

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR THERESA MOLINA
ASC CHAIRPERSON

DATE: JUNE 3, 2014

FROM: LIEUTENANT DAVID LEMON
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION
FOR APRIL 2014

I am respectfully submitting this memorandum to nominate Officer Kristopher Clute for Officer of the Month for April 2014.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014, SIT Officers were tasked with saturating the banking district on Ponce de Leon Blvd, because of two recent bank robberies. On one of the robberies, Sergeant Vicky Merino provided a possible vehicle description of a Land Rover SUV with New Jersey license plates. Officer Clute, through his keen observation skills, observed a vehicle closely matching the description near the area of Douglas Road and Coral Way. With the assistance of other SIT Officers, surveillance was established on the potential bank robbery subject. During surveillance, the subject was observed travelling to several bank branches outside of Coral Gables. His actions were deemed suspicious after he entered a bank branch and failed to conduct a transaction. Based on Officer Clute's training and experience, it appeared that the subject was likely casing the bank branch in preparation to commit another robbery.

The surveillance team continued to follow the subject to a car wash establishment on Bird Rd and S. Dixie Highway. The subject was subsequently taken into custody without incident after his identity was confirmed. During a post-miranda interview, the subject admitted to robbing the Wells Fargo bank branch at 2525 Ponce De Leon Blvd.

Officer Clute's acute awareness while performing his duties, allowed the police department to apprehend a subject wanted for a serious bank robbery. His dedication and commitment to the organization and community is evident by his work ethic. It is my pleasure to recommend Officer Clute for Officer of the Month and recognize his outstanding performance.

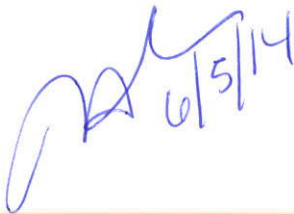
REVIEWED BY:



Major Raul Pedroso
Uniform Patrol Division

6/3/14

Date



CC:

Officer Christopher Clute, Uniform Patrol Division

DL/dl

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR THERESA MOLINA
AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: JUNE 3, 2014

FROM: LIEUTENANT BRIAN LAWRENCE *BL*
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
OFFICER OF THE MONTH

I would like to recognize **SERGEANT VICKY MERINO** for her outstanding efforts on case number 14-3737. On Monday, May 12, 2014, at approximately 0942 hours, an emergency call was broadcast over the police radio regarding a bank robbery that just occurred at 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd (Wells Fargo). Sergeant Merino immediately responded to the scene to locate the offender as well as to ensure that bank employees and customers were safe. In this particular case, the offender implied that he had a bomb and that it would detonate if he was not given money. Sergeant Merino's actions included quickly determining that the offender was no longer on scene, coordinating additional patrol units to respond to the bank and surrounding areas, and broadcasting a BOLO to all police units including those of neighboring jurisdictions.

Sergeant Merino continued to participate in the preliminary investigation. She assisted with securing the scene and interviewing bank personnel. She directed patrol units to canvass the area for witnesses as well as locating surveillance/security cameras from other businesses which may have captured the offender leaving the scene. She later discovered that the offender possibly left the scene in a black Range Rover vehicle with a New Jersey registration plate. She also reviewed the video footage from the bank and thus had a good description of the offender. On the next morning, Sergeant Merino personally responded to the Strategic Initiative Team's office to brief members of all the information she had obtained regarding this crime. This information was extremely beneficial to the SIT officers as they were able to locate and arrest the offender that afternoon. I believe that Sergeant Merino's performance was exemplary during this dangerous crime and that her relentless follow up with the Strategic Initiative Team ultimately led to the capture of the offender.

REVIEWED BY:



Raul Pedrosa, Major
Uniform Patrol Division



Theresa Molina, Major
Awards Selection Committee

DATE

6.3.14

6/5/14