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*"Committed to Excellence"*

Winter 2016



# Crowning 25 Year Law Enforcement Career Juan J. Perez Takes Over as MDPD Director

*By Patrick Smikle, Public Information & Education Bureau*



*Pictured left to right: Deputy Mayor Russell Benford congratulates Juan J. Perez on his appointment as Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.*

"I will tell you that the troops are very excited and happy to have him as our new leader. He does have some big shoes to fill, but he's definitely the guy to do it."

That is how Miami-Dade Police Major Rosanna Cordero-Stutz, responded to the announcement that Juan J. Perez had been appointed to replace retiring Director J.D. Patterson.

Mayor Carlos Gimenez, who made the announcement on January 28, 2016, at a graduation ceremony for new Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) officers, agreed. "I have confidence that he will lead the MDPD in a manner that will make our world class community proud," the Mayor said.

"I'm very appreciative to the Mayor for the trust and confidence he has in me," an obviously emotional Acting Director Perez responded.

He told reporters after the graduation ceremony that his main priority will be to strengthen community policing and to enhance relationships with the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

Director Perez is a graduate of St. Thomas University and a 25-year veteran of the MDPD. Prior to this promotion, he oversaw Investigative and Police Services, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, and the Strategic Planning and Development Section. He has also served as a supervisor in Police Services, Criminal Investigations, and the Homeland Security and Robbery Bureaus.

His appointment was ratified by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners on February 2, 2016, and his Investiture as the Sheriff of Miami-Dade County took place on February 11, 2016.



*Fred Taylor, former Director of Miami-Dade Police Department (1986-1997), congratulates incoming Director Juan J. Perez*

# BCC Honors Retiring MDPD Director

By Patrick Smikle, Public Information & Education Bureau

As he approached his final days with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) after more than 30-years of service, retiring MDPD Director J.D. Patterson was the subject of effusive praise and commendations by elected officials and civic leaders across the County.

Last October 2015, he was honored by Mayor Carlos Gimenez and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with an Excellence in Service Award.

On January 20, 2016, he was presented with the Key to the County.

Mayor Gimenez said he was proud to have known and worked with Director Patterson, noting that the Director was “a professional and a man of faith,” who was respected not just by the members of the MDPD but by his law enforcement peers throughout the County and throughout the nation.

In his responses, Director Patterson emphasized the need for unity and cooperation between the varied sectors of the community in the fight against crime. “We might come from different places. We might have different experiences, but we all must make our best effort to work together,” he said.

“From my perspective, it’s been a very long and positive career,” he said, “because coming to work every day and doing a job in a community as diverse and as dynamic as Miami has been a privilege and an honor, and one which I have enjoyed.”



# MDPD Training Police Officers from Across the Region

By Patrick Smikle, Public Information & Education Bureau

Under a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, continues to provide training for police officers from countries across the Americas.

To date, police officers from Haiti, Colombia, Nicaragua and Guatemala have benefitted from training programs administered by MDPD trainers at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute (MDPSTI) in Doral.

The training has covered areas of law enforcement such as Advanced Surveillance Techniques, Advanced

Investigation, and Tactical Raids. This training aims to build the capacity and skills of these officers, making them better able to deal with crimes such as drug trafficking.

Most recently, officers from the National Police of Guatemala completed a three-week Field Training Officer course at the MDPSTI.

The course covered the fundamentals of implementing a field training program.

Nery Abilio Ramos y Ramos, the Director General for the National Police of Guatemala, attended the graduation on January 29, 2016, as did then MDPD Acting Director Juan J. Perez.



Director General of the National Police of Guatemala, Nery Abilio Ramos y Ramos presents a Certificate of Appreciation to then MDPD Acting Director Juan J. Perez. Photo by Wynton Anders

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Officers of the National Police of Guatemala at their graduation from Miami-Dade Police Department training course on January 29, 2016. Photo by Wynton Anders

## MDPD Using Social Media, Other Information Technology, to fight crime and engage the community

By Patrick Smikle, Public Information & Education Bureau



Former MDPD Director J.D. Patterson being interviewed by a WPLG news crew following the formal launch of the Department's participation in the online information exchange platform NextDoor.

Last August 2015, then Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Director J.D. Patterson announced that MDPD had adopted the information technology platform *NextDoor*, “as a strategy that we can use to enhance our crime-fighting ability and underpin our community policing strategy to make our officers more effective.”

He explained that *NextDoor*, a private password protected platform, was being used by residents of more than 200 neighborhoods in Miami-Dade to engage each other in everything from finding lost pets to monitoring suspicious activity in their communities.

While his comments were specifically about MDPD using *NextDoor*, Patterson could just as well have been talking about any of the plethora of platforms that are now integral to the information technology landscape.

On June 3, 2015, to be specific, he hosted a *Live Twitter Q&A Session*, taking questions in real time from members of the community. It was the first such use of Twitter by a police chief in Miami-Dade County and launched a series the Public Information and Education Bureau titled #MPDPlive.

“The Director has made it very clear that we are to embrace technology going forward,” Public Information and Education Bureau Major Hector Llevat, said.

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Former Director Patterson was followed a few weeks later, on July 28, 2015, by then Deputy Director Juan J. Perez. He too took questions live about MDPD's efforts to protect and serve.

Next, it was the turn of Sergeant Joe Bermudez, Crime Prevention Specialist. On December 17, 2015, he took to Facebook to livestream with residents and visitors about staying safe during the holiday period.

"Social media is one of the key avenues of communication in today's society and the law enforcement community must utilize such components to keep in touch with the community it serves," then Director Patterson declared when #MPDPlive was launched. However, technology is not just social media.

In the summer of 2015, MDPD established the first Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) in the southeastern United States. The RTCC is responsible for the coordination and

distribution of real-time information to police officers and investigators. This situation-awareness enhancing intelligence information is distributed via radio, Computer-Aided Dispatch, and other devices.

On July 15, 2015, six armed criminals carjacked and assaulted a victim in northwest Miami-Dade. Hours later, after a vehicle pursuit and foot chase, three subjects were in custody, a firearm seized, and the stolen vehicle recovered. This success was due to Robbery Intervention Detail detectives working with the RTCC, which was tracking the subjects in real-time on live surveillance video.

In ways too numerous to document here, MDPD has been exemplary and intends to remain a leader in the use of technology to fight crime and communicate with the public.

## Largest Graduation Adds 95 Officers to MDPD

*By Patrick Smikle, Public Information & Education Bureau*



The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) grew by 95 officers on January 28, 2016, inducting into its ranks, trainees who had successfully completed three different levels of certification: the Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) class, the Certified Transitional Academy (CTA), and the Lateral (LAT) class. It was the largest graduation ceremony in the history of the MDPD.

Thirty-five of the graduates successfully completed the BLE class, thus meeting the Florida Department of Law Enforcement requirements to take the state certification test.

Another 20, who had paid to attend a private training academy, took and passed the state certification (CTA) test. They then applied to and were hired by the MDPD. Their training by MDPD reinforced some areas they had already covered, and then focused on MDPD specific training in policy and procedures, firearms usage and defensive tactics, among other areas.

The remaining 40 graduates were officers who had worked for other accredited police departments. They completed the seven-week LAT class, which focused on MDPD Policies and Standard Operating Procedures. Additionally, they completed the required annual firearms certification and Electronic Control Device qualification, among other areas of instruction.

Addressing the graduation ceremony, held at Florida International University, Mayor Carlos Gimenez told the new officers that they were an important investment by the County. He said he expected them to be guided by the motto, "Service Above Self."

Then Acting Director Juan J. Perez told them that they were joining a police department comprised of "great men and women" whose sole purpose was "to keep our community safe."

Mayor Gimenez used the opportunity of the graduation ceremony to announce that he was appointing Juan J. Perez as Director of MDPD, to replace retiring Director J.D. Patterson.



# Message from the Director

By Juan J. Perez, Director Miami-Dade Police Department



Let me begin by thanking all who have reached out throughout the last few days. I certainly appreciate the kind comments and gestures of support. Your response to my appointment as Director has made this moment more special than I anticipated. On February 2, 2016, I had an opportunity to address the Board of County Commissioners. During my presentation, I was able to boast about the greatness of this Department, and the men and women that make this profession great. I am proud of this Department and the people that make a difference each and every day. I also shared with the Commission my vision moving forward as director. I want to share the vision with you in an attempt to keep you abreast of the future efforts. The vision is made up of three objectives, as described below:

1. Addressing gun violence
2. Recruitment of personnel
3. Enhancing technology

Addressing gun violence will be the priority; especially youth-related shootings. In order to address the violence, we will develop innovative youth programs targeting the most violent at-risk youths, as identified by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Services Department. These programs will be rolled out in the areas experiencing the most gun-related violence. In addition, we will enhance our relationships with our federal counterparts and local law enforcement to identify and dismantle the gangs plaguing our communities. Our efforts will be deliberate and strategic as we address the most violent individuals that are ill-intended on harming the safety of our residents. We will enhance our community relationships so that we can gain trust and cooperation from citizens. Lastly, we will leverage the relationships with the United States Attorney and State Attorney Offices to seek tougher sentencing. Some of these efforts and relationships are already in play and have proven to be successful.

The second part of the vision is the recruitment of qualified, diverse personnel to lead this agency into the

future. Currently, we have 2,866 budgeted sworn positions within the Department, and approximately 2,645 are filled. In an effort to fill all budgeted positions we have developed an aggressive hiring plan. As you know, we just graduated 95 recruits made up of three different classes. On February 1, 2016, 45 recruits began the academy, and 45 more are expected to begin on February 8, 2016. In addition, we intend to hire and graduate an additional 110 recruits consisting of both certified and lateral classes prior to the end of the fiscal year September 30, 2016. This hiring plan will also continue through next year. Much is being said about the DROP retirees during the month of May, specifically for sworn personnel. We expect that approximately 37 sworn personnel will retire in May 2016, due to the DROP. Many of those hold command positions. Therefore, this particular objective includes the recruitment of internal personnel for key command positions. Opportunities will become available for qualified individuals to fill those critical positions. We are also focused on filling key non-sworn positions throughout the Department.

The third part of the vision is enhancing our technologies, improving our effectiveness and efficiency as an agency. We will deploy gunshot detection sensors and cameras within high-crime areas. We will seek to purchase a Records Management System to manage all of our records, reports, databases, and crime data. We will continue the build-out of the Real-Time Crime Center. We are also in the process of purchasing training simulators for the Training Institute. The simulators will allow personnel to undergo shoot-don't-shoot training scenarios, under a controlled safe environment. These are only a few of the upcoming technological advances.

These improvements only augment some of the current projects. As you know we are close to finalizing the body camera purchase, and deployment will begin soon. We are also developing a citizen application for mobile devices, which will allow the community to communicate with the Department in various ways, including instant messaging of videos and texts. More importantly, we are in the process of replacing our aging vehicle fleet. The Department is undergoing a 5-year vehicle replacement plan. In 2015, a purchase order for 642 vehicles was placed. Beginning in June 2015, the delivery of the vehicles began in increments of 60 to 70 at a time. The purchase consisted of both unmarked and marked police package vehicles.

Police package vehicles still have to be prepped for patrol, meaning that the vehicle must be outfitted with the

A message from the Director continued from page 5

accessories. The vehicles require decals, light bars, radios, cages, etc., to be installed. Of the total first purchase, 334 vehicles have been issued and 120 are being processed. A total of 188 vehicles are pending delivery from the factory. This year, the purchase order is being completed for an additional 490 vehicles. There will be further purchases in the upcoming year.

My hope is that this message gives you some insight into the vision for our Department. Of course, our priority is responding to the needs of the community and addressing crimes. We will keep this community safe. Always

remember that we are living in dangerous times. The threat from abroad or inspired by terror groups is real. Gun violence is real as well. Our training focus this year will be geared toward current threats, ambushes, and active shooter incidents we have witnessed over the last year. We need to be united and take care of each other while on patrol. Above all, be safe out there.

Thank you!

## MDPD Proud to Have Hosted Wounded Warriors

By Lisa Macias, Public Information & Education Bureau

Operation Support Our Wounded Warriors, a project of the Police Officer Assistance Trust, last December hosted the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team™ (WWAST) for the second time in three years.

The WWAST is comprised of competitive, athletic veterans and active-duty soldiers who have lost limbs while serving the country in post-9/11 military operations. Through extensive rehabilitation, they have become competitive athletes again and play against teams made up of non-disabled athletes in exhibition games across the country. Their armor now includes prosthetic legs and arms, along with extreme perseverance and a can-do attitude.

During this most recent visit to Miami, the WWAST played a celebrity softball game against former Major League Baseball players at Florida International University on December 11, 2015. The following day, the WWAST players participated in a 15-team softball fundraising tournament at Tropical Park.

The WWAST represents some of our nation's bravest and most determined veterans, and the Miami-Dade Police Department was proud to welcome them back to Miami.

Poster designed by Juan A. Perez, Public Information & Education Bureau

**Wounded warrior Amputee Softball Team**

**VS**

**FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS**

GATES OPEN AT 7:00 P.M. **Friday, December 11, 2015** GAME TIME 8:00 P.M.  
**FIU Baseball Stadium**  
 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami FL 33199

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT: FIUSPORTS.COM**  
 All Proceeds go to Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team

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Leonard Anderson from the WWAST pitched a great game during the tournament. Photo by Lisa Macias



Greg Reynolds from the WWAST drives in a single during an at-bat in the tournament. Photo by Lisa Macias



WWAST and Metro Enforcers. Photo by Lisa Macias



The WWAST played against a team of former Major League Baseball Players at FIU December 11, 2015. Photo by Lisa Macias



# Recent Retirements

## **Congratulations and farewell to the following MDPD personnel who retired between September 30, 2015, and January 31, 2016:** *(Listed in alphabetical order)*

Police Sergeant Robert Borgmann – 26 yrs.  
Police Sergeant Julia Burmeister – 27 yrs.  
Police Officer William Burmeister – 25 yrs.  
School Crossing Guard William Canady – 15 yrs.  
Data Entry Specialist 1 Earnestine Cantave – 14 yrs.  
Police Officer Jorge Ceballos – 33 yrs.  
Criminalist 2 Monroe W. Chin-See – 29 yrs.  
Secretary Grace Clark – 37 yrs.  
Police Sergeant Marcella Crosby – 20 yrs.  
Police Officer Juan Del Castillo – 30 yrs.  
Police Officer Dennis Evans – 32 yrs.  
Police Lieutenant Richard Fonseca – 25 yrs.  
Police Sergeant Kevin Gallagher – 28 yrs.  
School Crossing Guard Humberto Gonzalez – 14 yrs.  
Police Officer Elisa Gregg – 25 yrs.  
Police Sergeant David Greenwell – 33 yrs.  
Maintenance Mechanic Roberto Hernandez – 16 yrs.  
Clerk 4 Maria Iglesias – 42 yrs.  
Police Officer Deborah Jones – 35 yrs.  
Police Officer Robin Kraftman – 28 yrs.  
Police Sergeant Allan Kratman – 29 yrs.  
School Crossing Guard Jose Medina – 7 yrs.  
Police Comp. Rept. Spec. 3 Cindy Moats – 30 yrs.  
Department Director J.D. Patterson – 31 yrs.  
Police Property Evidence Spec. Ralph Pratt – 29 yrs.  
Police Sergeant Javier Rodriguez – 27 yrs.  
Police Sergeant David Smith – 29 yrs.  
Police Officer Walter Tramell – 31 yrs.  
Data Entry Specialist 2 Mary Truitt – 18 yrs.  
Police Officer Edward Vandamas – 23 yrs.  
Police Property Evidence Spec.1 Katherine Whelan – 30 yrs.  
Police Officer David Williams Jr. – 29 yrs.  
Police Officer Leslie Wilson – 33 yrs.  
Police Captain Carl Wright – 35 yrs.

## **Thank You For Giving The “Gift Of Life”**

Police Major Hector Llevat  
Police Lieutenant Heriberto Aponte  
Police Sergeant Donna Colon  
Police Sergeant Orlando Lopez  
Police Sergeant Gilberto Rosario  
Police Sergeant Glenn Ross  
Police Sergeant Anthony Warren  
Police Officer Elvis Abreu  
Police Officer Marvin Davis  
Police Officer Kimberly Nanney  
Police Officer Steve Sklavounos  
Police Officer Christopher Hodges  
Police Officer Fernando Sacasas  
Police Officer Julianna Thibaut  
Police Officer Emanuel Walton  
Police Officer Timothy Jones  
Police Officer James Poling  
Police Officer Mercedes Thompson  
Reserve Officer Rudy Gonzalez  
Reserve Officer Felix Hechavarria  
Criminalist 2 Christopher Barr  
Secretary Miriam Dieguez  
MDPD Criminalist Supervisor Cameron Hamlin  
Crime Lab Manager Jeffrey Johnson  
Criminalist 1 Facundo Torino  
Criminalist 2 Olga Saavedra  
Criminalist 2 Karen Wiggins  
Criminalist 2 Erin Wilson  
Mr. Eduardo Lombard  
Mr. Alberto Romero

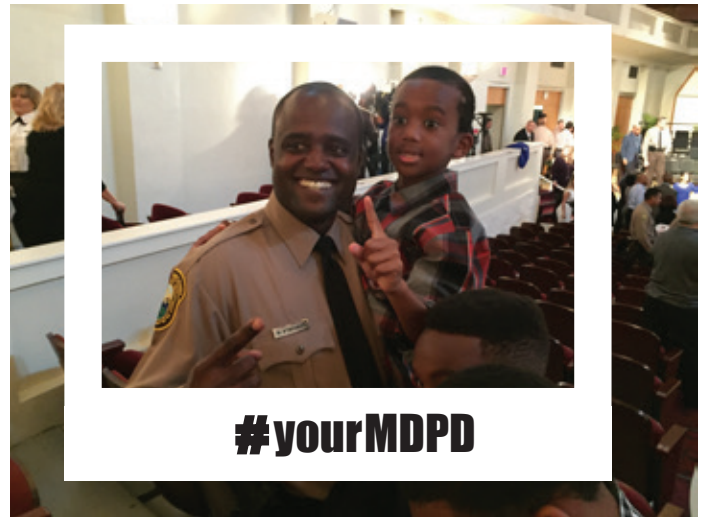


**Next Blood Drive April 14, 2016  
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**





**HASHTAG FAMILY:** Director Juan Perez, his wife Christina and their daughter Briana pose for the cameras at the January 28, 2016, graduation ceremony.



**Miami-Dade Police Department**


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**Carlos A. Gimenez**  
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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."*