



As we enter into 2024, I would like to reflect on the incredible journey we have collectively undertaken in 2023. Our Department, the eighth largest in the nation, and the beacon of law enforcement throughout the region, has faced challenges that have tested our mettle. Yet in the face of adversity, we emerged not just resilient, but stronger, more focused, and undeterred in our commitment to safeguarding our community.

The year bore challenges to be certain, but that is a testament to our adaptability, and your dedication to your job. Your professionalism gives me a great sense of pride. The steadfast manner in which you embraced these changes speaks volumes about the spirit that courses through this Department.

It is crucial for our officers to recognize that our line of work can take a toll. Our Mental Health & Wellness Bureau is dedicated to helping you, and I suggest that you take advantage of their services, and not just in your darkest moments when you feel like you are carrying the burdens of the world. You are part of a noble profession, and are pillars of strength, but you are also husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, and caregivers and providers.

I would like to recognize our professional staff for another year of exemplary work. From the professionals who collect, maintain, and download vast amounts of records in our Central Records Bureau, to the Police Complaint Officers and Dispatchers who deftly gather and disseminate critical information to help citizens in their time of crisis, to the Criminalists who perform painstaking tests on evidence, you are all part of a large team that I deeply appreciate.

Looking ahead, 2024 represents a significant juncture in the history of this Department. Not since the mid-60's have we had an elected Sheriff, but come November, our Department's leadership will be chosen by the residents

who entrust us with their safety. The transition is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that define us, stated in our mission; Integrity, Respect, Service, and Fairness.

As we welcome the promise of a new year, let it be a catalyst for renewed focus towards our noble duty. We can carry the lessons of the past into the future, and together navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

In closing, let us recognize the 113 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023 in the U.S. In Florida, we lost Jasper Police Department Chief of Police Anthony Rickerson, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Michael Kunovich, and Pembroke Pines Police Department Officer Charles Herring. Those individuals are true heroes, and their ultimate sacrifice should never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Stephanie V. Daniels
Director



New Civilian Workshop Launched to Help New Hires Acclimate to Law Enforcement Workplace

By Brian Ballou

Adjusting to a new job can be daunting, especially when the workplace is the largest law enforcement agency in the southeastern United States; there is a rigorous chain-of-command structure, confidentiality is essential, and there are two distinct classes of employees: sworn and civilian professional staff.

Many of the policies and procedures set by law enforcement agencies such as the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) are vastly different from any other public or private sector entity. The general orientation session required for all new County workers does not address the variances of working at a law enforcement agency. Where that orientation ends, however, is the starting point for the Department's newly created "Civilian Employee Orientation Workshop." The inaugural workshop was held October 30 through November 3, 2023, at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center (MDPSTIRC). Seventeen new hires, with less than six months on the job, attended. The workshop is conducted in blocks of subject matter, including, but not limited to, the Department's structure (i.e., understanding chain of command), financial planning, bargaining agreements, mental health and wellness, ethics, retirement benefits, and payroll. The workshop is specifically designed to answer any questions that new professional staff might have

about their role, so that an employee can make informed decisions that will put them on the proper path towards a rewarding career.

The workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held quarterly, but that depends on the number of new hires within that time frame; organizers are seeking to have classes range from 20 to 40 new hires. The workshop starts at 8:00 a.m., with a lunch break at noon, and the last class ends at 5:00 p.m.

"The employees were very engaged in the classes," said Personnel Management Bureau (PMB) Manager Dena Kelly. "I had been concerned, as a former teacher, that they would be bored to death, but they weren't. They were hungry with questions, and we gave them a lot of answers, and some had even more questions," she said. "Now they know more about the avenues for where things are, how MDPD fits into the grand scheme of the County, how big we are, what an amazing department they work for, no matter what unit or entity they are in. I think they feel more empowered now, after this class."

Many of the questions asked during this inaugural class were related to benefits. The workshop is a great supplement to the Department's unique four-hour benefits class, held at headquarters, that new hires attend within their first month on the job. Employees have eight months from



Recent hires attended a weeklong orientation workshop at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center, in which instructors covered issues such as mental wellness, conflict of interest, and promotions. Pictured in the classroom photograph is Administrative Officer 3 Damaris A. Ramos, of the Central Records Bureau, talking to new hires about public records requests (photos by Brian Ballou).

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New Civilian Workshop Launched . . . *Continued from page 2*



their start date to make their “election” with the Florida Retirement System. The workshop fits in perfectly with that timing, expounding on the information provided in the benefits class, and providing new hires the opportunity to obtain clarification on any remaining questions they might have.

Organizing the workshop took several years. “We had quite a few planning meetings, and the whole point of that was to be as comprehensive as possible, to include everything that we see, the questions that are asked by our staff, and problems that happen downstream as a result of not being informed,” said Forensic Services Division Chief Stephanie Stoiloff. “If we plant the seeds early and explain things early, professional staff are better equipped in their careers,” she said.

Chief Stoiloff, Ms. Kelly, and Fiscal Administration Bureau Commander Lisette Reyes-Wilcox, spent several years putting together the workshop, and they also led sessions in their respective areas of expertise. Having such a strong presence of civilians sends a strong message to the Department’s professional staff that there is room for career advancement, to high levels. That all three are women, also sends a strong message.

“I love that we were able to provide them with examples, role models, and be here as a resource for them to provide information and guide them and let them know that, hey, you are not alone, if you need some help, we are here to help,” Commander Reyes-Wilcox said. “It was a very nice thing to bring in civilian commanders, civilian chiefs, people at a higher level . . . to show that there is growth for civilians in this Department, even though they are not sworn, it is a police department, and I think a lot of the emphasis is on the sworn functions, and the rank and file and moving up those ladders, but there is growth, opportunities available here, at MDPD,

for civilians too,” she said.

Lieutenant Leonardo Arteaga, of the MDPSTIRC, also played a significant role in helping to build the workshop. In the numerous planning meetings, he helped shape the course. Having been a civilian in the Department prior to becoming a police officer, he had unique insight.

“We would like to give a big thank you to the instructors from the MDPSTIRC, Central Records Bureau, PMB; and Police Legal, Mental Health and Wellness, Information Technology Services, and Professional Compliance Bureaus, that also made this happen and have vowed to continue to support this mission,” Lieutenant Arteaga said.

Intelligence Analyst Supervisor Sandra Stuart was instrumental in coordinating the course instructors and provided constructive analysis for future course structure. Mr. Jose Arrojo, the Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, also contributed immensely, along with his staff.

Sabrina Delgado, an Intelligence Analyst with the Forensic Services Division, was one of the new hires who attended the workshop. She previously worked as a data analyst with the Drug Enforcement Administration. She said that the workshop has answered a lot of her questions beyond her specific job, especially about the chain-of-command and benefits.

“There are a lot of things that, walking into the door, you wouldn’t know about as a new employee, you kind of get a little bit thrown in to try to figure out not only your new job tasks, but just the general day-to-day life of being a Miami-Dade County employee, so this class has really set some good foundations of benefits that I didn’t even know were available, and things to do or not to do, so it’s a vital workshop,” Ms. Delgado said.

Department Promotions *By Brian Ballou*



PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

Miami-Dade Police Department
"Committed To Excellence"



Twenty-nine officers and professional staffers were promoted on October 25, 2023, their new ranks ranging from Assistant Director to Sergeant. The promotions were held inside the redesigned second-floor auditorium inside the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building. The large room was filled with the promotees' family, friends, and coworkers. At least 200 people attended the event.

Nineteen officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and five Sergeants were promoted to Lieutenant. Mrs. Carlo L. Harris Brown was promoted to Senior Police Bureau Commander, and Mrs. Lisette Reyes-Wilcox was promoted to Executive Senior Bureau Commander. Former Lieutenant Jose Gonzalez was promoted to the rank of Major, former Major Carmen M. Castro was promoted to the rank of Police Division Chief, and former Chief Edgardo Caneva was promoted to Assistant Director.

Assistant Director Edgardo Caneva received a congratulatory handshake from Director Stephanie V. Daniels during the promotion ceremony on October 25, 2023. (photo by Melanie Pacheco)

Brothers Who Grew Up in Law Enforcement Family Have Raised Over \$130,000 For Officers in Need

By Brian Ballou



Homicide Bureau Detective Danny Morales, left, and his brother, Northside District Sergeant Brandon Espinosa, have raised money to help Officers in need. (photo by Brian Ballou)

On November 4, 2022, Homicide Bureau Detective Danny Morales and his brother, Northside District Sergeant Brandon Espinosa, founded a non-profit called Bleeding Blue Inc., and since then, they have donated \$130,000 to

22 law enforcement families, raised through fundraisers such as 5-K runs, sports tournaments, prayer vigils, and t-shirt sales.

“We have a lot of events that are being planned as we speak,” said Detective Morales, 27, a six-year veteran of the Department, during a recent interview. Both men come from families with legacies of police work. “My stepfather is a retired police officer, and my mom has to deal with three cops in her family, so she knows what it’s like,” Detective Morales said. “We get a lot of support in our fundraising efforts from our Homicide Bureau members, and from other law enforcement officers, and outside agencies.”

Years before they set up the non-profit, Sergeant Espinosa, 31, a ten-year veteran of the Department, realized that there was a dire need to help officers, especially those who sustain injuries outside of the line of duty, because they are not eligible for certain coverages.

“When I was first promoted, more than four years ago, we had an officer in our district, Intracoastal, who had gotten into an accident off duty, and I started asking around, to find out if there was anything that we could do to help out,” Sergeant Espinosa said. “So, I got together with my brother and we made a challenge coin, and donated the money we raised through that to him and his family.”

Through the years, he and his brother would do small projects for other officers, but in 2022, when there were several incidents that befell officers in the Department, the brothers felt the need to bring some structure to their efforts to help out.

Officer Matthew Larsh was critically injured in a traffic crash in April 2022. He was driving his motorcycle heading to work when an SUV veered into his path. Four months later, 29-year old Detective Cesar “Echy” Echaverry was shot by a suspect on August 15, 2022, and died two days later. Then in November 2022, Officer Damian Colon was shot in the head by a stalker, leaving him permanently disabled. Echy and Officer Colon were close friends of the brothers.

“When Echy passed, we had our first organized campaign,” Sergeant Espinosa said. When Officer Colon was shot, the brothers did the necessary paperwork with the state of Florida and the Internal Revenue Service to create their non-profit. The expenses to organize the events are covered through donations, and the rest of the donations go directly to the families. The brothers, and their team, do not receive any money.

The Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT) was founded in 1989 as a support organization for the law enforcement community of Miami-Dade County, and is a federally

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Brothers Who Grew Up . . . *Continued from page 5*

recognized charity that has raised millions in assistance for hundreds of officers and their families to “help offset financial burdens associated with illness, injury, disability, and death.” Bleeding Blue is independent of POAT. The brothers said that POAT does tremendous work that has benefitted hundreds of families, and is a much larger organization than theirs. They make sure that their fundraisers do not conflict with anything that POAT does, or any other organization, and they participate in that organization’s events.

“Giving credit where credit is due, they do amazing work. What differentiates us is that we have a platform because we are giving back to people who we work alongside, its very personal, and we can also fill in some of the areas where these other organizations can’t,” Detective Morales said. “The hours that go into it are insane, considering that we both have full-time jobs.”

In October 2023, Anthony Caabeiro, a 22-year-old rookie Hialeah officer, was killed in an off-duty motorcycle crash in Homestead, and that department immediately reached out to Bleeding Blue to ask for assistance for the officer’s family and funeral expenses. Bleeding Blue launched a t-shirt sale and sold over 550

shirts generating over \$9,000 for the officer’s family.

They also created a memorial challenge coin and organized a bike night in collaboration with the Hialeah Police Department at a restaurant in Hialeah, where they raised money through raffles. That moved their donation amount up past \$15,000.

“We come from a family of law enforcement, our stepdad, who raised us, was an officer in Hialeah for 30-plus years,” Sergeant Espinosa said. “So, we grew up in this world of the thin blue line, of taking care of the guy next to you, going to police memorials and stuff like that, so now we are here on this side and we see the gaps that maybe some people don’t see from the outside, we see people that unfortunately fall to the wayside, and we say, ‘hey, how can we fix this.’”

For more information on the organization, please visit: www.bleedingblue.info



Retired Miami-Dade Police Officer Recounts a Bygone Era, And His Brush With President Kennedy *By Brian Ballou*

Security was tight at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. President John F. Kennedy was in town and scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at a fundraising dinner for Senator George Smathers, inside the glitzy hotel, on March 10, 1962.

Miami-Dade Police Officer Jack Kahn, a four-year veteran, had a day off, but he was called in by his

supervisor because more security was needed for the perimeter of the hotel. Officer Kahn was assigned to a spot in the rear, near the kitchen entrance and close to the dumpsters. It was midday and hotter and muggier than usual for early Spring, even by South Florida standards. The stench of trash wafted in the air, and Officer Kahn’s

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Retired Miami-Dade Police Officer . . . *Continued from page 6*

uniform was saturated with sweat. After standing for several hours, he sat down on a sturdy milk crate to rest his legs.

A lengthy motorcade stopped near the kitchen service driveway, and President Kennedy, with his Secret Service contingent, emerged. Officer Kahn rose to his feet. The agents gathered around the President in a diamond formation, and they walked briskly towards the rear entrance, but as they passed the frazzled young officer, the charismatic young President stopped in front of him, and exclaimed, “You look like you just came out of the ocean!” The President then asked him if he needed a drink. When Officer Kahn answered yes, the President invited him to his suite. The air-conditioning was on full blast and Officer Kahn went from overheated to freezing as he gulped down a tall glass of water. As he drank, the president wrote on a piece of Fontainebleau stationery, “To my favorite Deputy Sheriff, thank you for taking care of me, your friend, President John F. Kennedy.”

The interaction was one of many colorful moments of Officer Kahn’s 12-year career that spanned from 1958 to 1970. Now 88 and living in suburban Chicago, Mr. Kahn recently reminisced about the bygone era, prior to the advent of high-tech, big data, and surveillance, that transformed policing and reshaped policies and procedures.

“Back then there were no forensics, and it was before Miranda rights, so things were done very differently than today, there is a lot more to the job now, officers have to use computers and there is a lot of technology in their work, stuff that didn’t exist when I was an officer,” Mr. Kahn said.

He said his most impactful case during his career was the bust of an armed robbery and burglary ring that expanded into Broward County. Seven men were arrested, responsible for over 10 armed robberies, including a bank, and 50 burglaries, and the theft of 75 cars. Mr. Kahn and several other officers worked for months to bring the perpetrators to justice. In the process, they spent hours interviewing victims and witnesses and following leads. It was gumshoe work at its best, a team of officers scouring scenes and comparing notes. “We got a nice letter from the Sheriff, and it was put in our personnel files.”

His career with the Department had an inauspicious start. He had not yet graduated from the police academy when he was plucked out of a training class to go undercover as an inmate. He was selected for the assignment because he grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and had that in common with a man who was arrested on murder charges and being held at the county jail. Officer Kahn was assigned to infiltrate and get the suspect to open up about committing the murders.

Such assignments are a thing of the past. Trainees are not considered for actual police work before they



Now living in the Chicago area, Mr. Jack Kahn was a patrol officer for the Department back in 1958, and had a colorful 12-year career that included meeting President John F. Kennedy (photos provided by Mr. Jack Kahn).

graduate from the academy, and even after graduation, they undergo additional training before being considered for any undercover work.

“My first day in, I didn’t just want to rush up, so I observed him,” Mr. Kahn said. “The next day, I was standing in line for breakfast, spotted him in line, and I

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Retired Miami-Dade Police Officer . . . *Continued on page 7*

sat next to him. He asked me what I was in for and I told him armed robbery. I asked him what he was in for and he said triple homicide, but also said he was going to beat it because they didn't have any evidence. Then we started talking about Brooklyn, I told him I went to Madison High School and he said he went to Lincoln. There were several times I tried to push the conversation back to his case, but he wasn't having it, didn't say anything. I felt that he would never tell me anything, so later, I gave the word to the guards, and they got me out of there."

And then there was the call for service involving a pelican in the road.

Officer Kahn was provided a new, unmarked 1959 Ford sedan for his patrols. The captain who assigned the car gave him one instruction- do not get a single scratch on the vehicle. Officer Kahn set off on his shift, which started mid-day, at 3 p.m., and ended at 11 p.m. His first call was a traffic jam on the A1A in Miami, near the beach. When he arrived on scene, he saw a pelican in the road. The bird appeared lifeless, but after he picked it up and placed it in the back of the sedan, the animal started fluttering wildly and defecating all over the upholstery. "The smell was a horrible, terrible stench," Mr. Kahn said. "I went to a gas station later and tried to get the smell out with a hose and scrubbing, but that didn't work. I had another call for a DUI, and the guy that was arrested refused to get in the back of the car because of the smell." The next day at the station, the captain yelled at him and then suspended him for three days, but made him come in each day during his suspension to scrub down the inside of the car.

"When I look back at my career, it was the best job that I ever had," Mr. Kahn said. "I treated everyone the same, with respect, and it was rewarding to help people out."

When he was six, he contracted Polio. The vaccine had not yet been developed. Doctors drained fluid from his spine, and he was put in an "iron lung" which stimulated his breathing. He recovered from the disease, but it did leave his right arm and right leg shorter than his left limbs. He said it miraculously gave him more strength in the affected arm, and it improved his throwing velocity for baseball.

"It was like a miracle," he said.

He went into the Navy, at 17-years-old, forging his father's signature. But after only three months, got an honorable discharge due to medical reasons- his elbow was giving him problems, likely related to his bout with polio as a child. He returned to New York to finish his senior year of high school. He stayed with his sister, because his parents had moved to Miami.

He also had a brief professional baseball career, playing right field for the Brooklyn Dodgers Rookies, the equivalent of a Major League Organization's double-A team. Injuries continued to plague him, short-circuiting his career.

He then attended Ithaca College in New York, and while there, he was drafted into the U.S.

Army, in 1955, at the end of the Korean War. He went to basic training, but after eight weeks, again received an honorable discharge. When he got out, he reunited with his parents in Miami. His mother suggested that he try the police department.

He passed the Sergeant's exam in 1963. He got married at the age of 30, and started a family while in the Department. After he retired from the Department in 1970, he moved his family to Chicago, where his wife was from. He started a steel processing company, and oversaw it for 25 years. Due to the financial crisis of 2008, he had to close business. He became a security guard at Skokie Hospital in a suburb of Chicago, and worked that job for a decade before retiring.

"My time with the department prepared me for everything in life, I'm so thankful for the opportunity."



South District Neighborhood Resource Officer Helps Young Girls Through Her Mentoring Program *By Brian Ballou*

The name of the mentoring group for girls ages 6-18 is “Polished Girls Empowered & Motivated Spiritually,” or simply Polished GEMS, and the members are divided into several age groups, each one named after a precious gemstone, such as ruby, emerald, diamond, and sapphire.

Since 2015, South District Neighborhood Resource Unit Officer Citia Easterling has been mentoring young girls, giving them advice to help them focus on their education, families and future, and to help them avoid some of the things that she experienced at their age, while growing up in South Miami. She has mentored more than 200 girls so far.

“I went through a lot of things, as an innocent child, and then as a high-school student, and it changed my life, but it also led me to a path of mentoring, to help young vulnerable girls,” Officer Easterling said.

When she was nine, a man known to her family exposed himself to her on two separate occasions and was subsequently arrested after she told her mother what happened. A police officer assigned to the case learned that she loved to collect baseball cards, so he would occasionally visit her to drop off baseball card packets. “That left me with a positive impression of police, and I started thinking about what it would be like to become a police officer,” Officer Easterling said.

She became a mother at the age of 17, and had to quit playing high school sports so that she could take care of her daughter and work, to earn money to pay for things that her child needed. Her entire life changed. She went from hanging out with her friends to having the responsibility of raising a child.

“It was almost as if we were growing up together,” Officer Easterling said.

After high school, she started working for the Florida Department of Corrections. She still wanted to become a police officer, but felt that gaining experience in the field of corrections would make her a better police officer.

In 2015, while she was still working for the Florida Department of Corrections, she started mentoring, based on something that her daughter told her. “I remember clearly, one day my daughter telling me that I had a lot of wisdom and that I should help others, and that’s when I made the decision.”

She modeled her program after one that she had gone through as a girl. “When I was young, there was a thing in South Miami called the Afterschool House, where students from the University of Miami would go there and tutor us for free. That planted the idea, and I started writing out a plan.”

She advertised through social media, and organized a picnic at a local park as a sign-up event. Over 100 girls showed up. “We had a great turnout, and I had several friends who were helping out as mentors.”

In 2018, Officer Easterling made the decision to join the Miami-Dade Police Department, and entered the academy. She was a member of Basic Law Enforcement Class #121. The rigors of the academy forced her to scale back on the mentoring program, and membership waned.

“But when I finished the academy and came here (South District), I started it back up,” Officer Easterling said. There are now about a dozen girls in the program. “We are helping these girls one at a time become better people, so that they can grow up and be highly successful.”

Polished GEMS hosts several annual events, including a backpack giveaway, Thanksgiving turkey baskets, Christmas toy drive, feeding the homeless, and breakfasts for the elderly. Additionally, Officer Easterling anonymously sponsors two families, with school uniforms and shoes. She also donates baskets to graduating high school seniors and helps students with prom expenses.

South District Major Benny Solis said Officer Easterling is someone who truly cares about, and contributes to the community. “As an agency, we should strive to acknowledge the great things that our officers do, not just when they are on duty, but when they are off-duty, taking the time to serve the community, that should be showcased, and Officer Easterling is a shining example of that,” Major Solis said.



South District Neighborhood Resource Unit Officer Citia Easterling has been mentoring young girls since 2015, helping to strengthen her community one GEM at a time. (photo provided by Officer Easterling)

Dispatchers and Police Complaint Officers Help Make Christmas for Needy Children

By Brian Ballou

The Christmas tree went up on November 1, 2023, in the reception area of a local dance studio. Instead of tinsel balls, whimsical ornaments, and glittery garlands, the tree was decorated with 80 red and white tags that were fastened to the branches with blue or yellow ribbons. Each tag had a name handwritten on one side, and on the other side a printed wish list of toys and the name of a child with their shirt, pant, and shoe size. The wish list for Patrick, a 6-year-old boy, was a walkie-talkie and a “stem activity science kit.”

The tags come from the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program, which helps to provide Christmas presents to hundreds of thousands of needy children in the U.S. each year. When the Angel Tree first went up in 2018 at the dance studio, MDPD Police Dispatcher Tiffiney Toombs, whose daughter attends the dance studio, got involved. She plucked a tag off the tree and went shopping for the items printed on it. She wrapped the gifts and put them under the tree, and days later the Salvation Army hauled her gifts and dozens of other donated gifts away to deliver them to children.

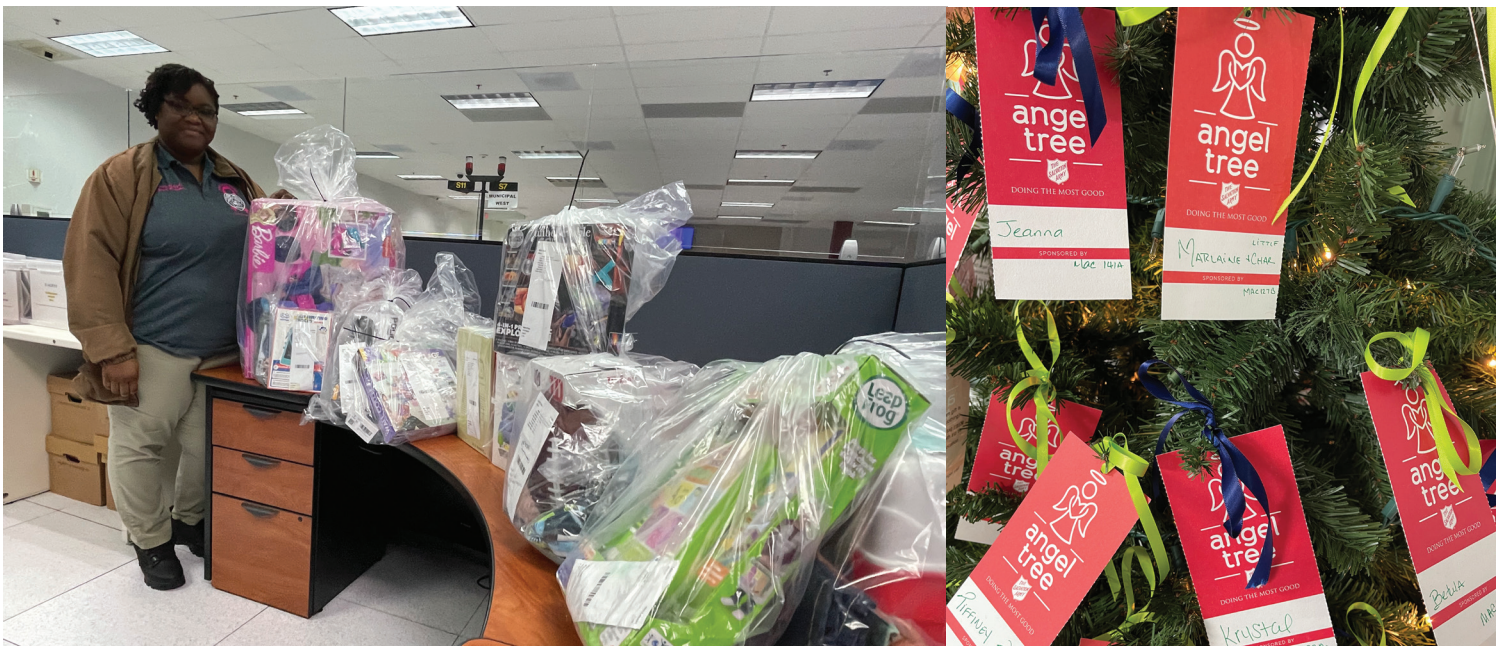
Several Police Dispatchers and Police Complaint Officers with the Department have either taken classes at the same studio or have daughters who regularly take classes there, and they got involved as well, and also started recruiting their coworkers at the Department’s Communications Bureau.

Dispatcher Toombs got her co-worker involved, MDPD Dispatcher Betula Petgrave, who started recruiting other co-workers at the Bureau, the busiest public safety answering point in the southeastern U.S. On average approximately 2 million calls for service are processed annually there. This season, 27 Police Dispatchers and Police Complaint Officers committed to buying gifts for the children. The recipients of the gifts are referred through Miami-Dade County Public Schools or the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the process is done anonymously, the people who donate do not meet the children they buy gifts for.

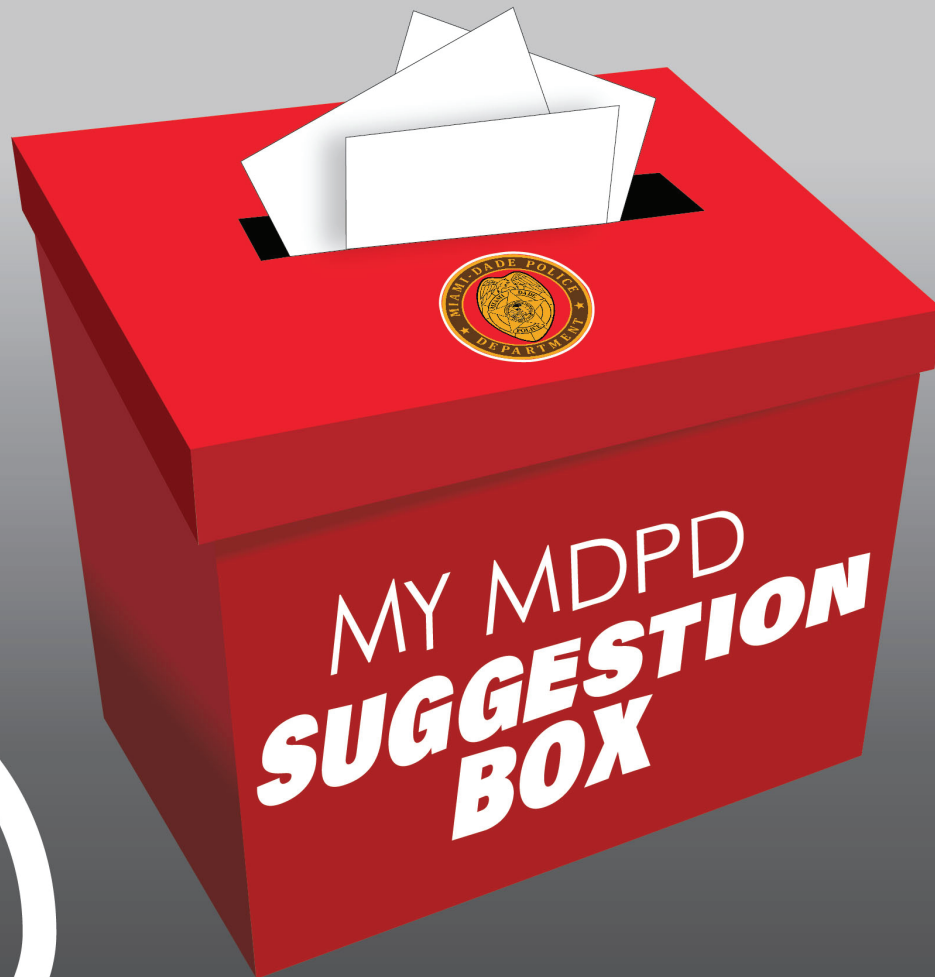
“It’s just amazing to see that with the Salvation Army, all of these kids, some of them have no parents, will be able to receive gifts,” Ms. Petgrave said. “I love the fact that everybody comes together to do this.”

The Bureau has a history of donating to the community, whether it is a Thanksgiving food drive, a clothing drive, a back-to-school supplies drive, or other worthy cause. Ms. Petgrave recently reached out to her co-workers to ask if they would be interested in buying gifts for a child, and several of them signed up.

“I love supporting the community and helping others who are in need,” said Marie Pabon, a Dispatcher for 27 years, who bought toys for a child.



Dispatcher Betula Petgrave and many of her co-workers have for years provided toys to needy children through the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program. (photos by Brian Ballou)



MDPD WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Ideas are the basis of progress. Share your progressive suggestions and valuable feedback to further develop, innovate, and fuel your MDPD.

The Suggestion Box application is now online through the MDPD portal, **Popular Links**. This application is not an avenue for complaints.

The WELLNESS CORNER



Resilient Blue New Year!

When looking at resilience in the new year, think about how you can reinspire yourself for this next upcoming year. What would you like to do that would make you feel proud?

These goals are useful when they are actionable, achievable, measurable, and consistent. How do you measure a goal? Three times a week, take a run or walk around the block for 10 minutes each session for a minimum of six months and at the end, if I do not miss a session - I will take that trip, or buy that item I was wanting . . .

What is important to you, this year, that you would like to look back on with pride that you were able to accomplish?

As part of the Resilient Blue project, there are ways you can make some healthy changes that can help you to change a behavior. Choose what you want to change - and measure your success by your consistency in sticking to your commitment. Do you want to eat healthier? What does that look like to you? Make sure you are able to define what that is specifically. Here is a list of examples of resolutions in different categories:

Eating:

If there was one goal I would want for you, it would be to make sure to eat 75-100% of your body weight in protein grams a day. Make sure you split it up in smaller portions lower than 40 grams per session and by the end of the day, it should equal 75% to 100% of your total body weight.

Moving:

Lift weights at least 2 days a week and in general, 3 sets of 10 reps will be a great place to start. If you are not lifting weights, you are missing an important part of the opportunity to look younger, feel stronger, and improve your movement patterns. Make sure to hit every muscle group (don't skip anything that you don't like) and be patient with yourself in making slow progress over time. But be consistent!

Sleeping:

Make sure to prioritize sleep and make sure you can improve the number of hours you sleep most days of the week by one hour (if it is under seven hours of sleep). Sleep hygiene has been linked to an increased risk of chronic diseases. It is an important part of brain health to help flush waste-filled fluid with fresh fluids during deep sleep.

Starting new Hobbies:

Is there something you would like to learn? A new skill you would like to develop? Commit to try a new activity to develop and grow in new areas. Select the activity or class and sign up for it starting in the new year!

Have fun creating a new year of opportunities to keep improving on your personal development!

Happy New Year...



RESILIENT BLUE
Engage With Your Department

Happy New Year 2024

OPERATIONAL SHIELD

Devotional



Miami-Dade Police Department Auditorium

THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Any questions please contact:
Ofc. Carla Ginebra De Garcia 305-281-0760

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)





Recent Retirements

MDPD recently said farewell to 22 employees (15 sworn officers and 7 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 34 to 13 years. Director Stephanie V. Daniels, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

Sworn

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Chief Carlos D. Gonzalez | 29 |
| Major Michael Dieppa | 27 |
| Lieutenant Peter N. Zaharakos | 29 |
| Sergeant Jorge A. Avetrani | 25 |
| Sergeant Brooke M. Gonzalez | 20 |
| Sergeant Michelle M. Murr | 26 |
| Sergeant Rogelio Reguera Jr | 31 |
| Sergeant Adriana M. Taboada | 26 |
| Officer Estrellita Brutto | 26 |
| Officer Lazaro J. Gonzalez | 22 |
| Officer John D. Rasmussen | 34 |
| Officer Jeffrey Richman | 28 |
| Officer Diego M. Serrano | 25 |
| Officer Frederick B. Van Loan | 30 |
| Officer William C. Vasquez | 28 |

Professional Staff

| | |
|--|----|
| School Crossing Guard Anabell Abad | 13 |
| Administrative Secretary Joanne Fernandez | 21 |
| Stenographic Reporter Renee Fuentes | 24 |
| Investigative Specialist Esther Harris | 16 |
| Criminalist Supervisor Sharon D. Hinz | 34 |
| Police Complaint Officer Theodore Pizzagalli | 29 |
| Warrants Tech Marian Rolle | 32 |





The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held a successful blood drive at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on October 20, 2023. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Major Jorge Aguiar
 Captain Lonny R. Allen
 Sergeant Petra R. Reeves-Evans
 Officer Marvin E. Davis
 Officer Angelica E. Dolan
 Officer Fernando R. Sacasas
 Officer Luis J. Sierra
 Officer Johnpaul Valentin
 Police Records Technician 1 Catherine E. Buckland

Criminalist 1 Evelio M. Feito
 Digital Evidence Supervisor Heather H. Garay
 Imaging Records Technician Jeffrey H. Johnson
 Criminalist Jocelyn M. Martinez
 Investigative Specialist Rodrigo A. Sepulveda
 Administrative Secretary Carmen B. Williams
 Ms. Teresita Beruvides-Pena
 Mr. Alberto Lopez



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 Media Relations Section
 Miami-Dade Police Department



Daniella L. Cava
 Mayor



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Oliver G. Gilbert, III Chairman
Anthony Rodriguez Vice-Chairman

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| Keon Hardemon District 3 | Danielle Cohen Higgins District 8 | René Garcia District 13 |
| Micky Steinberg District 4 | Kionne L. McGhee District 9 | |
| Eileen Higgins District 5 | Anthony Rodriguez District 10 | |
| Luis G. Montaldo Clerk Ad Interim | Pedro J. Garcia Property Appraiser | Geri Bonzon-Keenan County Attorney |

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