



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

ITEM TITLE:

Congratulations to Officer Melenni Alzate and Officer Christopher Hernandez, recipient of the City of Coral Gables “Officer of the Month,” for January 2024.

BRIEF HISTORY:

On January 07, 2024, at approximately 0227 hours, while conducting a crime suppression team operation in an unmarked patrol vehicle, Ofc. Hernandez observed two white males on the 1300 block of Venetia Ave. Ofc. Hernandez observed both subjects walking in an unlit area on the north side of the street. One subject was wearing a black hoodie sweater and black pants, while the other subject wore a grey sweater and shorts. As the subjects began traveling on the 1200 block of El Rado. Both subjects started continuously crossing from the east to the west side of the street upon the arrival of the crime suppression team supervisor who was driving a marked police vehicle. Upon the supervisor activating his police emergency equipment, the supervisor was able to immediately apprehend one subject as the second subject began to flee on foot.

Upon seeing the second subject fleeing on foot from the supervisor, Ofc. Hernandez engaged in a foot pursuit northbound on El Rado St. Ofc. Alzate then arrives on El Rado and joins in the foot pursuit after the subject. As the subject crossed SW 8 St., loud verbal commands were given to the subject to stop running to which the subject did not comply. Subsequently, Ofc. Hernandez deployed his taser at the subject but did not make contact. As the subject continued running behind a business at 5511 SW 8 St., Ofc. Alzate, while running, was able to aim her taser at the subject and successfully made contact with the subject bringing him down to the ground. After the first taser cycle was completed, the subject continued to refuse verbal commands from Ofc. Alzate and the subject attempted to stand and escape. A second cycle of the taser was deployed on the subject, at which point Ofc. Hernandez was able to handcuff the subject. Upon being handcuffed, the subject spontaneously stated that he had a knife in his pocket.

As a result of this arrest, multiple vehicle burglaries and theft cases from 2023 to 2024 were solved as the defendant was charged with the said crimes.

The bravery and persistence displayed by both Officer Alzate and Officer C. Hernandez serves as an inspiration to all. Additionally, it is evident that the officers’ level of physical fitness, tactical training, and passion for police work afforded them the opportunity to successfully apprehend this habitual offender.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Officer of the Month Nomination for January 2024 – Major Cordell Atherley**