborhood Resource Unit at the Midwest District, has also been a Police Explorer Advisor for two decades. In 2017, she received the William H. Spurgeon III Award, given out by Learning For Life, an organization created by the Boy Scouts of America to oversee the Explorer Program. The award is the highest national recognition in leadership in the Explorer Program. Officer Toledo is one of only five Explorer advisors in South Florida to ever win the award.

Many of her former cadets are also officers within the Department, and occasionally stop her to thank her. "It's been a great experience, and proof that what I've done over the years has had a positive effect."

One of her former students, Medley Police Officer Oman Galban, was awarded his department's "2022 Officer of the Year," after receiving a lifesaving award, and a commendation for catching a felony suspect. In accepting the award, he thanked "everyone that has mentored me along the way." Officer Galban went through the Explorer Program at Midwest District in 2014.

Medley Police Department Lieutenant Arturo Jinet, who works closely with Officer Toledo on the annual competition between Explorer posts in South Florida, said "she is a shining example of an officer who invests

in youth and has a positive influence on their lives. She has definitely been like a mother to many of the cadets, taking them to Marlins games, giving them rides when they are in a pinch. The work she puts in for those kids is incredible, she truly helps them prepare for adulthood."

Lieutenant Jinet is the chairperson for the annual competition, but said that Officer Toledo "is the brains of the actual competition." The event includes scenarios such as traffic stops, Baker Act procedure, and crime scene evaluation, and the cadets are judged based on their performance. As many as 20 Explorer posts from throughout South Florida participate.

The Department's Explorer Program is a way for high school students to fulfill their community service requirement necessary to graduate. Candidates must be between the ages of 14 and 17 to enroll and the age limit is 20. The cadets wear uniforms at all functions, and are assigned rank.

The academy is physically challenging with lots of calisthenics, and the cadets are constantly quizzed on radio codes and law enforcement regulations. Training exercises include building searches and responding to mock domestic situations. They also do team-building

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Explorer Program Advisors Helping to Shape Young Lives

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exercises, help the Department at weekend events such as food drives, and assist Miami-Dade County Commissioners at their respective events. Explorers also go on leisurely, fun outings, like to Universal Studios, pizza nights, and canoeing, perks that are hard earned.

“Not every high school student is willing to wake up early during the summer break to do calisthenics and stand at attention while instructors shout at them,” Officer Hurtado said.

“It’s interesting, you think they would tone it down at the academy so they don’t scare them away, because they’re juveniles and it’s their summer vacation, and you would think it’s the last thing they want to do, to get yelled at or told to run. But the kids push each other, and they don’t quit.”

Diane Hickman, the Director for Learning For Life and Exploring, South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America, said that the Miami-Dade Police Department Explorer Program is among the best in South Florida, because of advisors like Officers Jimenez and Toledo.

“The Explorer Program needs a powerful presence of role models, and the Miami-Dade Police Department has just that,” Ms. Hickman said. “You have some amazingly powerful women in the Department, strong women who are great role models, who teach the young women in the program that it is OK to be strong, to be proud of who you are.”

Ms. Hickman oversees approximately 60 Explorer posts throughout the South Florida region. She said Officer Toledo has been indispensable in helping her throughout her time as Director, since 2007. Officer Toledo helped organize the first ever annual competition in 2008, and has been a presence at every one since.

“I’ve seen many faces come and go over the years, but she’s the only one who has been there since the beginning,” Ms. Hickman said.

For additional details on the Miami-Dade Police Explorer Program, including contact information, please visit: <https://www.miamidade.gov/police/library/explorer-brochure.pdf>.



MDPD recently said farewell to 20 employees (15 sworn officers and 5 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 8 to 35 years. Interim Director Stephanie V. Daniels, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn	
Lieutenant Midiala Dominguez	26
Lieutenant Richard Garcia	29
Sergeant Andrew Cohen	29
Sergeant Armando J. Planas	30
Officer Otto L. Ablanedo	31
Officer Terese L. D Arecca	16
Officer Tracy L. Golub	26
Officer Omar Gomez	30



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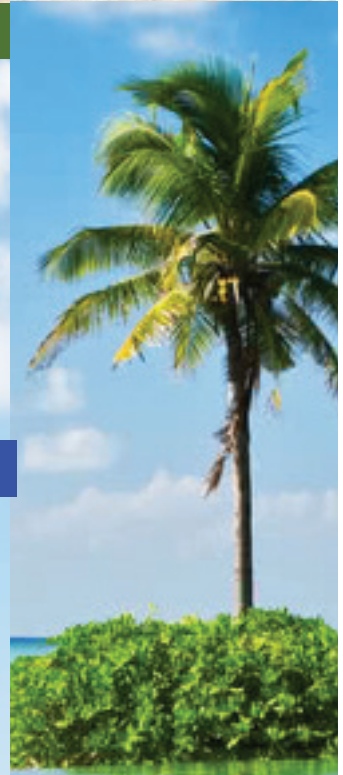
Recent Retirements

Sworn

Officer Jimmy L. Harrell	31
Officer Micheal A. Johnson	26
Officer Stephen K. Magwood	27
Officer Martin E. Moraitis	23
Officer Richard J. Oliveri	30
Officer Doris E. Roman	26
Officer Ronald E. Tookes	32

Professional Staff

School Crossing Guard Anabell Abad	8
Police Complaint Officer Anabelle Betancourt	22
Police Records Technician 1 Vanessa W. Butts	35
Police Complaint Officer Maria M. Cruz	25
MDPD Intelligence Analyst Evelyn Muniz	23



Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held a successful blood drives at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on June 29, 2023, and August 24, 2023. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Major Fernand Charles Jr.
 Major Javier I. Ruiz
 Lieutenant Evens Gabriel Jr.
 Sergeant Justin S. Anglin
 Sergeant Pedro Camacho Jr.
 Sergeant Eduardo J. Gaitan

Sergeant Demetruiis D. Johnson
 Sergeant Ronald Perez
 Sergeant Petra R. Reeves-Evans
 Sergeant Michael R. Scott
 Officer Marvin F. Davis
 Officer Hunter F. Grimm

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Thank You Blood Donors!

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Officer Ricardo Landrian
 Officer Giovanni Marrero Portela
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 MDPD Criminalist Supervisor Sharon D. Hinz
 Imaging Records Technician Jeffrey Johnson
 Personnel Technician Oneida Ortega
 Public Service Aide Frantz Point Du Jour
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 Criminalist 1 Michelle A. Rozo
 Police Records Specialist 1 Rodrigo A. Sepulveda
 Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson
 Mr. Julio Alonso
 Ms. Digna Cabral
 Ms. Thalia Fernandez Cedre
 Mr. Lazaro Comas
 Mr. Joseph Cox
 Ms. Doretta Crooks
 Mr. Simon Duran

Ms. Ana Faria
 Mr. Andrius Gonzalez
 Mr. Luis Guerra
 Ms. Munira Kadid
 Mr. Taufik Kadid
 Mr. Michael Mathon
 Mr. Yilbert Mendez
 Mr. William Monahan
 Ms. Alejandra Montecinos
 Ms. Carletha Nixon
 Mr. Yoel Noya
 Mr. George Perera
 Ms. Lucia Reyes
 Ms. Iraides Salazar
 Ms. Ligia Mendez Sanchez
 Mr. Michael Santos
 Ms. Kathleen Spruill
 Mr. Francisco Suarez
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