



The bravery that our officers exhibited in 2022 will stand as a testament to our unwavering devotion to protect our community. Detective Cesar "Echy" Echaverry will forever be a beacon of light for this Department, and we will never forget his ultimate sacrifice. Last August, Officers George H. Denbow and Latina T. McCall were confronted by a hostile knife-wielding man who had threatened to kill individuals inside a home. When the officers arrived, the subject began to attack them with the knife. Both officers were wounded, but were able to place the subject in custody. Another officer, Damian Colon, continues on his road to recovery after being critically wounded by a stalker who tracked him to his home and shot him.

There are numerous other examples of bravery, fortitude, and commitment by our officers throughout the year. We are trained to respond to deadly encounters, but in the moment that such a scenario arises, and you put your

personal safety aside to save the lives of others, that is truly the essence of our profession and our devotion to our citizens.

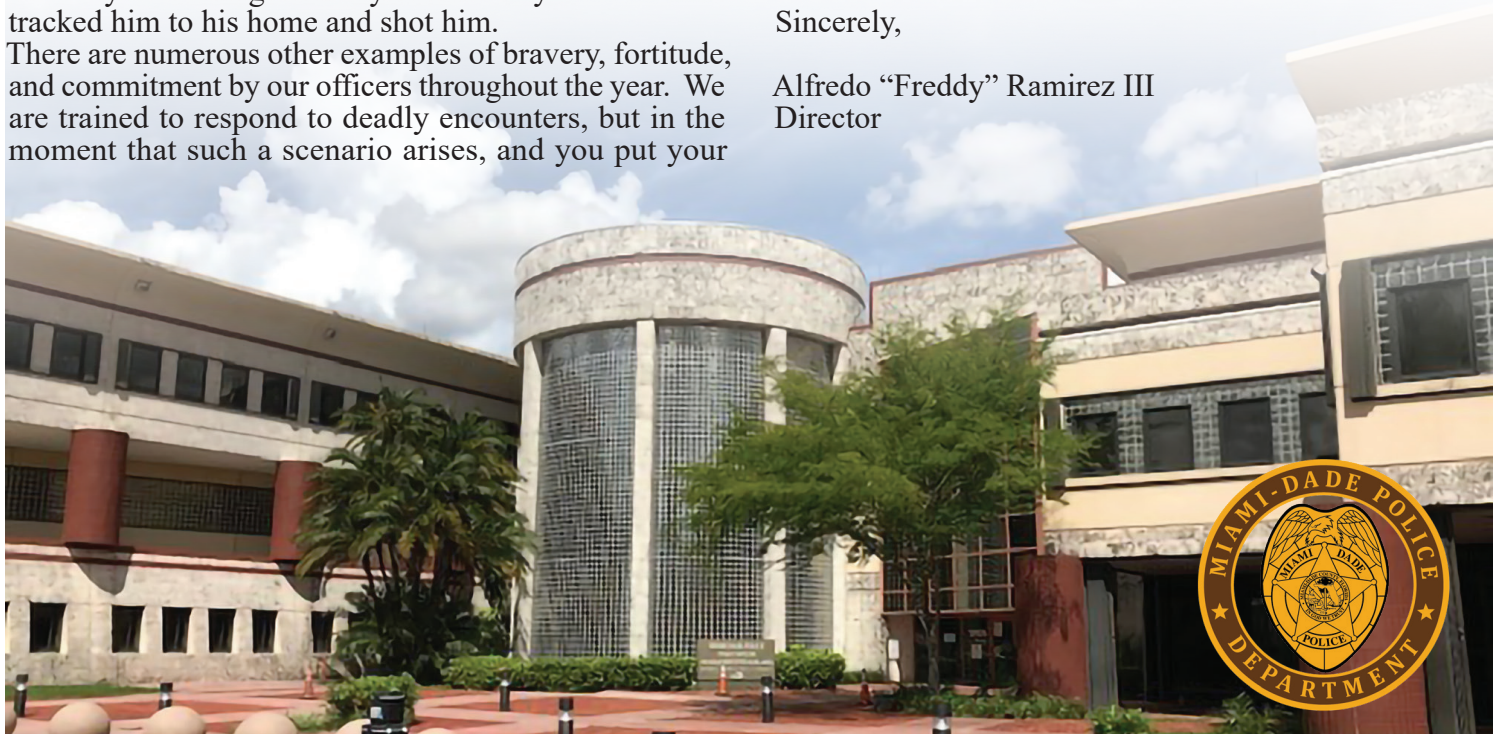
We took on the responsibility of providing security for the Formula 1 race, and our preparation for that large-scale event was exemplary. Our officers performed their duties well and handled every contingency. As the world tuned into that event, we rose to the challenge and displayed why we are the best law enforcement agency in this country. Week after week, month after month, and year after year, you have distinguished yourself in this manner.

When our fellow law enforcement officers in the Fort Myers area needed help in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, you did not hesitate to come forward and provide assistance to our brothers and sisters. You helped fix damage to their homes, so that those local officers could focus on helping citizens. It goes without saying that we are part of a larger family that extends beyond our coverage area. We are a family, one community.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Certainly 2023 will come with challenges, but we will be ready to face them and come out stronger!

Sincerely,

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Director



Officers Help Save the Life of a County Employee Who Suffered a Heart Attack

By Brian Ballou



Officers Shelton D. Green (far left), and Joandra Dobao, (third from left), reunited with Mr. Tony Quintero, (second from left) the Miami-Dade Aviation Department's Associate Aviation Director, who they helped resuscitate on October 18, 2022, inside the Stephen P. Clark Government Center. Director Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III, (far right) witnessed the life-saving effort of his officers. (Photo by Gaston De Cardenas)

The Stephen P. Clark Government Center lobby was packed on the morning of October 18, 2022. It was the first Board of County Commissioners meeting since the new budget was passed, and at the security booth, Officer Joandra Dobao's eyes were drawn to a tall gentleman with silvery hair, wearing a suit and toting a briefcase. There was something about his expression that concerned her. She watched him as he passed through the metal detector and retrieved his briefcase from the conveyor belt. Standing just four feet from him, she could hear him say to a colleague, "I feel dizzy."

Mr. Tony Quintero, the Miami-Dade Aviation Department's Associate Aviation Director, for Governmental Affairs, was at the government center that day to brief the County commission on issues related to the Miami International Airport, as he routinely does in his role. Standing near him was Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, several commissioners, and Director Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III.

"It was a day just like any other day," Mr. Quintero said. "I showed up and walked through security, and I remember saying that I feel dizzy, and that's it. The next thing I knew,

I was waking up in a hospital."

Mr. Quintero was suffering a "widow-maker" heart attack, a lay term used to describe the total blockage of the left anterior descending artery, which supplies a significant amount of blood flow to the heart muscle. The blockage can be particularly lethal without quick medical intervention.

Mr. Quintero's eyes rolled back and he fell to his knees. He slammed face first onto the floor and his nose started bleeding. Officer Dobao rushed to him and rolled him on his side. Mr. Quintero was gasping for air, and then stopped breathing. Officer Dobao said his skin color turned "magenta purple." She checked for a pulse but could not detect one.

Officer Dobao first used CPR 12 years ago, responding to a call of a drowning. A one-year-old had fallen into a pool and was not breathing when she arrived. Despite her attempts to revive the child, the child was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

With Mr. Quintero, something kept running in her mind. "I just couldn't stop, and I kept saying, 'Don't die on me, don't die on me.'"

Another officer at the security booth, Officer Shelton D. Green, had already rushed out of the lobby to retrieve his Automated External Defibrillator, or AED device, from his marked car, which was parked just outside a nearby exit. He returned within seconds, and Officer Dobao fastened the device's sensors to Mr. Quintero's chest and abdomen. Officer Dobao was still performing chest compressions on Mr. Quintero. The AED's audio instructed to push harder. Officer Green, who stands 6'3" and weighs about 300 pounds, took over the chest compressions, applying his considerable heft to the task. Officer Green has been with the Department for 20 years, but had never performed the CPR procedure, or used the AED on a person.

"The training came back, it all came back," Officer Green said.

The AED advised "clear," and then the device delivered a shock. The current jolted Mr. Quintero's body. Officer Green continued to deliver CPR. Members of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, including Chief Raied Jadallah, were already in the building for the commission meeting, and they rushed downstairs to the lobby to take over the effort to revive Mr. Quintero. At that point, a pulse

Continued on page 3

Officers Help Save the Life. . .

Continued from page 2

was detected. Mr. Quintero was rushed to a hospital for further treatment. Later in the day, a photo was snapped of him in bed at the hospital. He had a Band-Aid over the bridge of his nose and a smile on his face. He texted the first responders, “Thank you for saving my life.”

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, the Department held a press conference to congratulate the officers and reunite them, for the first time since the incident, with Mr. Quintero. “I’m a big supporter of law enforcement, first responders, and you hear about them on TV and read about them in newspapers, but it’s not until you have

that personal experience, that it happens to you, that it comes home,” Mr. Quintero said. He attributes his rapid recovery to the quick response by the officers. He is able to walk two and a half miles daily now, on his road to recovery. “Every day I think about them, every day I think about all our first responders, what they do for us in this community, it’s something incredible.”

Director Ramirez said, “This is an example of skill, training, tenacity, and having the tools that our first responders need each and every day to save a life.”

Businessman Thanks Officer For Helping Him Get On Right Path *By Brian Ballou*

They had not seen each other for many years, so when Officer Marie N. Abbott ran into Kenyatta Kemp by happenstance last October, they had a lot to catch up on. Mr. Kemp had become a business owner of a jewelry store inside the Village Flea Market in Miami, and he told Officer Abbott that she played a significant role in setting him on the right path.

“She always took the time out to talk with me,” Mr. Kemp said. “She knew that I was up to no good back then, and whenever she would see me, she would stop and talk to me, tell me to stay out of trouble, to focus on doing things to turn my life around. Those things really stuck with me, and it was like a voice in my mind, over and over.”

Their paths first crossed almost 22 years ago, when Mr. Kemp was about 18, and Officer Abbott was in the dawn of her career at the Miami-Dade Police Department, assigned to the Northside District out of the police academy. On patrols, she would occasionally see the wayward teen in the streets and would stop and talk with him. Year after year, her message to him focused on making good decisions, breaking the cycle that was not just putting him at risk for being locked up, but putting his life at risk.

Mr. Kemp’s upbringing was tumultuous. His father served a 15-year prison sentence. His mother battled drug addiction. One of his brothers was murdered, and the other is serving time in prison. Mr. Kemp was arrested at the age of 14 for cocaine possession. In his early 20s, he was the victim of a robbery at gunpoint, and after resisting, the perpetrator shot him 22 times. One bullet came close to leaving him paralyzed. He had a phrase tattooed on the top of his right



Kenyatta Kemp, the owner of Kenyatta's Jewelry, a small jewelry store inside the Village Flea Market & Mall, sizes up the ring finger of Officer Marie N. Abbott of the Community Affairs Bureau, who more than two decades ago mentored Mr. Kemp while she was assigned to the Northside District. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

forearm that reads like a foreboding plea, “Pray For Me.”

“I knew I had to straighten up,” Mr. Kemp said. “I kept hearing in my mind Officer Abbott’s advice to me, she told me so many times back then that I could make positive choices, that I could do better with my life.” He used that voice as motivation. Mr. Kemp recalled that in high school, he once wore fashion jewelry to school, a watch, and that one of his teachers asked him where he could buy such a piece. Mr. Kemp made his first sale to that teacher, and then started

Continued on page 4

Businessman Thanks Officer . . . *Continued from page 3*

selling jewelry to classmates and people in his community.

After he recovered from the shooting, he thought about selling jewelry full-time, and figured that he could make a living doing it. Officer Abbott's voice continued to echo in his mind, "Do something positive, take control of your life."

Six years ago, Mr. Kemp opened "Kenyatta's Jewelry," a small kiosk at the Village Flea Market & Mall, located at 7900 NW 27 Avenue. He had the kiosk for five years, during which time he saved up money. In 2021, he expanded into a larger lot at the market, with a much larger display area. He plans to one day own a stand-alone

jewelry store, create his own pieces, and offer customized watches, necklaces, and bracelets.

Officer Abbott, a soft-spoken woman who is currently assigned to the Community Affairs Bureau, said she saw the potential in Mr. Kemp when he was a teen. She was raised by a single mother and understood the difficulties associated with such an upbringing. "Everyone has a struggle, and when you want to make a difference in someone's life, it isn't always about putting pressure on them and yelling. I just wanted for him to know that I cared about him, and that he could do whatever he wanted if he put his mind to it."

New Mobile Command Unit For Special Response Team is State-Of-The-Art *By Brian Ballou*

South Florida hosts numerous large-scale events, some of them annually, that collectively draw millions of spectators. The Miami metropolitan area is home to more than 59 colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning, and 516 Miami-Dade County Public Schools. We have many tourist attractions, including malls, recreational areas, concert halls, and sports arenas that draw large crowds every week of the year.

Should a threat to public safety arise at any of those

venues or events, the Miami-Dade Police Department's highly-trained Special Response Team (SRT) would certainly respond; and now the team has a new mobile command vehicle that gives it an operational advantage on-scene. In late October 2022, the Department took delivery of its "Tactical Operations Command Center (TOCC)."

Previously, SRT would work out of a much smaller mobile unit, one that did not have the level of communications, surveillance, and other vital tools that the new TOCC has.

Continued on page 5



On November 16, 2022, the Department received a new Tactical Operations Command Center, a high-tech mobile command unit for the Special Response Team. (Photos by Gaston De Cardenas and Brian Ballou)

New Mobile Command Unit . . . *Continued from page 4*

That unit was essentially a retrofitted bus that mainly served as a mobile conference room.

The TOCC goes way beyond that. It is a mobile workstation. The cab portion of the vehicle is a Freightliner model M2 112 conventional cab, and the main body is a custom-built chassis from Nomad Global Communication Solutions.

Given all of the built-in features of the vehicle, it will certainly elevate the team's ability to respond to any threat should it arise, and to coordinate their deployment. The mobile unit features two large meeting rooms and plenty of storage capacity.

The truck's features include state-of-the-art communications systems from Motorola, a mobile networking broadband system, the capability to hard connect three separate unmanned aerial vehicles and deliver streaming footage to the internal command center, and the capability to remote stream up to four unmanned aerial vehicles.

The mobile command vehicle is also internally wired to support several other high-tech tools for SRT. The vehicle also contains a specific room for negotiators to be able to communicate in a near soundproof environment.

Department Cracks Down on Illegal Drag Racing and Drifting Activities *By Brian Ballou*

They organize through social media and take over intersections or roadways to use them as playgrounds for their souped-up cars, performing dangerous stunts and drag racing in the midst of large crowds, and in the process of endangering themselves and spectators, they disrupt the quality of life for thousands of residents.

But the Miami-Dade Police Department's Homeland Security Bureau has been tracking the illegal activities of drag racers and drifters for months, which recently led to the arrest of a 31-year-old Miami man, Jose Alfredo Martinez, for his role in organizing many of the gatherings. Mr. Martinez was charged with 40 counts of facilitating drag racing.

Movies such as the Fast & Furious franchise have glamorized drag racing, and the underground aspect of it has attracted thrill seekers, but there is no question that drag racing, drifting, burning out, and sliding on roadways pose a huge public safety threat to the people who participate in it, and to the general public. There have been vehicular homicides and deadly gun activity at these gatherings.

Detectives conducted a criminal investigation over three weeks last June, and were able to close in on Mr. Martinez through his electronic communication on social media. He would share addresses for interested parties to meet, within Miami-Dade County, to conduct drag racing and drifting on public roads and intersections. In order to remain anonymous, Mr. Martinez would change the chat group name he used to disseminate information. Through these communications, he would further instruct

spectators to block roads to prevent law enforcement and others from being able to pass through.

On Monday, November 28, 2022, detectives conducted a surveillance at 2079 NW 141 Street, and took Mr. Martinez into custody. The counts against him represent the number of gatherings that he organized, according to the investigation. On the night of June 18, 2022, Mr. Martinez organized at least 13 different gatherings, most of them in the predawn hours. Many of the gatherings attracted large crowds, with well over 200 cars.

Detective Delvin A. Brooks said that while the Department has made progress on diminishing drag racing and drifting, there is still a lot to be done. Often, the organizers, participants, and spectators will simply move to another area if police encounter them. Detective Brooks has coordinated with the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police in the past, and recently met with the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, to develop a regional plan aimed at eliminating the dangerous activity.



A Dream Deferred, But Not Dashed, MDPD Officer in Training to Return to Professional Tennis Rankings

By Brian Ballou

Lawrence Gunn Jr., is a middle-aged police officer with the Miami-Dade Police Department, but he walks with the bounce of an athlete, and his 6'3" frame still looks like it was shaped by countless hours of practice on the tennis court. It has been almost two decades since he flashed prodigious talent as a professional tennis player, and now he is seeking to get his form back and break into the world rankings once again. He has been practicing at the courts near his home in Miramar, with the hope that the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the governing body of men's professional tennis circuits, will grant him a wildcard entry into the Miami Open in March 2023.

"That's all I want, and from there, it's up to me," said Officer Gunn, after a two-hour practice session recently. "I still feel that I can compete at the professional level. Imagine the story that would be, to be away for so long and then make a comeback."

Officer Gunn is 43, a father of two. When he was 16, he was ranked number one in the state for his age, and in the 18 and under category, he was top 10 in the nation. He discovered tennis at the age of 11, when two friends from his Liberty City neighborhood convinced him to attend their practice.

He had been a standout in basketball, but when he turned his attention to tennis, he realized his athletic calling. He made the United States Tennis Association's national amateur team, and traveled to international tournaments. He also played on his high school team, and amassed a 36-1 record, his only loss coming in his freshman year to the top-ranked player in the state, a senior. Scholarship offers came, and he accepted a full-ride to Flagler College in St. Augustine. He made the All-Florida Sun Conference in 1999, and was named an NAIA All-America. After school, he turned pro, and was on the pro tour for a while.

Tennis can be hugely expensive, and the reality is that a player must have private funding or enough sponsorship to focus on their career. Officer Gunn did not have either of those things, and so he took a job as a bus driver for the Miami-Dade County Transportation and Public Works Department, and worked there for 12 years. He then joined the Miami-Dade Police Department, where he has been for six years. He shut out tennis, played just a couple of times in the past 18 years. He did not watch any tournaments in person or on television.

Officer Gunn loves being a police officer, sees it as a way to serve the public, to protect the vulnerable, and to mentor youth. Recently, he reunited with his youth coach, the man who saw the natural talent in him when he was 11. When Officer Gunn started practicing again, he discovered that his body still remembers. The idiosyncratic twirl of the racket in his right hand, that came without thinking, and so did the forehand, the backhand, the volley, and

the serve, all of those things were ingrained in his muscle memory.

Local courts are full of casual exercise seekers, people in cargo shorts and high-tops who try to mimic the pros, only to flutter around, and sometimes crash into the net. The first clue that there is an elite tennis player in their midst is the sound of the ball off the racket. When Officer Gunn practices, he draws attention. The fluidity of his movements, the slice of his racket, the sound of his tennis shoes shuffling on the hard court, those things are refined skills that make others stop to observe him.

At 43, the odds are not in his favor, but Officer Gunn wants to give it a try, to show others that they should not give up on their dreams. And he truly believes he can return to the form that earned him pro status, and that he can excel at that level.

"Things happen for a reason, it took me a while to accept that," Officer Gunn said. "And now is the right time. Whatever happens, happens, but I can say that I gave it a try."



Officer Lawrence Gunn Jr., is attempting to get a provisional entry to the next Miami Open. He was once a promising professional tennis player, but has not played competitively for almost 20 years. (Photo by Brian Ballou)



Recent Retirements

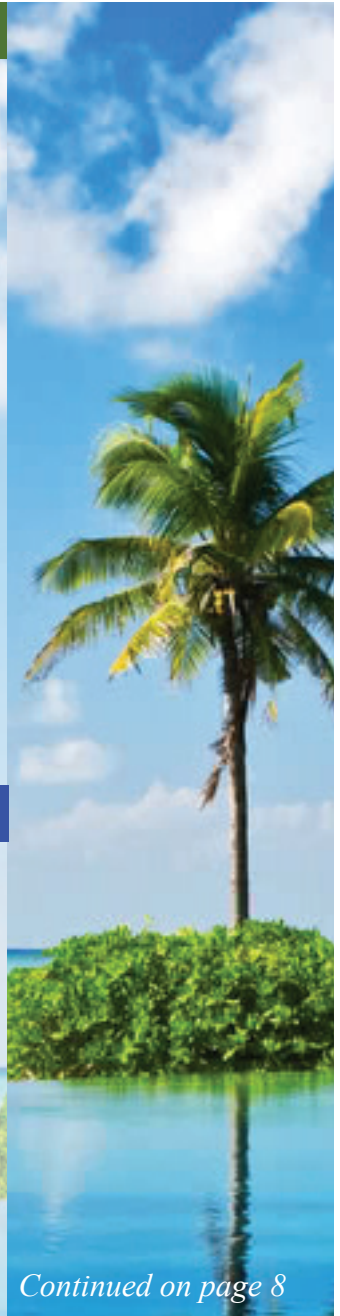
MDPD recently said farewell to 27 employees (15 sworn officers and 12 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 38 to nine years. Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

Chief Richard D. Amion	28
Chief Andrianne M. Byrd	28
Lieutenant Roberto Gonzalez	29
Sergeant Joe Alvarez	29
Sergeant Luis Cristobal	30
Sergeant Oscar J. Ravelo	30
Officer Javier E. Aluart	28
Officer Lillian D. Latimore-Boone	30
Officer David M. Brunner	22
Officer Luis E. Castellanos	19
Officer Candido Cerda	27
Officer Estela L. Diaz	29
Officer Mike Diaz	30
Officer Richard L. McDonough	30
Officer Robert C. Rembisz	30

Professional Staff

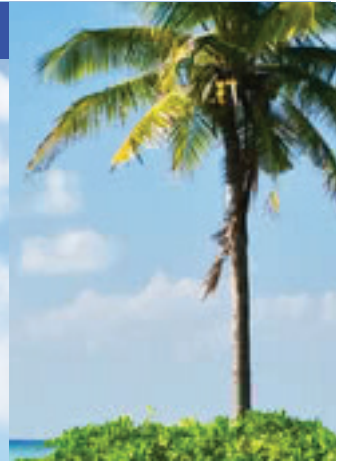
MDPD School Crossing Guard Rafael Alfonso	15
Administrative Secretary Lourdes G. Bello	25
MDPD School Crossing Guard Selfa D. Calcano	27
Police Complaint Officer Susan M. Dudley	35
MDPD Intelligence Analyst Marie R. Jean Francois	33
MDPD School Crossing Guard Gladys Fuller	24
MDPD School Crossing Guard Mauricia Hernandez	10
Police Complaint Officer Beatrice P. Perez	14
MDPD School Crossing Guard Gerardo Perez	9



Continued on page 8

Professional Staff

Clerk 2 Carolyn Smith	30
Police Property Evidence Specialist 1 Alberto Vieites	38
Police Records Technician 1 Amparo Villegas	21



Thank You Blood Donors!



The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held successful blood drives at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on October 5, 2022, and November 21, 2022, and at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center on November 17, 2022. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Captain Lonny R. Allen
Sergeant Randolph Caballero
Sergeant Jacqueline Harrison
Sergeant Petra R. Reeves-Evans
Sergeant Christopher J. Rodriguez
Officer Pedro L. Corona
Officer Patricia L. Lane
Officer Fernando R. Sacasas
MDPD Intelligence Analyst Barbara A. Bonachea
Imaging Records Technician Jeffrey H. Johnson
Police Records Specialist 1 Maria J. Muino

Criminalist 2 Olga J. Paredes
Public Service Aide Frantz Point Du Jour
Police Records Tech 1 Ivonne J. Ponce
Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson
Mr. Angelo Annunziata
Mr. Jorge Armas
Mr. Adolfo Barros
Mr. Juan Del Castillo
Ms. Sylvio Da Cunha
Mr. Manuel Escalona
Ms. Cristal Fajardo

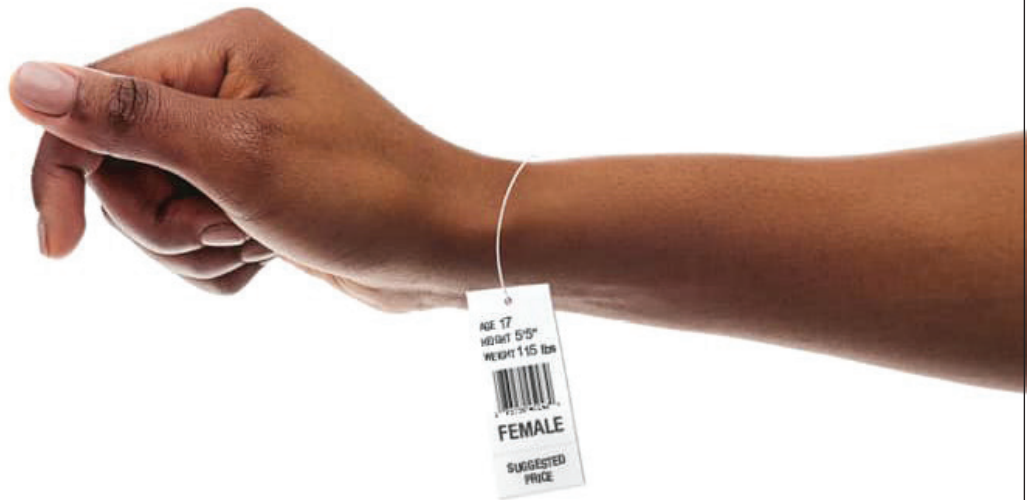
Mr. Gerald Feisthammel
Mr. Daniel Kuyat
Mr. Alfredo Lopez
Mr. Ariel Padron Lopez
Ms. Alejandra Montecinos
Mr. Jorge Mora
Mr. Carlos Mujica
Ms. Lady Munoz
Mr. Juan Serrano



Thank you for **saving lives**

Help
is
Available.

Human Trafficking



“Human Life Is Not For Sale”

Anyone can experience trafficking in any community. If you have information on human trafficking:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-37-37-888. Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking.
- Text HELP to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 233733. Message and data rates may apply.
- Submit a tip online using the National Human Trafficking Hotline's anonymous reporting form. Please note that if the situation is urgent or occurred within the last 24 hours, we would encourage you to call, text or chat.
- Text or call 305-FIX-STOP (305-349-7867)



October/December 2022
Vol. 38, No. 4

ALERT Newsletter
Published by the
Miami-Dade Police Department
Media Relations Section
9105 NW 25 Street
Doral, FL 33172
305-471-1900

Sergeant Erin Alfonso Editor
IO Brian Ballou, Feature Writer
GT Juan A. Perez, Creative Designer

Olenka Ryan-Guerra, Lieutenant
Media Relations Section
Miami-Dade Police Department



Daniella L. Cava
Mayor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Oliver G. Gilbert, III Chairman
Anthony Rodriguez Vice-Chairman



Oliver G. Gilbert, III
District 1

Marleine Bastien
District 2

Keon Hardemon
District 3

Micky Steinberg
District 4

Eileen Higgins
District 5

Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts

Kevin M. Cabrera
District 6

Raquel A. Regalado
District 7

Danielle Cohen Higgins
District 8

Kionne L. McGhee
District 9

Anthony Rodriguez
District 10

Pedro J. Garcia
Property Appraiser

Jose J. Gonzalez
District 11

Juan Carlos Bermudez
District 12

René Garcia
District 13

Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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."