

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## - MEMORANDUM -

**TO: MAJOR JOHN BAUBLITZ**  
**ASC CHAIRPERSON**

**DATE:** APRIL 12, 2024

**FROM:** SERGEANT IGNACIO RIVERA<sup>FR</sup>  
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

**SUBJECT:**  
OFFICER OF THE MONTH  
AWARD - APRIL 2024

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### ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

That Officer Christopher Pena (ID #11549) is recognized as the Officer of the Month for April 2024.

### BACKGROUND

On April 2, 2024, at approximately 0136 hours, Officer Pena responded to a 911 call at Bird Rd and Palmarito St in emergency mode, in reference to a traffic crash with injuries.

Upon arrival, he made contact with Victim 1 who stated she was the owner and driver of a 2023 Black Lexus GX, bearing [REDACTED]. The Black Lexus GX was overturned at the 700-BLK of Bird Rd in the westbound lanes. Contact was made with two other victims who stated that they were rear passengers in the vehicle. The victims stated they briefly interacted with a Hispanic male that spoke Spanish and an unknown female.

Officer Pena observed a 2017 White Lamborghini Huracan, bearing [REDACTED], crashed against the fence of the residence located at [REDACTED]. The Lamborghini Huracan was registered to an address in the City of Miami. A locate and notify was conducted which yielded negative results. Officer Pena responded to Doctors Hospital to make contact with Victim 1 and follow up on her injuries and then responded back to Bird Rd and Palmarito St to canvass for video surveillance in the area.

While conducting the canvass, Officer Pena observed a black Cadillac Escalade park behind his marked patrol vehicle. Officer Pena made contact with a male who identified himself as [REDACTED] (Involved Other). [REDACTED] stated that he is friends with the driver and passenger of the Lamborghini Huracan which was involved in the traffic crash. [REDACTED] identified the driver as [REDACTED] (Offender) and the passenger. [REDACTED] stated that both males were involved in a crash, and he transported them to Baptist Health Hospital located at 8900 N Kendall Dr.

Coral Gables Officer J. Gonzalez (ID # 11738) and Officer Pena responded to Baptist Health Hospital to continue the traffic crash investigation. Contact was made with [REDACTED]

██████████ who stated he was the passenger in the vehicle and his friend the driver. A written statement was completed by ██████████ where he stated ██████████ was driving the vehicle at the time of the crash.

Officer Pena conducted a thorough investigation and read the Offender his Miranda warnings per card and obtained an admission of guilt. Officer Pena's follow up investigation led to the arrest of the driver involved in the hit and run with injuries.


Officer Pena continues to be a very proactive and self-driven officer on the midnight shift. Officer Pena actively patrols his assigned zone, always looking for criminal activity and thoroughly investigates all the calls for service he is dispatched to.

**SYNOPSIS/CONCLUSION**


Officer Pena has shown to have keen observation skills, quick thinking, and decisive actions resulting in the arrest of an individual involved in a hit and run crash with injuries.

As such, I am recommending that Officer Pena be recognized for his efforts via the Officer of the Month Award for April 2024.

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
Phillip Thomas, Lieutenant  
Uniform Patrol Division

4/16/24  
Date

  
Jennie Hoff, Major  
Uniform Patrol Division

4/17/24  
Date

  
John Baublitz, Major  
ASC Chairperson

4/19/2024  
Date

IR/ir

Attachments (2):

- Arrest Affidavit Case 24-002342
- Incident/Investigation Report Case 24-002342