

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR RAUL PEDROSO
AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 27, 2011

FROM: OFFICER NELSON QUINTANA 
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
OFFICER THE MONTH /
DISPATCHER OF THE MONTH

I am writing this memorandum to nominate Officer E. Orbe, Officer A. Fernandez, and Dispatcher Tabitha Garcia for the Officer of the Month / Dispatcher of the Month award for their actions on the morning of October 07, 2011 (CGPD Case # 11-7746). On the morning of October 07, 2011 at 1045 hours, several units were dispatched to [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Group Insurance) reference a man ([REDACTED]) who called 911 via a cell phone and stated that he was enroute to the aforementioned address with regards to an insurance claim. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he would be leaving that location "either dead or in handcuffs" if he was not paid. This scenario posed a very dangerous and potentially volatile situation as Mr. [REDACTED] sounded desperate and was willing to either take someone's life or lose his in the process.

Being members of the Coral Gables Police Bike Unit, Officer Orbe and Officer Fernandez immediately arrived at the incident location and positioned themselves inside the location to secure the workers and prevent Mr. [REDACTED] from hurting civilians and/or himself. Both officers were able to obtain additional information on Mr. [REDACTED] from office staff and the reason for his desperate actions/behavior against this company. All the while, Dispatcher T. Garcia still maintained an open line of communication with Mr. [REDACTED] on his cell phone and convinced him to respond to the Coral Gables Police Department instead of the incident location. It should be noted, vital information as to the whereabouts and the nature of Mr. [REDACTED] demeanor was being relayed in real-time by Dispatcher T. Garcia. Dispatcher T. Garcia can be credited with relegating a very serious and dangerous situation by maintaining an open line of communication with Mr. [REDACTED] and convince him that it would be in his best interest to speak to a police officer at our station than respond to the incident location.

Once Mr. [REDACTED] arrived at the Coral Gables Police Department, Officer Orbe responded to the station to speak with Mr. [REDACTED] since he had obtained acute information regarding Mr. [REDACTED] civil dispute with the company. Officer Fernandez remained at the incident location for security and to relay any other developments regarding Mr. [REDACTED] case. Mr. [REDACTED] appeared physically drained and desperate. He was crying, disheveled and repeatedly asked for the officers on scene to help him and his family. After speaking with Mr. [REDACTED], it was discovered that Mr. [REDACTED] is a self-employed truck driver (inter-state) and that he was a victim of a traffic crash on I-95 that disabled his truck. Mr. [REDACTED] was married and his wife was expecting their first child in less than two months. Mr. [REDACTED] also stated that he had not made any money in the last couple of months due to his truck being disabled and that he was about to

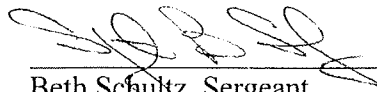
be evicted and had no food to feed his expecting wife and unborn child. Mr. [REDACTED] and his wife had no family to turn to in this country either. Mr. [REDACTED] civil dispute was that the insurance company of the at-fault driver's who crashed into him, filed for bankruptcy and was not paying the repairs to his truck. Also, the body shop responsible for repairing his truck advised him that he would lose the truck to the body shop at the end of this month due to vehicle abandonment. In essence, Mr. [REDACTED] was in the process of losing everything.

It is at this moment that Officer Orbe and Officer Fernandez went above and beyond to assist a citizen who was in dire need of assistance. Officer Orbe and Officer Fernandez worked with the [REDACTED] Group Insurance staff to cut a check for Mr. [REDACTED] damages and were even able to obtain a separate check for unpaid wages. Officer Orbe and Officer Fernandez acted as intermediaries between Mr. [REDACTED] and the staff of [REDACTED] Group Insurance and resolved a very serious situation with a positive outcome.

In summary, the selfless actions taken by Officer E. Orbe, Officer A. Fernandez, and Dispatcher T. Garcia represented the Coral Gables Police Department and the City of Coral Gables in an honorable yet humanistic manner. They showed that despite being part of a Para-military organization with a defined operational structure, they acted as human beings and sought a reasonable conclusion to a very desperate and potentially violent situation. It is more often than not, officers are rewarded for their courageous actions in the fight against crime (i.e. apprehension of a fugitive, response to a critical incident, etc.), while I wish to not diminish those accomplishments, I feel as though in this case a more real type of courage was displayed by all three...the courage of doing what's right for a citizen in need.


Reviewed by:

DATE



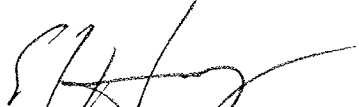
Beth Schultz, Sergeant
Uniform Patrol Division

10-27-11



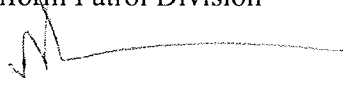
Bart Barta, Lieutenant
Uniform Patrol Division

10/27/2011



Ed Hudak, Major
Uniform Patrol Division

10/27/11



Raul Pedrosa, Major
Award Selection Committee Chairperson

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