

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**

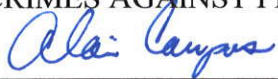
**- MEMORANDUM -**

**TO: AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE  
VIA CHAIN OF COMMAND**

**DATE: APRIL 3, 2014**

**FROM: SERGEANT ALAIN CAMPOS  
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS UNIT**

**SUBJECT  
MARCH 2014 OFFICER OF THE  
MONTH NOMINATION**



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I am respectfully submitting this memorandum to nominate Detective Velier Zaccheo as a candidate for the March of 2014 Officer of the Month Award. The following is a brief synopsis of the cases investigated and closed via arrest by Detective Zaccheo, which I believe make him deserving of receiving this honorable award.

**Arrest of Armed Robbery subjects HENDERSON and KAISER**

On March 7, 2014, Detective Zaccheo was tasked with investigating an armed robbery (14-1848) which took place along the roadside of the 2000 block of Salzedo Street. The armed masked robbery suspect took the victim's property, which included an Apple iPhone and his wallet at gun point, and fled with an accomplice in what was only described as a Ford SUV. Detective Zaccheo immediately attempted to utilize the iPhone's online "Find My iPhone" application to locate the cellular telephone however; the device appeared to be off. Detective Zaccheo then conducted an in-depth interview of the victim and learned that the offender wore very distinguishable eyeglasses that could be seen despite being masked. During the investigation process Detective Zaccheo learned that the City of South Miami also sustained an armed robbery in which two victims described a similar M.O. to our victim and similar vehicle. Contact was made with South Miami PD Detective King and information was shared and compared regarding the armed robbery, specifically a partial tag which was recorded by South Miami PD's victim. Detective Zaccheo issued a BOLO advising of the need to identify the robbery suspects and despite wearing a mask, Detective Zaccheo scheduled the victim for a composite with sketch artist Detective Cachinero, due to the descriptiveness of the victim in regards to the offender's eyeglasses.

On March 10, 2014, Detective Zaccheo was travelling along Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Stanford Drive, when he noticed a Ford SUV that matched the description of the vehicle utilized in the armed robbery of both our case and South Miami's, travelling in the lane immediately next to his vehicle. Said Ford SUV's license plate contained the partial tag number observed in the City of South Miami's armed robbery. Detective Zaccheo stopped at a red traffic light, along the passenger side of this suspect vehicle, at Ponce de Leon Boulevard and South Alhambra Circle and observed that there was a white male sitting in the passenger seat of the SUV. Detective Zaccheo observed that the male passenger was wearing eyeglasses that matched those described by his victim. Detective Zaccheo continued to observe the SUV when suddenly the vehicle's

driver, David KAISER, began to drive in an erratic and reckless manner, violating several traffic laws. Detective Zaccheo was able to coordinate the safe stop of the vehicle and placed KAISER under arrest for reckless driving. A search of the vehicle incident to arrest netted the discovery of an air soft pistol, suspected marijuana and narcotics paraphernalia. The passenger in the vehicle, Ryan HENDERSON, spontaneously uttered that the narcotics were his. HENDERSON was placed under arrest as well and both offenders were transported to the Criminal Investigations Section for further interviews.

Post Miranda, defendants KAISER and HENDERSON confessed to Detective Zaccheo to having committed both the City of South Miami's armed robbery and our armed robbery as well.

KAISER was charged with one count of reckless driving and one count of armed robbery with a mask.

HENDERSON was charged with one count of marijuana possession, one count of possession of narcotics paraphernalia and one count of armed robbery with a mask.

To date both offenders are still incarcerated under No Bond status.

#### **Arrest of Armed Robbery Subject Vaughn COOPER**

On March 27, 2014, an 84 year old elderly female in our community was the victim of an armed home invasion. The initial call for service was dispatched as an in progress call, resulting in the quick response of several of our officers. Detective Zaccheo was tasked as the lead investigator and immediately responded to the residence. Detective Zaccheo displayed an incredible amount of compassion and understanding with the elderly victim who had been battered and threatened by the offender. Detective Zaccheo was able to provide her comfort and support which led to the victim keeping a calm composure while she related the events as she provided an account of her ordeal during her initial on scene interview. An interview was also conducted of a witness who was not on the scene, that unbeknownst to the victim, had observed the offender fleeing the area and had called 911 to report a suspicious person/vehicle which was BOLO'ed across police communication channels.

As the investigation continued on the scene, members of the department's Strategic Initiatives Team (SIT) specifically Sergeant John Luna, Officers Nelson Quintana, Kris Clute and Jim Molina, conducted a follow up investigation in hopes of locating the vehicle and offender who perpetrated the home invasion. The SIT officers conducted surveillance at two locations and located the vehicle. SIT officers immediately contacted me for further direction. Detective Zaccheo and I strategized and requested that an investigatory stop be conducted of said vehicle. SIT officers safely stopped the subject vehicle and detained the occupants, one of which fit the description of the offender described by the victim and BOLO'ed from the witness call to 911.

Detective Zaccheo and I immediately transported the elderly victim to conduct a show-up identification. Detective Zaccheo kept the victim calm as we traveled to the location, reassuring her that she was safe and that this process was necessary for the apprehension and prosecution of

the individual and explained the benefit it would bring to her in hopefully receiving closure if the offender was in fact the same person stopped. Upon arrival at the stop location and coordination of the show-up process, the victim immediately positively identified offender COOPER as the subject who conducted the armed home invasion.

A search of the vehicle incident to arrest netted the discovery of several pieces of jewelry, US currency, bank credit cards, a Florida driver's license and miscellaneous receipts all belonging to the victim. Detective Zaccheo requested support from our Crime Scene Unit and the vehicle and evidence was processed. Located in the vehicle was also a silver colored firearm which matched the description of the firearm utilized by the offender as described by the victim.

At the conclusion of the investigation and arrest, Detective Zaccheo authored an in-custody BOLO for COOPER and he included photographs of jewelry recovered from the vehicle which did not belong to our victim. Detective Zaccheo was immediately contacted by robbery detectives from the City of Hialeah and Hollywood and advised that the jewelry featured along with COOPER's in-custody BOLO, belonged to victims of armed robberies within their jurisdiction. To date, approximately five additional armed robbery cases have been cleared due to the capture of COOPER and the information provided by Detective Zaccheo to other police agencies.

COOPER was charged by Detective Zaccheo with one count of armed robbery, one count of armed burglary with a battery, one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and one count of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.


### **Conclusion**


Based on the aforementioned cases and arrests, I believe that Detective Zaccheo is deserving of receiving the Officer of the Month Award for March of 2014. His keen observation skills, initiative and quick thinking; led to the apprehension of two armed robbery subjects (KAISER and HENDERSON) who victimized residents of both the City of Coral Gables and the City of South Miami. Additionally, his efforts and follow up investigation in the arrest of COOPER, has led to multiple armed robbery cases being filed against COOPER which will result in keeping a known dangerous violent felon off of the streets of South Florida for a very long time to come.

Detective Zaccheo is passionate about his investigations and is driven to combat and apprehend those who perpetrate the most heinous of crimes against innocent hard working citizens within our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

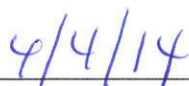
**REVIEWED BY:**

  
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Jesse Medina, Lieutenant  
Criminal Investigation Section

  
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Theresa Molina, Major  
Criminal Investigations Division

**DATE:**

  
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