

CITY OF CORAL GABLES


- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR JOHN BAUBLITZ
ASC CHAIRPERSON

DATE: February 6, 2024

FROM: MAJOR CORDELL ATHERLEY I.D. 7000
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT:
NOMINATION: "THE
DISTINGUISHED OFFICER OF
THE MONTH" AWARD.
(OFFICERS MELENNI ALZATE
& CHRISTOPHER
HERNANDEZ)



It is with great pleasure that I nominate Officer Melenni Alzate and Officer Christopher Hernandez for the distinguished award of "Officer of the Month". During the Month of January both Officers performed their duties with vigor and enthusiasm and as such, I see the need to nominate them for this prestigious award.

During the month of January, crime data showed an increase in vehicle burglaries in the northern area of our city. As such, utilizing data driven policing concepts, the crime suppression team was deployed to combat the criminal activity in the said area.

On January 07, 2024, at approximately 0227 hours, while conducting a crime suppression team operation in an unmarked patrol vehicle, Ofc. Hernandez observed two white males on the 1300 block of Venetia Ave. Ofc. Hernandez observed both subjects walking in an unlit area on the northside of the street. One subject was wearing a black hoodie sweater and black pants, while the other subject wore a grey sweater and shorts. As the subjects began traveling on the 1200 block of El Rado. Both subjects started continuously crossing from the east to the west side of the street upon the arrival of the crime suppression team supervisor who was driving a marked police vehicle. Upon the supervisor activating his police emergency equipment, the supervisor was able to immediately apprehend one subject as the second subject began to flee on foot.

Upon seeing the second subject fleeing on foot from the supervisor, Ofc. Hernandez engaged in a foot pursuit northbound on El Rado St. Ofc. Alzate then arrives on El Rado and joins in the foot pursuit after the subject. As the subject crossed SW 8 St., loud verbal commands were given to the subject to stop running to which the subject did not comply. Subsequently, Ofc. Hernandez deployed his taser at the subject but did not make contact. As the subject continued running behind a business at 5511 SW 8 St., Ofc. Alzate, while running, was able to aim her taser at the subject and successfully made contact with the subject bringing him down to the ground. After the first taser cycle was completed, the subject continued to refuse verbal commands from Ofc. Alzate and the subject attempted to stand and escape. A second cycle of the taser was deployed

on the subject, at which point Ofc. Hernandez was able to handcuff the subject. Upon being handcuffed, the subject spontaneously stated that he had a knife in his pocket.

As a result of this arrest, multiple vehicle burglaries and theft cases from 2023 to 2024 were solved as the defendant was charged with the said crimes.

The bravery and persistence displayed by both Officer Alzate and Officer C. Hernandez serves as an inspiration to all. Additionally, it is evident that the officers level of physical fitness, tactical training, and passion for police work afforded them the opportunity to successfully apprehend this habitual offender. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that I nominate both Officers jointly for "The Officer of the Month" award. In closing, it should be noted that the number of vehicle burglaries have decreased in the mentioned area since this arrest was made.

Received By:



Major John Baublitz
ASC Chairperson

2/6/2024
Date

CA/ca