

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL MILLER
ASC CHAIRPERSON

DATE: October 6, 2015

FROM: SGT. DEAN WELLINGHOFF
PSD

SUBJECT:
NOMINATION FOR
DETECTIVE OF THE QUARTER

Sgt. Dean Wellinghoff 6660

I would like to nominate Detective Brad Baena for Detective of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2015 based on the following cases:

On April 03, 2015, a residential burglary was committed at 611 North Greenway Drive in which approximately \$350,000 worth of paintings was stolen. Detective Baena was assigned that case on April 06, 2015, met with the victim and began a thorough investigation. An informational BOLO with photos of the stolen art was created and sent out to various law enforcement agencies / contacts throughout the tri-county region. Detective Baena also contacted the FBI which has agents who investigate cases involving high end art thefts. In addition, Detective Baena approached the victim and asked him to participate in a media release in an effort to receive tips leading to the identity of those responsible for committing this burglary. A media release was, in fact, done and local media outlets covered the story and interviewed the victim. As a result of these investigative practices, an individual came forward with information and agreed to become a confidential informant for the Coral Gables Police Department. In the weeks following, Detective Baena developed information through the use of the CI and was able to assemble a group of investigators including members of US Department of Homeland Security, FBI, BSO, CGPD, Miami Dade County PD, Sunny Isles PD, and Hialeah PD who assisted in surveillance of the subject that was identified by the CI as the individual who was in possession of the stolen paintings. After an exhaustive investigation with much surveillance (ground and air), Detective Baena was able to arrange meetings between the CI and the subject in order for the CI to inspect and purchase the stolen artwork. As a result, on May 26, 2015, the subject and his wife (accomplice) were arrested without incident and several pieces of the stolen art were recovered. Detective Baena conducted interviews of the subjects and was able to obtain their cooperation in the recovery of additional stolen paintings. However, not all of the paintings were recovered at that time. Detective Baena continued to work on recovering the remainder of the stolen paintings even after the case was closed by arrest. As a result, he was able to recover the remaining paintings and, to date, all paintings have been recovered. Due to his diligence in working this case, two subjects were arrested and hundreds of thousands of dollars in artwork was recovered.

On July 03, 2015 a report of a Burglary and Theft From Curtilage (15005075) was received from a victim at 914 Palermo Avenue. (Note: This was a delayed report in that the actual incident occurred on June 26, 2015 but was not reported until July 03, 2015) In that case, the victim was able to obtain surveillance footage from her security system which revealed a Hispanic or Middle Eastern male removing a package from the front porch of her home. The subject arrived in a newer model white Lexus with black rims and black door handles.

Detective Baena was assigned that case on July 07, 2015 and immediately began to diligently work the case. On July 08, 2015, Detective Baena created a BOLO for the subject based on still photos he received from the victim. He then disseminated his BOLO countywide to several police agencies and contacts.

On July 06, 2015 a similar report was received (15005118) from a victim at 1206 Columbus Boulevard in which a female subject is observed through video surveillance stealing a package from the front porch of the home. The female subject in that case was observed arriving and leaving in a similar type vehicle as the one used in the previously reported burglary.

Detective Baena was assigned this second case on July 09, 2015 and noted the similarities in the subject's vehicle and, again, created and disseminated a BOLO containing still photos of the female subject to police agencies and contacts throughout Miami Dade County.

On July 24, 2015 another similar burglary was reported at 435 Majorca in which a female subject arrived in a white Lexus with black rims and black door handles and removed a package from the front porch of the home. Video surveillance was obtained in this case as well and it was clear that all of these cases mentioned were the work of the same subjects in the same vehicle.

Detective Baena contacted several agencies throughout Miami Dade and Broward County in an effort to identify any other cases that these subjects may be involved in. What he learned through this networking was that the same subjects, using the same vehicle, committed the following residential burglaries:

- June 26, 2015: 6295 SW 27 Street in Miami Dade County.
- July 28, 2015: 6501 SW 47 Street in Miami Dade County.
- July 28, 2015: 6467 SW 12 Street in West Miami.
- July 30, 2015: 9380 SW 125 Terrace in Miami Dade County.
- July 31, 2015: 5290 SW 4 Street in Miami (this was a burglary of a USPS mail truck).

Contact was made with UPS, FEDEX, and the United States Postal Service and the BOLO information was disseminated to the drivers of each of these entities as well as to the corporate security representatives from each. As a result, Detectives were notified soon after the burglary at 9380 SW 127 Terrace was committed. In that case, a partial tag was obtained by the victim through video surveillance. The video was sent to CGPD by the victim and it was immediately analyzed and the investigation intensified surrounding the identification of the vehicle / subjects.

All available databases were searched and all leads were evaluated. Assistant Chief Miller contacted DHSMV for an offline search of all tags matching the one revealed in the burglary on SW 125 Terrace. A long list of tags was obtained and painstaking research was conducted on any and all tags that possibly belonged to the subject vehicle.

Detective Baena was able, through his research, to identify a possible tag which was registered to an older female living at 2160 NW 1 Street in Miami. Further investigation into this location revealed that the female registrant had a son (Ahmed Fernandez-Hernandez) who matched the age and description of the male subject seen in some of the burglaries. Detectives immediately began researching all databases including social networking sites in an effort to link Fernandez-Hernandez to the crimes and to the vehicle.

Also, once the vehicle was identified, extensive research was conducted on it to determine who else, besides the owner, had a connection to it. As a result of that research, a female named Daimys Colmenero was identified as being involved in a traffic crash at some point in the recent past. Upon pulling up a photo of Colmenero, it was clear that she was the female subject involved in these burglaries.

After researching all available databases including social networking sites, a Facebook account was found on Colmenero. All photos associated with Colmenero's Facebook account were accessed and one was found that portrayed her posing with Fernandez-Hernandez and Fernandez-Hernandez was even wearing the exact same outfit (shirt, pants, shoes and belt) as he wore when he committed the burglary on SW 125 Terrace.

As a result of this investigation, both subjects were taken into custody without incident at the home where the vehicle was registered to. The subjects were each charged with multiple counts of Burglary (Residential), Occupied Burglary, Burglary (Vehicle), and Grand Theft. Due to the diligent work of Assistant Chief Miller and Detective Baena as well as other Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division, including Detective Poirier, these cases were solved and the spree of Burglaries / package thefts ended. Additionally, Detective Baena was able to obtain confessions from both subjects in this case and ensured that there will be successful prosecution.

Based on his work in these cases, I believe that Detective Baena is deserving of the Detective of the Quarter award.

I would also like to recommend that Assistant Chief Miller be recognized and awarded with the Exceptional Service Award based on his involvement and initiative in obtaining vital information that was directly related to the successful identification of the vehicle / subjects in this case. I believe the criteria for this award is met due to the fact that Assistant Chief Miller went above and beyond his ordinary call of duty as a Senior Staff member in the furtherance of the mission of the CGPD which was motivated by his desire to serve the community.

Reviewed By:

ALLI. J. Medina 7063 10/7/15 for Lt. Medina
Lt. Jesse Medina
Criminal Investigations Division

Terri S. Molina #6982
Major Terri S. Molina
Criminal Investigations Division

Michael Miller 6852
Assistant Chief Michael Miller
Awards Selection Committee Chairperson
Major R. Padroso
on behalf of.

Date:

10/7/15

10/8/15

10/10/15

DW/dw