



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
May 28, 2019**

ITEM TITLE:

Congratulations to Officer Alexander Ortega, recipient of the City of Coral Gables “Officer of the Month Award,” for the month of March 2019.

BRIEF HISTORY:

On March 3, 2019 at approximately 0002 hours, Officer Alexander Ortega conducted a traffic stop at the 3900 block of Toledo St on a Silver Saturn Vue for having no tag (Case #19-1614). Upon his approach to the vehicle he observed several items in the vehicle, including a large brown box, which was unopened in the rear trunk. Officer Ortega received consent to search the vehicle and he conducted a search of the interior. Post Miranda, he asked the driver where he got the package from. The driver, Mr. John Paul Ulloa (Offender), initially stated he did not know where it came from. He later admitted that he took the large brown package from a large building located at SW 40 St and SW 37 Av. The package, which contained a dog crate, was addressed to Christie Faglione of 3737 Peacock Av Apt #431, a condominium building located in the City of Miami. Contact was made with the owner, Ms. Christie Faglione, who stated she was expecting a dog crate that she ordered online but she did not receive it. Ms. Faglione responded to the scene and confirmed that the package belonged to her and she did not give permission for anyone to take her package. City of Miami Officer Perales (#43681) responded to the scene and arrested Mr. Ulloa (MPD #190303-0015898).

During the interview, the offender admitted to me that he likes to drive around different areas and pick up items that are left unattended, especially in Coral Gables. His criminal past included burglary and theft. On this traffic stop I observed Officer Ortega's perfect example of "going beyond the initial traffic stop" when he noticed the package, searched the vehicle, and apprehended a package theft offender. Not only did Officer Ortega assist a neighboring jurisdiction with an unreported theft, but he most likely prevented a person from being victimized in the City of Coral Gables. His self-initiated traffic stop, attention to detail and further investigation should be commended.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. **Nomination memo**