

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE
(VIA CHAIN OF COMMAND)

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2010

FROM: DETECTIVE. CARLOS BAIXAULI CB
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

SUBJECT:
Officer of the Month October 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Detective Edward Garcia for Officer of the Month **October 2010**.

On October 7, 2010, Detective Garcia in conjunction with FDLE arrested four individuals for Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft, Identity Theft, and Check Fraud and Forgery. This investigation known as Operation Masquerade had a dollar loss amount of over \$272,000.00 dollars and over fifteen victims. Det. Garcia and FDLE along with the Attorney General Bill McCollum's Office of Statewide Prosecution have active arrest warrant for three other individuals, who were also part of the large and elaborate scheme. This organized scheme to defraud began in December 2008 when Det. Garcia responded to a fraud in progress at the Intercredit Bank located at 205 Aragon Ave in Coral Gables.

The subject Bibiana Montoya was in possession of several fraudulent drivers' licenses, numerous checks, and powder cocaine. She was arrested and agreed to provide a full detailed statement as well as implicate numerous other defendants and their involvement. Det. Garcia acquired all the information and began to document with a spreadsheet all of the individuals involved, as well as the locations of other fraudulent checks that were cashed. The defendant's information provided a breakdown on all involved in the scheme and their specific duties for the organized fraud ring. Ten individuals along with the defendant were responsible for the check cashing. There were numerous individuals in charge of the auto burglaries who were tasked with obtaining new victim information, and individuals responsible for acquiring the information from the auto burglaries to create the fraudulent drivers licenses. These acts were being conducted all over Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Orange Counties. Due to the extensive nature of the case and the multiple jurisdictions Det. Garcia enlisted the assistance of FDLE Miami Regional Operations Center, Office of Investigations, and the Office of Statewide Prosecution. Det. Garcia alongside FDLE Special Agent Kelly Rawson began to compile evidence against the fraud ring. (Please see attached supporting evidence prepared by **Det. Garcia** for the investigation).

Detective Garcia's investigative expertise commenced on December 12, 2008. Throughout this investigation Detective Garcia painstakingly coordinated efforts with Banks, SAO Forensic Investigators, local, state, and federal agencies. The conclusion of this case was multiple defendants being arrested on October 7, 2010 and more arrest and prosecution still to come. Det. Garcia's willingness to go above and beyond the call of being an investigator showed in this

case, as he continued to investigate after arrest warrants were issued. This enthusiasm lead to the implication of more individuals and the eventual arrest of the group's leader, Franklin Eugene Baillou (Shown in flow chart attached).

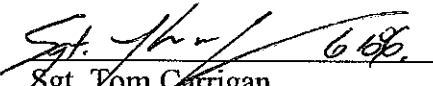
See related/attached reports. Case #'s are as follows: 08-010549, 09-000542
FDLE Case MI-06-0199

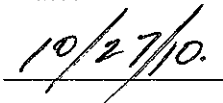
Detective Garcia should be recognized and commended for taking a proactive approach in performing his police investigative duties. He demonstrates motivation and enthusiasm in performing all investigations. His work helped bring to an end one of the largest and most sophisticated Organized Fraud Crime Rings in Florida.

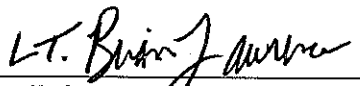
Thank you for your time and consideration

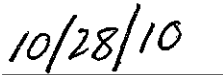
Reviewed By:

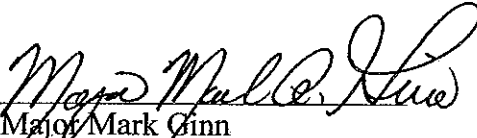
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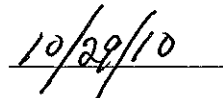

Sgt. Tom Carrigan
Economic Crimes Unit


10/27/10


Lt. Brian Lawrence
Criminal Investigations Division


10/28/10


Major Mark Ginn
Criminal Investigations Section


10/29/10