

Despite High Profile Incidents Data Shows a Decrease in Juvenile Crime



Director Juan J. Perez being interviewed by TV reporter.

The news release from the Office of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez on December 12, 2016, noted that Florida Governor Rick Scott had recognized Miami-Dade County “...for having the largest decrease in juvenile arrests over the last fiscal year in the state of Florida.”

“Miami-Dade County has seen a 12 percent decrease in juvenile crime,” the news release noted.

These statistics probably come as a surprise to most people, especially those who are more than casual consumers of news. The horrific killings of young people, especially the heartrending murders of very young children, clearly shook and outraged citizens. They have made Miami-Dade County seem like ground-zero for juvenile crime and child murders. Indeed, in a recent interview, WTVJ/NBC 6 reporter Stephanie Bertini asked Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Director Juan J. Perez about what she described as “spiking numbers” in crimes involving young people and the killing of children.

“I don’t think there’s been a spike,” Director Perez responded. There

had been seven children killed as a result of gun violence in 2016, the same number as 2015. And the number of children shot in 2016, was in fact down from the previous year. But, he emphasized, the MDPD was not “touting success.”

“That’s not success,” he said, “because we still had the shootings. We still had the murders. Enough is enough. We have to solve this. We can bring the numbers down. We must continue to work until we have no kids killed in our community...no kids shot in our community.”

In addressing the issue of juvenile crime, the Director said, the MDPD was looking at measures beyond traditional law enforcement activity. The Department was partnering with several government and non-government agencies and organizations to identify and intervene with “at risk youth” before these young people become involved in crime.

If his detectives were investigating the killing of a child, or a shooting by a youth, the Director said, “then it was too late for that child or that youth.”

“Regardless of race, ethnicity or social status, if you put a child in a situation of violence and abuse, whether they experienced it or just observed it, there is a greater likelihood that they will adopt those behaviors.” He added, “We need to identify those at risk kids early, and intervene early, to make sure they don’t lose hope. When they lose hope, they lose fear. When they lose fear, they will pull a trigger. If we can break that cycle, early on, give that

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child some hope, that child will have an opportunity to become a productive citizen.”

“What is needed is a lot of resources working together to solve the problem,” Director Perez said.

He said this mission was shared by Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, the County Commissioners, the leadership of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and a range of organizations such as the Children’s Trust along with Congresswoman Frederica Wilson’s 500 Role Models of Excellence. The goal is to identify resources which could give hope to “at risk youth.”

The Director also responded to a question about the public’s so-called “no snitch culture.” This, he said, was a narrative that needed to be corrected. It was not true that there were entire communities which do not cooperate with the police. “I want people to understand

that people do call the police in those neighborhoods. The reason we respond to a shooting where a child has been hit, is because people do call. The reason we were able to make arrests in the King Carter case and bring justice to that family, was because people did call the police. People did cooperate with the police. The calls are coming in. The assistance is coming in.”

He also responded to the question of the impact that youth crime has on his officers.

“It’s heart-wrenching for the officers,” he said. “The majority of police officers have kids. We cherish our kids. We understand that they’re the future of our families, the future of this community, and the future of the whole country.”

Because of this, Director Perez said investigators addressed these cases with a greater sense of urgency.

The Heller & Bolinger Family: Decades of Public Service through Law Enforcement

One of the more popular shows on broadcast television tells the story of a family which serves its community through law enforcement. Frank Reagan, is a “beat cop” who worked his way up through the ranks to become Police Commissioner, following the exact path taken by his father, Henry, now retired. Frank’s daughter, Erin, is an Assistant District Attorney, his second son, Danny, is a homicide detective, and his youngest, Jamie, a Harvard Law School graduate, is a “beat cop.” Middle son, Joe, was also a police officer, but was killed in the line of duty.

It’s all fiction...the creation of television producers Leonard Goldberg, Mitchell Burgess, and Robin Green, along with a large team of writers.

It could have been seen as a case of art imitating life; that is, if Goldberg and his team had based their television show in south Florida instead of New York. Here, we have a real family with even more extensive and long standing involvement in law enforcement, than the fictional Reagans of New York.

Here’s why, last September 28, when MDPD Director Juan J. Perez swore-in a record 141 new officers, who had graduated from various training programs run by the MDPD’s Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute (MDPSTI), several of the newly sworn officers had relatives who had themselves been police officers. However, one stood out from this sub-group.

Justin Heller is a third generation MDPD officer on



THE HELLERS AND BOLINGERS SIT DOWN FOR A TV INTERVIEW AT MDPD HEADQUARTERS: [L-R] Irving Heller, Harry Bolinger, Janna Bolinger-Heller, Randy Heller and Wendy Heller-Sotero.

both sides of his family. His father, Randy Heller, was an Assistant Director at MDPD when he retired in May 2016. His mother, Janna Bolinger-Heller, is currently a Captain in the Department’s Homeland Security Bureau. His aunt, Wendy Heller-Sotero, is an officer in the MDPD’s Public Information and Education Bureau where, for the past 24-years, she has been assigned to the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, which works to steer young people away from substance abuse. His uncle, Michael Bradley, is an officer with the North Miami Beach Police Department.

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The Heller & Bolinger Family...

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GENERATIONS OF SERVICE THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT:
[L-R] Irving Heller, Wendy Heller, Randy Heller, Justin Heller, Janna Bolinger-Heller, Harry Bolinger and Bradley Bolinger.

But the Heller-Bolinger connection to law enforcement in south Florida goes back even further.

Irving ‘Red’ Heller, Justin’s paternal grandfather, joined the Dade County Public Safety Department (DCPSD), the forerunner of MDPD, in 1958. He was an MDPD Assistant Director when he retired 43-years later.

Harry Bolinger, Justin’s maternal grandfather, was with the Indiana State Police before moving his family to south Florida in 1972 and joining the then DCPSD. When he retired in June 2003, Harry Bolinger was the Commander of the MDPD’s Crime Scene Investigations Bureau (CSIB).

In the television show we referenced, Assistant District Attorney Erin Reagan is determined to direct her teenaged daughter, Nicky, away from police work. This is an exceedingly difficult job, given that every Sunday this fictional family sits down to dinner together. With a retired commissioner, the incumbent commissioner, a homicide detective, and a patrol officer at the table, the conversation is inevitably dominated by law enforcement issues.

Real-life MDPD rookie officer, Justin Heller, can identify. “Growing up, the earliest thing I can remember is there was never a time when there wasn’t a green and white [the colors of MDPD patrol cars] parked in front of our house,” he says.

“One Halloween I used my ‘green and white’ to stage a homicide scene in the front yard,” his mother confesses.

“They never really pushed law enforcement on me,” Justin says.

His mother, father, aunt, and grandfathers remember their attempts to influence him away from a career in law

enforcement, being more direct than that. “We just didn’t encourage him to be a law enforcement officer,” says his mother, Janna. “As dangerous as law enforcement has become, we were trying to steer him elsewhere.”

“At one time, we tried to steer him to do something else,” says his father, Randy.

“Like the rest of the family, I was encouraging him to do anything else than to go into law enforcement,” says Granddad, Harry.

“But they always stressed the importance of helping others, of public service,” Justin remembers, and he inevitably made the connection between public service and law enforcement.

Realizing they were fighting a losing battle, Justin’s parents and other adult relatives insisted on one thing. Whatever he decided to do with his life, he must first get an education. So Justin went to the University of Central Florida where he obtained his bachelor’s degree. Then, as his father puts it, “for icing on the cake, he went to the University of Florida and got his master’s degree in political science and public affairs.”

No one in the Heller-Bolinger family had any doubt as to what his next move would be.

In interviews just days before his graduation from the MDPSTI, and swearing in as a police officer, the Hellers and Bolingers admitted to being proud of his decision to continue the family legacy; even as they acknowledged the greater dangers which face police officers, compared to the days when they served.

“Justin has done everything that we’ve done and taken on those same kinds of feelings and roles toward what he’s doing,” said his mother, Janna. “I’m very proud of him.”

Retired MDPD Assistant Director Randy Heller admitted, “the most important thing I could stress here is that the Heller/Bolinger family has always tried to stay humble. Justin takes that on. We’re very proud that he’s following our footsteps.”

Says his aunt, DARE Officer Heller-Sotero, “Justin’s very special to me. I’m, very proud of Justin.”

Maternal grandfather, Harry Bolinger, the retired Commander of MDPD’s CSIB concurs, “Policing is far more challenging today. It absolutely takes more courage to be a police officer today, than it did when I was at that stage. But I’ve already told him that this was a very good move for him to apply here.”

Paternal grandfather, Irving ‘Red’ Heller, who like his son, was an Assistant Director when he retired from the MDPD, and who claims seniority (at 83, he is six-months older than Harry Bolinger) speaks for the entire clan... “I’m

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The Heller & Bolinger Family...

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proud of my grandson. I'm proud of my family. I'm proud of the Hellers. I'm proud of the Bolinger family. Let's just continue doing what we do. What we do best is have respect for the community, for MDPD, and our Nation, especially under these trying times."

He is also the only member of the clan to express

any regret... "The only regret I have as I look down the line, is that I may not be around when Justin becomes an Assistant Director or the Director of this Department, but I'll see him from up there."

Police Complaint Officers and Dispatchers A Stressful and Sometimes Thankless Job



Investigative Specialist Lisa McAndrew reflects on her 29 year career with MDPD.

In discussions about police/community relations, it is noted that encounters between police officers and members of the community often take place when people are undergoing some of their worst experiences. This fact, commentators say, can color the encounter and take it in a negative direction.

But as any police officer will acknowledge, not all of these encounters take place at stressful times. There are many exceptions.

There is, however, a group of workers in the law enforcement community, for whom there is no exception. Their encounters with the members of the public are always at times of stress, even disaster; anything from a missing child, to a violent death, and everything in-between. These are the 911 Police Complaint Officers and Dispatchers in the Department's Communications Bureau. Too often, largely because they perform behind the scenes, out of public view, their heroics go unnoticed.

Director Juan J. Perez acknowledged that fact recently, when he presented an award to one of those workers, Bryant Garcia, who over the phone, had guided a panicked caller

into performing CPR and chest compressions, ultimately saving the life of a child.

"Too often these two stressful jobs go unnoticed," the Director observed.

"Somebody is calling at a moment of distress, their worst moment. They're reporting a critical incident, and these are the folks, the men and women behind the scenes, answering the call and pushing that call to the dispatcher, who then puts it out to our officers, within seconds. I do not know how you do it. You've got to have the patience, the courage, and the charisma to communicate with these people who are on the phone. These are the folks who are fielding those calls. And they take that home with them. Ten years in that job, is really like 30 years. Thank you so much."

In a few months one of those folks, someone who did it for 22-years, retires from the MDPD after 29-years in the Department.

Lisa McAndrew "grew up" in MDPD. Currently a Background Investigator, she started as a Police Complaint Officer at age 20. She met her husband, a police officer, here. In that period she gave birth to her two children (now 24 and 17-years old) and lost both her parents.

And she concurs with the Director's analysis. "Absolutely we're their first line of contact," she says. "It is true that law enforcement officers often encounter people at some of their worst moments, but 911 call takers encounter them even earlier."

"You have to manage the conversation. When you need to get help to someone, you have to get the caller to get to the point. It's not easy," she reflects.

"Sometimes the calls were long, for example, if you had to talk a caller through how to administer CPR or deliver a baby. You could be talking to a colleague about something routine, and then the next thing you know someone is screaming in your ears about some crisis. You don't have time to prepare. It could be anything from a stolen car or

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Police Complaint Officers...

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a missing dog, to something life threatening. You need to be calm and in control. You cannot let the caller take over the conversation. You can't show weakness. People might think you're cold and unconcerned. It's not that. If you let the distraught caller scream and yell you're not going to get the information you need to help them. And when you're done with that call, there is a next one. You don't get to unplug, relax, and reboot. You have to move on to the next call. That's the way I lived for 22 years."

She acknowledges that some calls have a greater impact than others.

"The calls that affect you most are the ones to which you relate in a personal way. For example, if you're a parent and someone calls about a child, or if you have an elderly parent and someone calls about an elderly person. Some of those calls affect call-takers in particular ways because they can relate personally to what's going on."

And for her, there was an additional stress factor. Her husband is a police officer, which made her more sharply aware of the dangers to which officers were frequently being dispatched. There had been times when, without either of them knowing, her husband had been dispatched to calls that she had taken.

"When your spouse or significant other is a police officer, you're not unaware that when they leave home for work they might not come home. You try not to think about that. You hope that their training, their experience, and their backup is good enough to bring them home safe. It's always in the back of your mind, but you don't harp on it. You wake up in the morning and kiss goodbye and you make sure you say, "I love you." You don't dwell on minor things. The fact that he forgot to take out the trash does not become a major issue. Anybody can have an accident. Anybody might not make it home. But the risk is more prevalent in this line of work."

She does disagree with one aspect of Director Perez's analysis. She made sure that she didn't, "take it home." "You cannot take it home with you," she said emphatically. "You can't let those eight hours affect your life or your personality. If you don't leave it there, it's not good for you. It's not healthy for you."

This is not to say the job doesn't affect the call-takers' home life. In her case, with both herself and her husband working shifts, the management of their household took extra effort. "Sometimes my husband and I would both work afternoons and get home to my daughter at eleven o'clock at night. That's the way my children were raised."

She acknowledges that some incidents "stay with you longer than others." She recalls two in particular, both involving child fatalities.

In one case, a woman had forgotten a child who had been left in her care. She had left the child in a hot car. By the time they got information out of the panicky caller, it was too late.

The other had to do with the infamous murder of 13-year old Jamie Gough, committed by his friend and classmate, Michael Hernandez, at Southwood Middle

School in February 2004. She vividly remembers taking that call from a school administrator. "She kept saying how much blood there was everywhere," McAndrew recalls.

"It was difficult...very difficult. That call really bothered me. The fact that I'm a parent. The fact that I had a child about the same age in middle school. The fact a child could do that to another child, and having it splashed everywhere. The news everyday was about it, for months and months and months. I couldn't watch it anymore. It would come on the news and I would change the channel. I didn't want to talk about it. To this day, every once in a while it comes up in the news and I still don't want to hear about it. I don't want to see it."

But there was no way to completely avoid that particular case and still isn't, even as she prepares for retirement in a few months.

Apart from the actual murder, one of the gruesome aspects of that case is that Michael Hernandez had a list of prospective victims to whom he planned to mete out the same treatment he had dispensed on Jamie Gough. One of those targets, a young man who is now in his early twenties, is set to join the MDPD, probably because of the closeness he developed with one of the investigators. Lisa McAndrew, although she was initially reluctant, recently met him. Maybe that will bring closure, or something close to it, she says.

And what's next for Lisa McAndrew? She hasn't decided. Her husband retires in a few months. Her son graduates from high school next year. The decision as to, "what next" will be made then.



Investigative Specialist Lisa McAndrew when she started her career with MDPD as a Police Complaint Officer.

Men Can Also Get Breast Cancer, An MDPD Sergeant Testifies



A REAL MAN IN PINK-Sergeant Shawn Skinner, a breast cancer survivor, is on a mission to raise awareness among men, that they too can get this disease.

The slogan “Real Men Wear Pink” is designed to elicit support from men for the women in their lives (wives, partners, daughters, other relatives, colleagues at work, or friends) who’ve been impacted by breast cancer.

This, after all, is a women’s disease...right? Wrong! About 2,500 men contract breast cancer every year, and their survival rate is far worse than it is for women, since by the time a man has been diagnosed, the cancer has progressed to an “invasive” stage.

More than 400 men die from breast cancer in the United States every year. Shawn Skinner, a 20-year MDPD veteran, currently a sergeant in the Sexual Predator and Offender Unit, could have been one of them.

Shawn’s episode with the disease began in February 2014. He had noticed some “spotting in the chest area,” as well as irritation and a knot. His wife Muriel, when she did their laundry, had noticed spots on his shirts. These were signs of breast cancer, Muriel Skinner remarked. Shawn was aware that men did get the disease. He knew of Richard Roundtree, probably the most famous male breast cancer survivor in the U.S., but he and Muriel weren’t going to jump to conclusions.

He went to the doctor and was given a prescription for a medicine to treat a rash. He saw a surgeon to have the knot removed. The surgeon didn’t think the knot was cancerous, but he nevertheless recommended a mammogram.

Ultimately the call came. The surgeon wanted him to come in for a conversation. He did, and received the diagnosis he feared. It hit him hard. “I was a mess,” he confesses.

Coincidentally, he and Muriel had dinner a few weeks earlier with retired educator Ms. Miriam Williams, a family friend who was a cancer survivor. In her battle with the disease, Ms. Williams had absorbed so much information about cancer, they regarded her as an expert. She knew where to get information. She knew about treatment options. She knew which facilities offered what. “My wife had said at the time that if she ever got cancer, Ms. Williams would be the first person she would call,” Shawn recalls. Ms. Williams was in fact the first person they talked to about his diagnosis...even before his son, Shawn, his daughter, Skylar, or other family members.

“She really helped us out. She eased my mind. She eased my wife’s mind.”

Ms. Williams’ advice and their own research led Shawn and Muriel to the Lynn Cancer Institute in Boca Raton. Shawn and Muriel decided on holistic treatment, which would include things such as his diet to compliment an aggressive approach, which included a mastectomy (the cancer had spread to the lymph nodes in his arms), 12 rounds of chemotherapy, and 33 rounds of radiation.

Shawn, who is now healthy, is aware that he belongs to an exclusive group; male breast cancer survivors, and he thinks the men in this group have a responsibility to educate other men about breast cancer.

“I try to put it out there. Anybody who has a question or wants to talk about it, I’m willing. I want to be a voice for men with breast cancer because I think it’s a very important discussion to have.”

“We need to take a page from the women,” he says. “The women got it right. They made this huge. Men need to realize that they have breasts too, and that they need to get checked. The men who’ve survived the disease need to put it out there. The survival rate among Black and Hispanic men who get the disease is not good. We don’t get ourselves checked. We just don’t.”

“When I was first diagnosed I used to ask, why me? Why would God do this to me? I’m a good person. I treat people fairly.” He now sees it differently. “Now I ask, why not me. If I had to go through this to help someone else, to save someone else’s life, I’m good with it.”

Men Can Also Get Breast Cancer...

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Breast Cancer survivor Sergeant Shawn Skinner photographed with members of Team Skinner: [L-R] Information Officer Ani Delforn, Sergeant Rodger Irvine, Intelligence Analyst Marie Jean-Francois, Police Records Specialist Eulalia Martin-Viana, and Lieutenant Luis Poveda.



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer... MDPD's 'Police Power in Pink' Team Is Top Fundraiser



The MDPD again showed its commitment to the community in the 2016 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) fundraising campaign. MDPD's 'Police Power in Pink' team raised more than \$36,000 for the American Cancer Society, making it the top fundraiser among County departments.

In a ceremony at the MDPD Headquarters Complex on Wednesday, December 14, the Society made presentations to 54 officers and civilian employees who had coordinated the campaign; doing publicity and creative design, mounting displays, conducting large-scale fundraising events, soliciting pledges from co-workers and other individuals, as well as coordinating MDPD's participation in the October 29, MSABC fundraising walk held at Marlins Park.

◀ Brittany Perets, Senior Community Manager for the American Cancer Society, presents a plaque to Director Juan J. Perez.

Listed below are the MDPD personnel who were formally recognized for their efforts.

Northside District

Officer Danelia Olivas
Officer Eugenia Quiroz

Northwest District

Officer Leyane Casas
Officer Juan M. Gross
Candace Osborne, Public Service Aide
Jennifer Podeszwa, Public Service Aide

Intracoastal District

Officer Sonya King
Latrise Holloway, Secretary

Airport District

Sergeant Lynnise Jones-Curry

Midwest District

Officer Sabrina Toledo

West District

Officer Nicole Fernandez
Officer Kathleen Suarez

South District

Lieutenant Mauricio Duran
Lieutenant Michael Landestoy
Officer Layla Perez
Officer Marjorie Tamayo

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Listed below are the MDPD personnel who were formally recognized ...

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Pedro Hernandez, *Police Officer Trainee*
Donna Lampkin, *Police Records Specialist*
Mileidy Ramirez, *Secretary*

Town of Miami Lakes

Sergeant Christine Salmon-Roll

Town of Cutler Bay

Officer Deborah Fleites
Officer Mary Ann Stahl

Central Records Bureau

Claretha Henley, *Police Records Technician*
Linda Love, *Secretary*
Rosie Wright, *Police Computerized Report Specialist 2*

Communications Bureau

Sergeant Paula Leal
Lisa Nesbitt-Bell, *Police Dispatcher*

Court Services Bureau

Magally Montenegro, *Police Records Technician 2*
Martha Solares, *MDPD Court Support Specialist 1*

Crime Scene Investigative Support Section

Celia "Maggie" Cabrera, *Secretary*

Economic Crimes Bureau

Sergeant Tamara Reyes
Officer Roblyn Bankston

Fiscal Administration Bureau

Ivy Scher, *Administrative Secretary*

Forensic Services Bureau

Miriam Dieguez, *Secretary*

Homeland Security Bureau

Joan Montgomery, *Administrative Secretary*

Homicide Bureau

Maricela Delgado, *Police Station Specialist*

Information Technology Services Bureau

Officer Sandra Gallagher

Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute

Allison Bishop-Cooner, *Special Projects Administrator 1*
Kelly Kennedy, *Wellness Program Facility Manager*
Karen Shaw, *Wellness Program Specialist*

Narcotics Bureau

Sergeant Nicole Donnelly

Personnel Management Bureau

Sergeant Gloria Packingham

Police Legal Bureau

Julie Steinhardt, *Police Legal Advisor*

Professional Compliance Bureau

Sergeant Joanne Oro
Caridad Alonso, *Stenographic Reporter*

Public Information & Education Bureau

Officer Robin Pinkard
Wynton Anders, *Information Representative*
Juan Perez, *Graphics Technician 2*

Special Patrol Bureau

Sergeant Deirdre Ashe
Officer Grace Green
Officer Brooke Gonzalez

Special Victims Bureau

Officer Pamela Austin Jones

Strategic Planning and Development Section

Debbie Cortina, *Administrative Officer 3*

Warrants Bureau

Officer Mercedes Sabina

Awards And Commendations

The officers and civilian employees listed below were recipients of various awards and commendations for August and September 2016.

August 2016

Distinguished Officer Of The Month/Bronze Medal Of Valor/Lifesaving Award

Officer Joseph Cruz..... Intracoastal District

Officer Andres Galvez Intracoastal District

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Unit Of The Month/Certificate Of Commendation

Economic Crimes Bureau, Organized Retail Crimes Unit

Civilian Of The Month/Employee Excellence Award

Administrative Secretary Arlice Larkin ... Office of the Chief, Special Investigations Division

Exceptional Service/Lifesaving Award

Officer Shelton Green..... Special Patrol Bureau

Officer Andre Sears Special Patrol Bureau

Employee Excellence Award

Lieutenant Rafael Rodriguez..... Intracoastal District

Sergeant Alejandro Baldor..... Special Victims Bureau

Sergeant Norberto Gonzalez..... Intracoastal District

Sergeant Jose Gutierrez..... Intracoastal District

Sergeant Daniel Narcisse..... Intracoastal District

Detective Kurt Berardino..... Homicide Bureau

Detective Alejandro Cardet..... Intracoastal District

Detective Alex Eugene..... Intracoastal District

Detective Nelson Figueroa..... Intracoastal District

Detective John Florez Intracoastal District

Detective Eduardo Gonzalez..... Intracoastal District

Detective Anthony Llambes..... Intracoastal District

Detective Jesus Martinez..... Narcotics Bureau

Detective Raquel Mascarena Intracoastal District

Detective Gilbert Nau Intracoastal District

Detective Jonathan Ortiz Intracoastal District

Detective Rebeca Perez..... Town of Miami Lakes

Detective Jose Rodriguez..... Intracoastal District

Detective Adam Shahan Intracoastal District

Detective Russell Swain Intracoastal District

Detective Joshua Wendling..... Homicide Bureau

Lifesaving Award

Officer Julius Matus..... Kendall District

September 2016

Distinguished Officer Of The Month/Exceptional Service Award

Detective Brad Carter Robbery Bureau

Unit Of The Month/Certificate Of Commendation

Northwest District Crime Suppression Team

Employee Excellence Award

Sergeant Robert McGrath..... Property & Evidence Section

Sergeant Nitza Millan-Dominguez..... Hammocks Station

Sergeant Gilberto Rosario Special Victims Bureau

Sergeant Daniel Toledo..... Midwest District

Officer Daphney Desamours..... Intracoastal District

Officer John Florez Intracoastal District

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<i>Officer Henry Jorge</i>	Intracoastal District
<i>Officer Stephanie Lamas</i>	Warrants Bureau
<i>Officer Christian Reyes</i>	Airport District
<i>Officer Michael Rosenberger</i>	Intracoastal District
<i>Officer Adrian Ulmer</i>	Intracoastal District
<i>Officer Nicole Wells</i>	Special Victims Bureau
<i>Officer Adrian Young</i>	Intracoastal District

Good Neighbor Award Presented to MDPD Director



Retired U.S. Army Colonel Donald 'Andy' Bird, Manager of the United States Army Garrison-Miami, presents the Good Neighbor Award to Director Juan J. Perez.

"Your positive leadership and dedication is an inspiration for others to emulate as you personify a treasured value of trust in your willingness and commitment in getting the job done right."

That's high praise coming from anyone, or any

organization. It's particularly significant and noteworthy when it comes from the United States Army.

And it's how the Army described MDPD Director Juan J. Perez, in the "Good Neighbor Award" that United States Army Garrison-Miami Manager, retired Colonel Donald 'Andy' Bird, presented to Director Perez on December 15.

The plaque was in recognition of "the steadfast support you have delivered day-to-day in support, serving, and protecting our communities."

It continued; "Juan J Perez stands as a testament that there is no fence-line between U.S. Army Garrison, U.S. Command, and this great community."

It thanked the Director and the MDPD for their "service in support of our service members, their families, our civilian employees, and military retirees in south Florida."

Director Perez reiterated that MDPD had always been a "staunch" supporter of the military. "It's heartening the military feels the same way about us," he said. "You guys do a lot abroad and we have to hold our own here," he said. "That partnership keeps us at the top of our game."

Retired Colonel Bird said the presentation effectively inducted Director Perez in the Southern Command's Hall of Fame "to make sure that everybody is reminded that we don't do this by ourselves."



Graduates of MDPD's Internship Program

Four graduates of MDPD's Internship Program (L-R) Nicole Mullings, Kathleen Acevedo, Carlos Olivares, and Jamian Isaacs pose with Assistant Director Alfredo Ramirez III and the Coordinator of the program, Sergeant Martha Melcon.

Officer of the Month award for August 2016/ Unit of the Month for August 2016



The Officer of the Month award for August 2016 went jointly to [L-R] Officers Joseph Cruz and Andres Galvez. They are pictured here with Director Juan J. Perez (left) and Assistant Director Alfredo Ramirez III.



The Organized Retail Crimes Unit of the Economic Crimes Bureau was named Unit of the Month for August 2016. Members of the Unit pictured here with Director Juan J. Perez are [L-R] Detective Mike Garcia, Detective Lazaro Daniel, Lieutenant Grisleen "Gigi" Casas, and Detective Jose Hernandez.

Sergeant Mario Sanchez, who retired from MDPD after 29-years, is pictured here with Director Juan J. Perez and Assistant Director Alfredo Ramirez III.



MDPD Sponsors More Successful Blood Drives

The Miami-Dade Police Department continues to hold successful blood collection drives at both the Headquarters and at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute. Below is a list of MDPD staff who contributed at the most recent blood drive.

Major Hector Llevat
 Captain Alejandro Acosta
 Lieutenant Heriberto Aponte
 Sergeant Waukesha Kenon
 Sergeant Gilberto Rosario
 Sergeant Arthur Utset
 Officer Marco Alfaro
 Officer Pedro Corona
 Officer Blanca Dalton
 Officer Renzo Herrera

Officer Alyssa Larrinaga
 Officer Patrick Maignan
 Officer Alejandro Marin
 Officer Tiffany Patterson
 Officer Robin Pinkard
 Officer Fernando Sacasas
 Officer Julianne Terp
 Officer Rodney Thomas
 Officer Alejandro Venturin

Senior Police Bureau Commander Loretta Gabe-Charles
 Administrative Officer III William Hanlon III
 Clerk 4 Wendy Cruz
 Secretary Miriam Dieguez
 Criminalist 2 Yamil Garcia
 Data Entry Specialist 2 Oneida Ortega
 School Crossing Guard Jennie Rivera
 Information Officer Patrick Smikle

The Department would especially like to thank the four non-MDPD donors; Signe Anthony, Luis Cacer Diaz, Michel Martinez, and Evelyn Ramos.

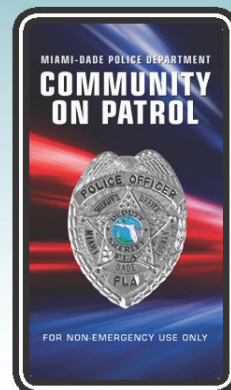
This New Year, resolve to be one of millions of residents on patrol.



CAPTURE IT WITH THE COP APP

Alert police to suspicious activity in your neighborhood with the **Community on Patrol app**.

Send tips, videos, and photos about possible criminal activity in your community to the Miami-Dade Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center.



Download the Community On Patrol app today!





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



Recent Retirements

(Listed in alphabetical order)

The Miami-Dade Police Department recently said farewell to 26 employees (20 sworn officers and six civilians) who retired after periods of service ranging from nine to 34 years. Director Juan J. Perez, the Department's Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wishes our departing colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Officers

Major Saima Plasencia.....	30 yrs.
Lieutenant Heriberto Aponte	30 yrs.
Lieutenant Mauricio Rivera	21 yrs.
Sergeant Raul Moriyon	26 yrs.
Sergeant Roy Prieto	30 yrs.
Sergeant Darrell Rasmussen	28 yrs.
Sergeant Hector Rosello	30 yrs.
Sergeant Mario Sanchez	29 yrs.
Sergeant Frank Triglia	34 yrs.
Officer Orestes Castro	30 yrs.
Officer Gilbert Correa	29 yrs.
Officer Anthony Crapello	25 yrs.
Officer Malaya Ellison.....	24 yrs.

Officer Gervasio Fundora	30 yrs.
Officer Michael Leon	31 yrs.
Officer Karem Love	25 yrs.
Officer Elena Ramos	27 yrs.
Officer Jeffrey Ripple	34 yrs.
Officer James Scott	25 yrs.

Civilians

Police Station Specialist Ronnie Ackerman	28 yrs.
School Crossing Guard Maria Arcila	13 yrs.
School Crossing Guard Hector Bertrand	8 yrs.
School Crossing Guard Rodobaldo Hernandez	20 yrs.
School Crossing Guard Gladys Manzano	9 yrs.
School Crossing Guard Edit Terrazas	9 yrs.



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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."

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