

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE
VIA CHAIN OF COMMAND

DATE: July 1, 2014

FROM: LIEUTENANT JESSE MEDINA
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

SUBJECT:
JUNE 2014 OFFICER OF THE
MONTH NOMINATION

I am respectfully submitting this memorandum to nominate Sergeant Dean Wellinghoff as a candidate for the June 2014 officer of the Month Award.

On June 19, 2014, Sgt Dean Wellinghoff arrived to work like he does every day and went directly to his computer to review and assign cases. On this day, one case in particular became the catalyst for a chain of events that would yield four subjects responsible for a slew of vehicle burglaries and three vehicle thefts. Several cases were closed in Coral Gables, Hialeah, Miami, and Miami Dade. This one very involved and complex case began with a vehicle burglary that occurred at 1509 Palancia Ave.

On June 19, 2014, at approximately 0448 hours, two subjects burglarized a vehicle parked in the driveway of 1509 Palancia Ave. Sergeant Dean Wellinghoff learned of the incident upon his arrival to the police station that morning. He also learned of available video. He made contact with the victim who produced the surveillance video. Sergeant Wellinghoff immediately reviewed the video and observed how it showed two subjects exiting a dark colored vehicle that stopped on the roadway. Two subjects are seen on video exiting the dark vehicle then walk toward a white Porsche parked at 1509 Palancia Ave. Both subjects are seen entering the white Porsche parked in the driveway. After they commit the burglary, they flee in the dark vehicle, later known to be a stolen vehicle. Sergeant Wellinghoff immediately recognized one subject from a BOLO he had created and sent out on June 18. He created the BOLO using intelligence gathered from a previous arrest made by the Strategic Initiative Team, SIT.

Once Sergeant Wellinghoff made identification, he contacted the SIT supervisor and advised the name and last known location of the one of the subjects seen on the video. Sgt Wellinghoff provided accurate information which led the SIT to the City of Miami where they apprehended the observed subject on the video as well as five additional subjects in a stolen vehicle from Miami Dade County. The Subjects were brought to the police station for questioning. The interviews yielded useful and accurate information about additional vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts committed that morning as well as past incidents in our city and neighboring jurisdictions. Other agencies were contacted and made aware of crimes committed in their jurisdiction by the same subjects. These agencies also participated in the interviewing process.

The apprehension of this group of burglars resulted in the recovery of an Audi from 3510 Alhambra Ct, a Toyota Sequoia from 1415 Garcia, and a Mini Van from Miami Dade County (Little Gables). Several vehicle burglary cases were closed as well additional intelligence was gathered. The intelligence detailed an area in Miami where this group of subjects would drop off their stolen vehicles. The intelligence revealed six stolen vehicles from Coral Gables were dropped off and recovered in that area for several months.

Sergeant Wellinghoff's attention to detail and his drive to apprehend undesirables from our streets is what made this possible. His keen observation and memory led to one subject's identification. Who knew that one ID would propel one simple vehicle burglary case to multiple vehicle burglaries, multiple auto thefts, gathered intelligence, and four subjects taken off our streets and out from our community. For Sergeant Wellinghoff, once he has a lead it's like the thrill of the hunt. His tenacity and unwillingness to give up often produces good results. He is relentless in the search for information. He will dive into every resource he has whether software or human exhausting his arsenal of resources to find the perpetrators.


Based on this information, I believe Sergeant Wellinghoff deserves June 2014 Officer of the Month. It's was his coordinated effort and guidance along with his will and desire that initiated the investigation and made everything come together.

I ask that the committee give Sergeant Wellinghoff the utmost consideration for this award.

Thank you.

JM/jm

Reviewed By:



Terri S. Molina, Major
Awards Selection Committee Chair

7/3/14