


**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**

**- MEMORANDUM -**

**TO:** MAJOR DAVID LEMON  
ASC CHAIRPERSON

**DATE:** APRIL 14, 2026

**FROM:** SERGEANT JESUS GARCIA   
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** DETECTIVE OF THE 1ST  
QUARTER AWARD  
NOMINATION

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**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION:**

It is with great respect and admiration that I nominate Detective M. Baserva (ID: 8408) of the Economic Crimes Unit for Detective of the 1st Quarter 2026. During this period, Detective Baserva demonstrated exceptional investigative skill, tenacity, and dedication to duty, successfully clearing two separate economic crimes cases by arrest. The following summaries document the investigative work that distinguishes Detective Baserva as a deserving recipient of this recognition.

**BACKGROUND:**

CASE 1 — CGPD Case No. 26-001553: Identity Theft / Fraudulent Account Takeover

Incident Date: March 3–5, 2026

Report Date: March 6, 2026

Total Loss: \$21,376.25

On March 3, 2026, an unknown female entered Neiman Marcus located at 390 San Lorenzo Avenue, Coral Gables, and fraudulently assumed the identity of an account holder. Using a fraudulent passport card bearing the victim's identity, the offender took over the victim's luxury retail account substituting her own photograph and contact information and proceeded to purchase seven pairs of Chanel shoes, two Bottega Venetta handbags, and made a charitable donation, totaling \$21,376.25 in unauthorized charges.

On March 5, 2026, the offender attempted to repeat the scheme at a Saks location in Dadeland, at which point Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office responded and made an arrest.

Upon receiving the case on March 6, 2026, Detective Baserva obtained surveillance photographs from Neiman Marcus loss prevention and through investigative means produced a positive match

to an individual already incarcerated at Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center (TGK) on similar charges. Detective Baserva coordinated with Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Deputy Blandon, who confirmed the identification. Detective Baserva subsequently confirmed that the offender remained in custody at TGK and added charges in connection with this case. The victim confirmed she did not authorize the transactions and does not know the offender. The investigation and arrest received news media coverage, bringing positive public attention to the Coral Gables Police Department and the Economic Crimes Unit.

CASE 2 — CGPD Case No. 25-005241: Grand Theft / Contracting Without a License / Organized Scheme to Defraud

Incident Date: June 2024

Report Date: August 18, 2025

Total Loss: \$15,000.00

In August 2025, the victim reported that approximately one year prior, in June 2024, he had contracted with an individual posing as a licensed contractor to perform tile work at his residence for \$15,000. The victim paid in full by check. The offender cashed the check through a business bank account he controlled and never performed any of the agreed-upon work, resulting in a total loss of \$15,000 to the victim.

Detective Baserva conducted a thorough investigation that included coordination with Miami-Dade Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Investigator Pinol, who confirmed the offender held no valid contractor's license. Detective Baserva subpoenaed and analyzed bank records, tracing the victim's check through the offender's business account and establishing that the funds were diverted for personal use. A search of the Florida Division of Corporations confirmed the offender's ownership and control of the business entity used to receive payment.

Detective Baserva contacted the offender by phone and arranged a voluntary interview at CGPD; however, the offender failed to appear. The victim and a witness later appeared at CGPD and positively identified the offender. On March 2, 2026, Detective Baserva located the offender via the Miami-Dade Inmate Search system reflecting that he was incarcerated on an unrelated matter. Detective Baserva formally arrested him on charges of Grand Theft, Organized Scheme to Defraud, and Contracting Without a License. As with the first case, the investigation and resulting arrest were featured in news media coverage, further highlighting the Department's commitment to protecting the community from economic crimes.

**SYNOPSIS / CONCLUSION:**

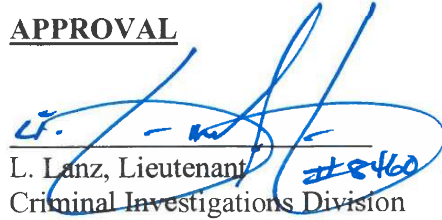
Detective Baserva's work on these two cases reflects the highest standards of professional police work, resourceful use of investigative tools, inter-agency coordination, meticulous documentation, and persistent follow-through that resulted in two arrests clearing serious economic crimes. The victims in both cases received justice directly because of Detective Baserva's efforts.

It is the submitting officer's sincere recommendation that Detective M. Baserva be recognized as Detective of the 1st Quarter for 2026.

APPROVAL

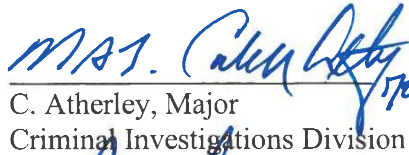
DATE

DISAPPROVAL

  
L. Lanz, Lieutenant  
Criminal Investigations Division

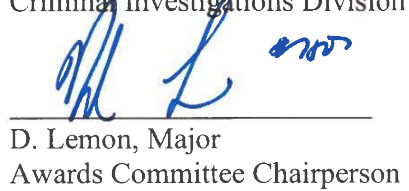
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L. Lanz, Lieutenant  
Criminal Investigations Division

  
C. Atherley, Major  
Criminal Investigations Division

4/15/26

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C. Atherley, Major  
Criminal Investigations Division

  
D. Lemon, Major  
Awards Committee Chairperson

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D. Lemon, Major  
Awards Committee Chairperson

JG/jg

Attached Reports:

- CPGD I/I Reports: 26-001553 & 25-005241
- Arrest Affidavit: 26-001553 & 25-005241
- CGPD BOLO 26-061