

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: A/MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE
ASC CHAIRPERSON

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2017

FROM: SERGEANT JENNIE HOFF
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION
SEPTEMBER 2017

ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION

I respectfully nominate Officer Gordon Dickinson, for the Officer of the month award for September 2017.

BACKGROUND

On September 9, 2017, the Coral Gables Police Department enacted it's Emergency Operations (ALPHA/BRAVO) due to Hurricane Irma. The Bravo Shift was tasked to be working upon the storm's arrival on September 10, 2017, approximately 0030 hrs.

On September 10, 2017, at 2021. As the strong winds from Hurricane Irma subsided the Coral Gables Police Department received a call of a business that had been burglarized. At the time the call was received units were still not able to leave the station due to storm conditions. Once units were clear to go out Officer Dickinson was assigned to handle a burglary to a business, Crema, a coffee shop at 163 Miracle Mile at 2049. The business had no power at the time due to the hurricane and it was unknown when it had occurred. Upon arrival, Officer Dickinson interviewed both victims (business partners) and a witness (property manager), that at the time did not know he was witnessing the crime committed on his property. He obtained the description information of the 3 male subjects and the involved vehicle from all parties; he broadcasted it over the police main frequency ASAP. Officer Dickinson also obtained detailed information on the items taken, two cash registers containing \$500, a safe, several consumable goods and a knife. This detailed inventory would aid in the investigations.

Later at 2307 hours the Coral Gables Police Department received a call from the resident of 215 Zamora Av advising of 4 males on the second floor of the apartment building, one male with a knife in hand. The complaint was scared as she had no power in the building and believed she was in danger. The Police Dispatcher broadcasted the subject description information and dispatched units for investigation. Officer Dickinson heard the description of the individuals and the vehicle they arrived in and immediately made the connection. Officer Dickinson advised over the police radio of his findings and responded to the address. The caller also advised that they

were entering the vehicle after they saw police drive by. Upon arriving, with Officers Valdes and Rivas, the vehicle was located unoccupied with some of the consumable goods that were stolen from the business. Officers began to check the area for the subjects when Officer Dickinson observed a male running away from him. Officer Valdes and Rivas responded to the area and observed the rear door of building with damage consisting with a forced entry. Upon making entry into the building while clearing the area, they observed apartment #8 had had extensive door and door frame damage as if someone had forced it open. Officers Rivas, Valdes, Engmann, and Dickinson entered the stairway to conduct a security check. Moments later, a female juvenile exited from apartment and was surprised to see police. Entry was made to the apartment and a protective sweep was conducted. At this time officers found Mr. Loy and Mr. Castro-Lorenzo pretending to be sleeping in the apartment. In addition, I saw a stack of cash registers in plain view in a front room. The registers were partially concealed by a comforter. Next to the registers was a small safe. Officer Valdes also located a large kitchen knife near Mr. Loy and Mr. Castro-Lorenzo. Both individual matched the description of the Offenders of the burglary to the business.

At this time, records checks were conducted on all individuals and a show up was conducted. The witness from the burglary (property manager) positively identified Mr. Jose Castro-Lorenzo as the person he witnessed taking the stolen items and placing them in the truck of the vehicle. A records check of Mr. Jose Castro-Lorenzo revealed a bench warrant for DWLS. A records check of the female, who had exited the apartment after it was believed the police was gone from the area, came back as a missing juvenile from Hialeah. It was also discovered that Mr. Loy, Mr. Castro-Lorenzo, and Juvenile # 1 did not live at the apartment nor could they advise who was renting it.

Crime Scene along with detective processed the scene and made contact with the property manager, who verified that none of the individuals in custody lived there nor was the apartment occupied by renters. Further investigation from the CID division resulted in an additional arrest (bench warrant case 17-6411), discovery of more stolen property and an unreported stolen scooter from 131 Zamora Av.

I would also like to nominate Michael Valdez and Jorge Rivas for Honorable Mention for September 2017, for their hard work in this case.

This is also a great demonstration of the professionalism of the officers in this department throughout any and all circumstances. With the collaboration from everyone in the department, the all known victims were reunited with their property, two offenders were arrested, and a missing female Juvenile was returned home safely. The property manager was able to assist police with the investigation and secured the property of any unauthorized occupants.

I believe this incident demonstrated the level of commitment and attention to detail that officers in this department have was instrumental to the outcome of this incident. These officers gave it all they had after working through the hurricane for over 38 hours straight before this event even occurred. At no time was their professionalism, commitment to the oath,

and their want for justice ever compromise during the long 49 hour shift. For these reasons I nominate these officers for Officer of the month for September 2017.

Attached: Reports 17-6344, 17-6411; Arrest BOLO first arrest; RMS information on second arrest; event reports 2017-106612, 2017-106540; arrest forms 17-6344 (2), 17-6411; all supplemental report: crime scene photos (213).

APPROVAL

DATE

DISAPPROVAL

A/Major Joseph Werner ⁷⁰⁷⁹
A/Major Joseph Werner, Lieutenant
Uniform Patrol Division

10/4/2017

Joseph Werner, Lieutenant
Uniform Patrol Division

N/A
Cordell Atherley, Major
Uniform Patrol Division

Cordell Atherley, Major
Uniform Patrol Division

B. Lawrence ⁶⁸²⁰
B. Lawrence, A/Major
Chairperson, ASC

B. Lawrence, A/Major
Chairperson, ASC

JH/jh