



Director's Message

Greetings to All:



Juan J. Perez
MDPD Director

As we near the end of the year and are in the midst of the holiday season, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your efforts within the Department and the community. I feel blessed to work alongside the greatest people who represent the finest profession, law enforcement. The law enforcement profession is extremely complex and always changing. We have been able to evolve to meet the many challenges and changes to the way law enforcement is today as compared to the past. This Department continues to be recognized as a top agency because of you, the Miami-Dade Police Department employees. Every single one of you has a critical role on how we are perceived. I strongly believe that we are distinguished as the best in the business. I always appreciate the work you do for the community and the way you come together in times of need for our own. Your contributions and support to the United Way, POAT, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and many other charitable organizations cannot be outdone by any other organization. We truly come together during the most difficult times — a sincere testament of commitment to service. I wish you many blessings as we wrap up the year. Keep up the good work, and for those fighting crime on the street, be safe.

The Body-Worn Camera Project

By Lieutenant M. Almaguer

In 2012, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) initiated a study to assess the utilization of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) for its patrol officers. This research included reviewing numerous publications, conducting market research, and performing a pilot program. Numerous local, state, and national police agencies were

contacted for their input including the Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney, the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, and the Dade County Police Benevolent Association (PBA). The MDPD worked with the PBA to develop policies outlining the use and management of the BWC for its officers (read the MDPD's BWC policy) — <http://www.miamidade.gov/police/library/bwc-policy.pdf>

By May 2016, the MDPD began deploying 1,490 BWCs to uniformed patrol personnel with the rank of sergeant and officer. Additionally, cameras were issued to district Crime Suppression Teams, DUI Squads, Motor Units, K9 Units, Robbery Intervention Detail, Airport District Incident Containment Team, and Marine Patrol. Personnel assigned BWCs must attend a four-hour training class, which covers policy, legal issues, and the hands-on operation of the camera and the video storage system.

According to a U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance report, BWCs help improve the high-quality public service expected of police officers and promote the sense of procedural justice that communities expect from their police departments and officers. Additionally, BWC footage enables police departments to demonstrate transparency and openness in their interactions with members of the community.

The MDPD's Crime Scene Investigative Support Section houses the BWC Unit. The Unit manages the BWC project and is also responsible for processing all public records requests pertaining to videos recorded. Currently, the BWC Unit has processed 4,436 public records requests. Additionally, the BWC Unit conducts all training classes for users and provides camera repairs and/or eventual equipment replacement.

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The Body-Worn Camera

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MDPD has implemented the use of BWCs to improve police services, increase accountability for individual interactions, and enhance public safety. The BWC has become a useful tool for recording evidence and promoting professionalism, accountability, and transparency with the public.

Recommendation: BWC users are reminded to view pertinent video footage prior to making any statements to the Public Defender’s Office or a private attorney in the same fashion as reviewing their written reports prior to testifying in any legal proceeding.



Sergeant Richard Pichardo demonstrates how the body camera is worn. Photos by Gaston De Cardenas.

Miami-Dade Police Department Holiday Crime Initiative



MDPD Director Juan J. Perez discusses safety measures to follow during the holidays.

As part of our continued effort to provide a safe and secure environment for our residents and visitors during the holiday season, Director Juan J. Perez recently held a press conference to kick off the MDPD’s annual Holiday Crime Initiative.

During this initiative, uniformed and non-uniformed police officers will conduct surveillances and high-visibility patrols throughout Miami-Dade County focusing in and around major malls, shopping centers, and other areas that experience increased traffic during the holiday season. Additionally, Department personnel will promote important crime prevention tips and

campaigns such as “Lock it or Lose it” and “See Something, Say Something” in person and through social media channels.

Members of the media were welcomed to attend. They were afforded a brief ride-along with a uniformed officer to highlight our efforts as well as conduct interviews with various members of the MDPD Command Staff.

Immediately following the news conference, members of the business community, as well as those in attendance, were invited to enjoy coffee and conversation with the men and women who protect and serve our wonderful community.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

HIDE YOUR VALUABLES

LOCK YOUR VEHICLE

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Be Smart. Stay Safe.

- Always keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk.
- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- Notify the police of any suspicious activity.

Helping People.....It's What We Do!

By Allison Bishop-Cooner



Photo by Allison Bishop-Cooner

The MDPD Police Power in Pink Team surpassed all odds by raising more than \$38K for the 2017 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) Campaign. Despite the challenges presented by Hurricane Irma, this powerful Team of caring individuals concentrated on helping people fighting breast cancer more than their own personal needs.

For 25 years, Miami-Dade County (MDC) has participated in MSABC, and each year, MDPD has supported this outstanding opportunity. **What better way to embrace the holiday season than to give to people who need our help?** Funds raised for MSABC are given to people right here in MDC to help ease their fight against breast cancer.

Selected from our MDPD police family, each campaign entity representative has their own story. Some are actually breast cancer survivors who celebrate their own successes along with the survivors who they assist. Others are interested in breast cancer awareness and want to present the most dazzling display or the best fundraiser to make their bureau or district proud. Many have family members, friends, and coworkers who have suffered from breast cancer. These representatives send a powerful message to all by supporting the cause, raising awareness, planning events, and raising money for survivors who need our help!

A huge surprise occurred this year when newcomer, Lieutenant Monica Diaz, turned in more than \$4,100 in donations and earned first place as the top fundraiser for 2017. In a quiet and peaceful manner, she proudly submitted a giant bag of cash, well organized by denomination, on behalf of the Robbery Bureau. Lieutenant Diaz shares her thoughts by saying, "I do not believe in coincidence. This year, I was told for the second time, that a lump was found in my breast and oddly enough this was the same

day I was given the task of being the MSABC entity representative for the Bureau. Having gone through the same scare in 2014, I am happy to say that the tests were negative. Now, I felt compelled to put my heart and soul into this charity. However, I must compliment and thank the Bureau staff members who contributed their time by hosting bake sales and collecting donations. Additionally, Sergeant Ariel Rodriguez sold Robbery Bureau and Saint Michael patches. These efforts really put the Bureau on the board! Today, I am waiting on future testing and I am confident that the results will again be negative."

Officer Nicole Fernandez, of the Hammocks District, has been the top MSABC fundraiser for the last four years and placed second this year. "I'm happy to see that members of our police family are making MSABC a priority! I'm proud of Lieutenant Diaz for being first and "raising the bar" for all."

Officer Fernandez is celebrating her fifth year as a breast cancer survivor without reoccurrence.....and for that, we are all proud of her!

In third place, Police Computerized Report Specialist 2 Rosie Wright, from the Central Records Bureau, says, "I love to get my whole Bureau involved. We all know survivors and want to support them. When we have bake sales and lunch events, we celebrate life...and it's wonderful! Now that I'm retiring in July 2018, I hope that I've set an example for the new representative who will be taking my place."

Fourth place was garnered by Dispatcher Lisa Nesbitt Bell and Complaint Officer Margaret Rojas. These dedicated representatives tackled all shifts of the Communications Bureau by hosting events and selling team shirts.

Sergeant Lynnise Jones-Curry, in fifth place, took

Police **POWER** *in Pink!*

Helping People.....

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the Airport District by storm with an awareness display, a luncheon, and shirt and coupon book sales. “I feel strongly about the people we help and this important cause. My church hosted a “High Tea” where we raised money for MSABC. I am grateful to be able to assist with this Campaign and I will continue to give back to my community.

Congratulations to the entire MDPD Police Power in Pink Team! This outpouring of love and dedication is unsurpassed by any other team. The Campaign concluded with the MSABC Walk, which was held on Saturday, October 28, 2017, at Marlins Park, Miami. Gratitude and appreciation are extended to all MDPD personnel and their families who attended the Walk.

Please click on the link below to view MSABC Walk photographs.

<http://portal.mdpd.net/MDPD/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fMDPD%2fMSABC%20Walk&FolderCTID=0x0120009154C50410999244860BE98E578D73D9>

MDPD Police Power in Pink Team

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| Airport District..... | Sergeant Lynnise Jones-Curry |
| Central Records Bureau..... | Police Computerized Report Specialist 2 Rosie Wright |
| Communications Bureau..... | Dispatcher Lisa Nesbitt-Bell and Police Complaint Officer Margaret Rojas |
| Court Services Bureau..... | Police Records Technician 2 Magally Montenegro MDPD Court Support Specialist 1 Martha Solares |
| Economic Crimes Bureau..... | Sergeant Tamara Reyes |
| Fiscal Administration Bureau..... | Administrative Secretary Ivy Scher |
| Forensic Services Bureau..... | Secretary Miriam Dieguez |
| Hammocks District..... | Officer Nicole Fernandez |
| Homeland Security Bureau..... | Administrative Secretary Joan Montgomery |
| Homicide Bureau..... | Victim Advocate Alexander Puga |
| Intracoastal District..... | Officer Sonya King Officer Glenna Battle |
| Kendall..... | Secretary Tracy Cardentey |
| Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute..... | MDPD Wellness Program Facilities Manager Kelly Kennedy MDPD Wellness Program Specialist Karen Shaw |
| Midwest District..... | Officer Addys Silva |
| Narcotics Bureau..... | Sergeant Erica Tirse |
| Northside District..... | Sergeant Karyn Kinsey |
| Northwest District..... | Sergeant Octavia Adams Officer Ida Bell Officer Leyane Casas Officer Juan Gross Public Service Aide Candace Osborne |
| Personnel Management Bureau..... | Administrative Officer 1 Yamaris Irizarry |
| Police Legal Bureau..... | Sergeant Aida Fina-Milian |
| Professional Compliance Bureau..... | Sergeant Joanne Oro Stenographic Reporter Supervisor Caridad Alonso Stenographic Reporter Maria Solares |

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Police Power in Pink Team

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|---|--|
| Public Information and Education Bureau..... | Special Projects Administrator 1 Allison Bishop-Cooner Graphics Technician 2 Juan Perez |
| Robbery Bureau..... | Lieutenant Monica Diaz |
| Seaport Operations Bureau..... | Officer Julia Madrigal |
| South District | Lieutenant Mauricio Duran Officer Layla Perez Officer Marjorie Tamayo Administrative Secretary Camelia Ball Police Records Specialist Donna Lampkin Secretary Mileidy Ramirez |
| Special Patrol Bureau..... | Officer Brooke Gonzalez |
| Special Victims Bureau..... | Officer Pamela Austin Jones |
| Warrants Bureau..... | Detective Mercy Sabina |
| Crime Scene Investigative Support Section | Secretary Celia M. Cabrera |
| Strategic Planning and Dev. Sec. | Office Support Specialist 2 Lena Heyward Administrative Officer 3 Debbie Cortina |
| Town of Cutler Bay..... | Officer Loany Aguirregaviria |
| Town of Miami Lakes | Sergeant Christine Salmon Roll |

YOLO - #YOUONLYLIVEONCE Campaign

By Community Education Specialist Mavis Cole



In conjunction with Red Ribbon Week, Officer Hector Torres, Airport District, conducts a K-9 drug detection demonstration at St. Brendan Elementary School. Photo by Community Education Specialist Mavis Cole.

Red Ribbon week is a drug and alcohol awareness campaign observed annually in the month of October in

the United States. In honor of the 2017 Red Ribbon Week observance, the MDPD’s Community Education Unit (CEU) conducted two weeks of Red Ribbon Substance Abuse presentations. The CEU directed 18 Red Ribbon Substance Abuse presentations and was able to reach more than 5,000 students. Along with their substance abuse prevention puppet show and juvenile detention demonstration, the CEU collaborated with various dynamic guest speakers to ensure a comprehensive and informative campaign. The guest speakers included:

- Dr. Nathasha Hahn (Florida International University Psychologist, Substance Abuse Specialist)
- Pastor Ricardo Malone (Bethel Baptist Church)
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Officer Carlos Chapel
- DARE Officer Ralph Pagan
- DARE Officer Paul Harris
- Students Together Against Negative Decisions (STAND) Officer Robert Diaz
- Officer Damaris Hall (Public Information and Education Bureau (PIEB))

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YOLO - #YOUONLYLIVEONCE ...

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- James Hall (Student-Nova Southeastern University)
- Retired DARE Officer Mark Beckford
- Detective William Pedraja (Narcotics Bureau)
- Detective Alain Duenas (Narcotics Bureau)
- Detective Harold Riobe (Narcotics Bureau)
- David Ulloa (Probation Officer - Department of Juvenile Justice)
- Tim Tyler (Director of Research & Development - Agape Substance Abuse Program)
- Wendy Stephan (Health Education Coordinator - Poison Control Center)

The following elementary schools participated in the 2017 Red Ribbon campaign:
Banyan, Olympia Heights, Sable Palm, Ojus, Liberty

City, Dr. Carlos Finlay, Arcola Lakes, Poinciana, Joe Hall, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Beatrice & Irving K-8 Center, R.R. Moton, Palm Springs North, St. Brendan, Emerson, Chapman, and Pine Villa.

For the first time, the CEU had the opportunity to conduct a Red Ribbon Substance Abuse presentation to juveniles at the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. These informative and inspirational presentations were well received by the attendees.

Special thanks are extended to Superintendent Steve Owens and Captain Samuel Thelon (Juvenile Detention Center), Major Hector Llevat, Captain Alejandro Acosta, Lieutenant Jill Sanchez, Sergeant Martha Melcon (PIEB), and all the guest speakers for supporting this campaign, which conveys the message – “Say NO to DRUGS.”

Honorary School Crossing Guard!



On Monday, October 30, 2017, staff members from the Department’s PIEB, School Crossing Guard (SCG) Program, conducted a small ceremony to honor Mr. Manny Munoz as an honorary SCG. Mr. Munoz is the producer of the “Jimmy Cefalo Morning Show” at WIOD Radio Station. It was a joyous occasion and a rewarding experience for all.

Left to right: SCG Supervisor Veronica Alago, SCG Coordinator Elizabeth Bryan-Drake, Mr. Manny Munoz, SCG Coordinator Janice Wright, and SCG Supervisor Angela Jackson.

Photo by Administrative Officer 3 Irelene King Allen.

Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive



Without a hitch, the MDC's annual Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive, organized by the Community Action and Human Services Department, was conducted in November 2017, at the MDPD. Collections consisted of non-perishable food items that were included in festive holiday baskets and given to families throughout MDC. More than 1,000 families were served this year through donations from various County departments.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all MDPD personnel who donated food items for this heartwarming Thanksgiving Drive, and to Officer Damaris Hall (pictured left), Department liaison and event coordinator.



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

MDPD recently said farewell to 13 employees (11 sworn and 2 civilian) who retired after periods of service ranging from 16 to 37 years. Director Juan J. Perez, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our departing colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn Personnel

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| Major Ignacio Alvarez | 25 yrs. |
| Lieutenant Suzanne Lauton..... | 27 yrs. |
| Lieutenant Jose I. Zarraga..... | 37 yrs. |
| Sergeant Sean M. Holtz | 30 yrs |
| Officer Maritza Aschenbrenner..... | 27 yrs. |
| Officer Leslie Beer..... | 24 yrs. |
| Officer Daniel Causey Sr. | 28 yrs. |

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| Officer Regina McCray..... | 28 yrs. |
| Officer Maria E. Montero | 31 yrs. |
| Officer Albert Perez | 30 yrs. |
| Officer Angela Tellez | 16 yrs. |

Civilian Personnel

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|--|---------|
| Personnel Technician Vialis Landestoy..... | 19 yrs. |
| Information Officer Patrick U. Smikle..... | 19 yrs. |



A great reminder for those ordering items online during the holiday season. Keep package deliveries safe from thieves! <http://www.miamidade.gov/police/online-shopping-tips.asp>

Connect with us on



@miamidadepd
www.miamidade.gov/police



**START SUBMITTING
SECURE AND ANONYMOUS
TIPS THROUGH THE NEW
@MDCRIMESTOPPERS APP!
DOWNLOAD IT
NOW!**

NO text. NO call. NOTHING
is worth losing a life over.

www.fdotmiamidade.com/putitdown



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Mayor



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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."