


CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL MILLER **DATE:** SEPTEMBER 6, 2015
AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

FROM: LIEUTENANT HENRY BARNETT  **SUBJECT:**
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

That Sergeant Luis Lanz and Officer Nester Chavez are recognized for their efforts in the recovery of a 5 month old baby by receiving a "Certificate of Commendation". Coral Gables Case #15-006541

BACKGROUND

During the afternoon of August 30th, 2015 both Sgt. Lanz and Office Chavez were dispatched to 5000 University Drive, Doctor's Hospital, regarding a possible child abduction of a 5 month old baby. This call came in shortly before both the Officer's and Sergeant's normal end of shift. Upon arrival they were met by the baby's Aunt, an ICU nurse, and a hospital social worker. As it was reported to them a patient in the hospital had to be placed in a medically induced coma on 8/27/15. The patient is a mother of a 5 month old. The patient prior to being placed in a medically induced coma left her sister from Atlanta and her mother in Texas in charge of her medical treatment and her affairs. When the sister (aunt) arrived from Atlanta 2 later she inquired about the whereabouts of the baby. The hospital believed the boyfriend/father of baby had the baby as he was at the hospital until the early morning hours of 8/28/15. The Aunt attempted to contact the boyfriend/father without success. The boyfriend allegedly had the patient's car, cell phone, and the baby. When Sgt. Lanz and Officer Chavez arrived they met with the sister and then learned that the father/boyfriend might have an active injunction against him on behalf of the patient and her baby. Sgt. Lanz contacted Miami-Dade warrants and learned there were not one but two active injunction against him on behalf of the patient and baby. The sister advised that she was not worried for the safety of the baby but just wanted to make sure the baby was ok as she had not heard from the father/boyfriend since her arrival in Florida. Sgt. Lanz and Officer Chavez conducted an investigation and determined he could be either in Florida City or Miami Gardens. They dispatched local law enforcement officers to both cities to locate the father and the baby. During the course of the investigation the father learned that he was being looked for and called the hospital. He was advised (re-advised) that there were two active injunctions against him and that he needed to return the baby. He stated he would and would be at the hospital in an hour. He did not show up. He was then located by Miami Gardens PD at his mother's house. The baby was found to be in good condition. When he was back on the phone with Sgt. Lanz he stated he would not be coming since he did not believe there was an injunction

regarding the baby. He was advised by both us and Miami Gardens that there were in fact two and they had been confirmed as active. During this conversation the father became upset and asked Sgt. Lanz what his race was and that Sgt. Lanz did not understand his "culture". Sgt. Lanz kept his cool and remained professional while the father attempted to bring race into this investigation. The sister heard the entire conversation and commented positively on the Sergeant's and Officer's composure during that conversation. Eventually the father agreed to return the baby, the car seat, the car, and the cell phone to the sister as was the patient's wishes. Officer Rosario transported the sister to Miami Gardens to retrieve all of the above. Upon arrival the father had left the scene. Miami Gardens apparently had declined to make the arrest for violation of the injunction. DCF was notified of the event. This call resulted in both of them having to stay past their normal end of shift and they both did so without issue. As the Shift Commander for the day, I personally observed Sgt. Lanz and Officer Chavez's professionalism and investigative skills that resulted in the safe recovery of the 5 month old baby. For that they deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

SYNOPSIS/CONCLUSION

Based on the demonstrated professionalism, investigative skills, and dedication to their jobs I am recommending that they be recognized for their efforts via a "Certificate of Commendation".

APPROVAL

DATE

DISAPPROVAL



6856

9/17/15

Raul Pedroso, Major
Uniform Patrol Division

Raul Pedroso, Major
Uniform Patrol Division



6052

10/3/15

Michael Miller, Assistant Chief
Award Selection Committee

Michael Miller, Assistant Chief
Award Selection Committee

major
Pedroso
on
behalf
of

HB/hb