



Taking the helm of the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) was not a journey I envisioned, especially under such deep personal circumstances. The sudden departure of our former Director sent shock and concern throughout our ranks, and it was a reminder of the pressures that weigh on those called to serve and lead.

In the weeks that followed, I witnessed something extraordinary, as a Department we did what law enforcement families do best, we stood together, leaned on one another, and through compassion, professionalism, and unwavering determination, we stayed the course, and continued to serve the citizens of this County with high standards. I am truly humbled by the resilience of this Department, and together we have continued to uphold the values that define us, integrity, respect, service, and fairness.

I always wanted to be in a position to help steer the Department, but not at the helm. Nonetheless, I give God the praise for strengthening my resolve to take on that role of leadership, at one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the country. In looking back on my time as Director, the most fulfilling moments were when I had the opportunity to connect with not only the MDPD staff, but with the community. I am humbled to have had the chance to share stories and insights, to impart knowledge and wisdom to new officers during their graduations, and to acknowledge the achievements of our officers during promotion and awards ceremonies. It also gave me great pride to let brown and black children know that they can do anything they set their minds to, and I often used my own story to let them know that where you start does not dictate where you end.

I've always been passionate about the Miami-Dade County community. I was one of the first 62 officers on the Department to be a member of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program. I had a designated

area, or a grid, of my own during the day shift. I remember starting what I called the Bunche Park internship program, focusing on juveniles who were getting into trouble. That internship was four weeks, and we partnered with local businesses like Winn-Dixie, Burger King, and KFC. We taught about etiquette, filling out a job application, and how to present yourself during an interview. We brought managers in from those businesses, and they interviewed those kids at the end of the program and offered jobs.

On Monday, November 25, 2024 at 8 a.m., I sent out an e-mail to All Staff announcing my retirement, after an incredible 32 years. I had a career I could not have envisioned, and I walk away with a sense of incredible pride and accomplishment. I am fully confident that the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office will continue to live up to the standard that has endured for decades.

I will stay busy in retirement, I am a realtor and have several other businesses. I've been an entrepreneur my entire life, and on top of that my family runs a non-profit organization that gives scholarships out. I travel extensively, I love to cruise and plan to visit Japan and Hawaii in 2025.

Thank you MDPD, it has been a pleasure to serve!

Sincerely,

Stephanie V. Daniels
Director



Last Miami-Dade Police Department Promotional Class Ceremony Filled With Nostalgia, Eye on Future

By Brian Ballou



Northside District Uniformed Patrol Sergeant Gilbert Nau receives his gold badge from his wife, Taymah Nau, during the final Miami-Dade Police Department Promotional Ceremony, held on October 28, 2024. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

In a ceremony tinged with historic significance, 13 members of the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) stepped into new roles of leadership, marking not only their personal achievements, but also the end of an era.

Among them, three sergeants rose to the rank of lieutenant, while ten officers donned gold badges for the first time, symbolizing their transition to supervisory roles.

This promotion class is more than a routine personal career milestone for the group, they represent the final cohort to ascend the ranks under the banner of the MDPD, which will officially transition to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office on January 7, 2025. For these newly promoted leaders, the ceremony was a moment to reflect on their own journeys while standing at the crossroads of their Department's history.

Change was the theme throughout the ceremony on Monday, October 28, 2024, echoed in the words of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's representative

at the event, Dr. Carladenise Edwards, Chief Administrative Officer.

"You know change is a huge part of our life, change can be hard and change can be scary, but as leaders you all will facilitate the change that we are about to embark upon, and I'm so glad that I get to do that with you," Dr. Edwards said.

Promoted to Sergeant were; Dalton A. Clark, Matthew G. Crowe, Simeon R. Dawson, Rita G. Gonzalez, Christine Marte, Annanetha R. Mitchell, Gilbert Nau, Jose M. Navarro, Justin R. Pascual, and Jaime Richter. Promoted to Lieutenant were; Aida M. Fina-Millian, Tania Solis, and Charles M. Stennett.

"Today marks a significant milestone, not just for you, but for all of us as we stand here together, in what will be the final promotional ceremony of the Miami-Dade Police Department," said Director Stephanie V. Daniels. After a brief silence, she continued her speech, looking directly at the 13 supervisors seated together at the front of the large auditorium room on the second floor of the Fred Taylor Headquarters Building in Doral. "I'm emotional, it's the last one, the last one, you all are making history."

This Promotional Ceremony will also be the last one that Director Daniels will preside over as the Department's leader. On November 5, Assistant Director Rosanna "Rosie" Cordero-Stutz was elected Sheriff, and her term begins on January 7, 2025.

Director Daniels said, "As we prepare to transition into the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, it is important to reflect on the responsibilities that we all carry into this new chapter, this promotional ceremony, this promotion for you is not just a new badge, or title, it is a profound responsibility, you are now leaders, charged with upholding the standards of this Department and setting examples that others will follow. I trust that each of you has the skill, the integrity, and the commitment necessary to embrace this responsibility. As we move forward, remember that being the right leader starts with who you are, your core. Leadership isn't about rank or authority, it is about your character, fairness, and ability to lead with empathy and compassion."

Later in her speech she said, "As we prepare to enter into the new era of the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, I want to remind you that this is not just a rebranding, it is a continuation of who we are at our core, Miami-Dade. The Miami-Dade Police Department has always stood for excellence, integrity, and service to our community. Those values will carry forward with us, and it is up to us, all of us, to ensure they remain the cornerstone of our work."

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Last Miami-Dade Police Department Promotional Class . . . *Continued from page 2*

Among the promotion class was Northside District Uniformed Patrol Sergeant Gilbert Nau. Standing with his family after the end of the ceremony, he expressed his feelings.

“When Director Daniels mentioned it in her speech to us, at that moment, it kind of hit me hard, and it actually gives me a lot of motivation to keep moving up and setting a good example, acting on her words to

become a good leader to guide the new officers to a greater future.” In referring to his own career as well as the Department’s transition, he added, “Change is good, and there are challenges from those changes that should be embraced.”

Police Dispatch Supervisor 2 Carries Heavy Load At Work, And Gym *By Brian Ballou*

Exercise was never part of Levenda James’ life, but at 40 years of age, after her mother was stricken with serious health issues, she took that as a wake-up call, and joined a boot-camp style gym in Fort Lauderdale.

There was a lot of lifting heavy, odd objects, and uncommon workouts like pulling trucks. The training was strenuous, but for Ms. James, an MDPD Police Dispatch Supervisor 2, it awakened her inner athlete, and she found out that she was stronger than she thought she was. A coach at the gym also noticed her strength, and suggested to her to take a powerlifting class. She signed up, but when she went, she discovered it was no powerlifting class, but instead an Olympic weightlifting class that focused on the clean-and-jerk and the snatch, two explosive and complex movements that require power, technique, and brute strength. The snatch starts with the weight on the floor and finishes with it overhead, in one movement. The clean and jerk is two movements - the first shifts the weight from the floor to the shoulders, and the second shifts it overhead. Ms. James said she was smitten with both lifts during that first class.

Nine years after discovering her passion, she remains dedicated to Olympic-style lifting, her strength and determination as striking as the salt-and-pepper hue of



Police Dispatch Supervisor 2 Levenda James practices the snatch, an Olympic weightlifting exercise, at her training gym. (Photo by Brian Ballou)

her hair. She competes in the master’s division, and will move up from 50-54 age category in January 2025, to the

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2 Carries Heavy Load At Work, And Gym *Continued from page 3*

55-59 age bracket. She has accumulated numerous medals from local, state, national and international competitions. keeps pushing her body. Sometimes there are aches and pains, because this sport is tough, but she continues to challenge herself. Her dedication to trying to be better is great, she really tries. She will try her absolute hardest to make what we discuss happen. She

gets upset when she doesn't get what she wants, but she doesn't get discouraged, she won't quit. It's a sport of constant polishing. She has really awoken about pushing herself physically."

For Ms. James, the workouts can sometimes be humbling, but, she says, "There's a lot of life lessons in that barbell."

The WELLNESS CORNER



Are you ready for a wellness evolution?

There are several changes that will be taking effect over the next several months which sometimes can lead to feelings of stress. Take time to assess your hold on what you can control in your life. From a wellness perspective, take account for what you would like to see change in your daily routines that lead you to improved fitness. These include:

Dietary changes - are you keeping track of what you are eating? What is one thing you would like to change in your daily habits that can contribute to better health?

Exercise habits - Are you focusing on improving your performance in any aspect of your fitness? What are some ways you can take action to improve your ability to move your body? Is pain keeping you from moving how you want to? Try to pick one thing to improve upon from a fitness perspective and be specific on what you want to achieve.

Sleeping patterns - Have you been able to aim for 7-9 hours of sleep a night? What is stopping you from getting your recovery?

Social pursuits - Are you happy with your level of social interactions and connection to others? What would you like to change in this area?

Know where you are and where you are going - Do you use a GPS? You must know your current location before your GPS can make recommendations on what directions you need.

Without an assessment of your current barriers to progress, it is not possible to make any specific results. There are several types of positive outcomes you can expect from taking inventory of these habits. Overall, take the opportunity to recover in between workouts, make progress for your fitness goals, achieve more mental clarity and less social isolation.





Recent Retirements

MDPD recently said farewell to 29 employees (18 sworn officers and 11 professional staff) who retired after periods of service ranging from 35 to 9 years. Director Stephanie V. Daniels, the Department’s Command Staff, and the entire MDPD family wish our colleagues many, many years of happy retirement.

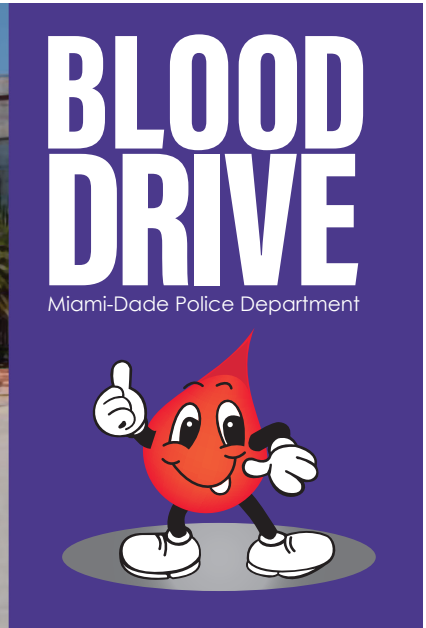
Sworn

Police Division Chief Carmen M. Castro	31
Sergeant Darrell G. Cooper	29
Sergeant Ladona M. Crumpler	27
Sergeant Nicole P. Donnelly	31
Sergeant Angel A. Dovale	33
Sergeant Jacquelin Harrison	34
Sergeant Christian N. Smith	29
Officer Carlos Alonso	30
Officer Robert Brutto	31
Officer Paul D. Byrd	24
Officer Gerry A. Doty	23
Officer Lourdes M. Hernandez	27
Officer Valerio Hildago-Gato	28
Officer Beverly Hutchinson	28
Officer Wilfred Marti	29
Officer Raymond E. Rosario	30
Officer Don J. Torres	28
Officer James S. Watkins	25

Professional Staff

Police Records Technician 1 Denis Altidor	27
School Crossing Guard Valeria Cole	11
Police Financial Investigator Margaret Dunn	25
Police Dispatcher Mary Elizabeth Erwin	31
Crime Lab Manager Jeffrey R. Johnson	35
School Crossing Guard Jose E. Lemos	15
School Crossing Guard Isabel Loyola	17
Administrative Secretary Zoraida Nunez	31
Account Clerk Silvia Raposo	17
Police Records Specialist 1 Olga J. Sarria	26
School Crossing Guard Leo Y. Shen	9





The Miami-Dade Police Department and OneBlood held a successful blood drive at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center on Monday, October 7, 2024, and the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Special thanks are extended to the donors listed below for helping save lives!

Major Jorge Aguiar
 Major Javier I. Ruiz
 Captain Lonny R. Allen
 Captain Evens Gabriel Jr.
 Lieutenant Jorge M. Audino
 Sergeant Randolph Caballero
 Sergeant Manuel O. Lora
 Sergeant Manuel A. Munoz
 Sergeant David F. Quintas
 Officer John M. Dalton

Officer Antonio R. Llaneras
 Officer Luis M. Llanes
 Officer Mario Perez Jr.
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 Secretary Tracy Lynn Cardentey
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 Secretary Corin N. Gaffney
 Fingerprint Supervisor Desiree M. Hardy
 Secretary Kayla Nicole Jonas
 Police Records Technician 1 Amauri Padro

Police Records Technician 2 Kevona S. Richardson
 MDPD Intelligence Analyst Rodrigo A. Sepulveda
 Criminalist 2 Erin M. Wilson
 Mr. Edgar Castellanos
 Mr. Juan Orozco
 Mr. Carlos Rivera
 Ms. Jessica Salas
 Mr. Yosuke Suenaga

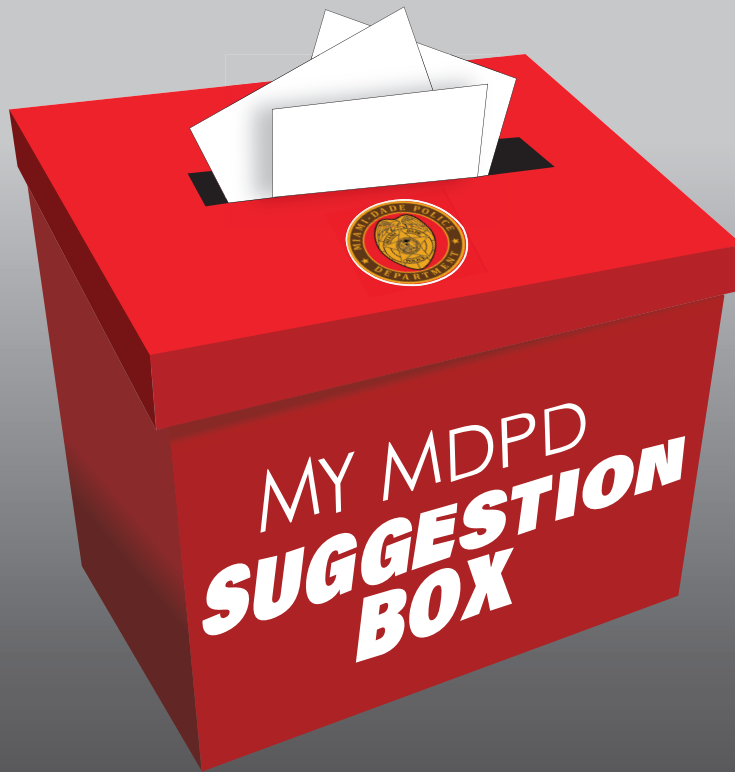
OPERATIONAL SHIELD

Devotional



Miami-Dade Police Department Auditorium
 The Second Tuesday of every Month.
 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Any question please contact: Officer Carla Ginebra De Garcia 305-281-0760



MDPD WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Ideas are the basis of progress. Share your ideas 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.



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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."