


CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR JESSE MEDINA
AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2020

FROM: SERGEANT JESUS RODRIGUEZ 
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
OFFICER OF THE MONTH
NOMINATION

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

I nominate Officer Andrew Steele to receive the Officer of the Month Award for his courageous efforts as noted below.

BACKGROUND

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at approximately 3:02 a.m., Coral Gables Police units responded to 905 Alfonso Avenue in reference to a diagnosed female consumer having a medical episode in her bedroom. Ms. Kathyne Pfister had called 911 to report her daughter's mental breakdown. Upon the officers' arrival, Ms. Pfister advised that her daughter had locked herself in her bedroom with a knife and threatened to kill herself.

Officers Alexa Becker (ID # 10596), Christopher Hernandez (ID # 10771) and Geronimo Gibson (ID # 11014) approached the locked door and attempted to talk the individual into coming outside of her room. Involved other 1 locked the door and screamed that she had a knife and would kill herself and kill anybody else that tried opening the door.

According to Officer Christopher Hernandez, he had determined that a breach would be necessary to preserve the listed individual's life. Several attempts were made to kick the door while additional units responded with a breaching kit. After a few attempts to kick the door open, the individual opened the door holding a silver knife and screaming. Officer Hernandez deployed his Taser as one prong struck the individual in the upper right chest area, causing her to step back, and shut the door. A second Taser attempt was made by Officer Hernandez, but the door shut close before making contact. A small crowbar was used to open the door; however, it was unsuccessful.

At this time, Officer Andrew Steele (ID # 10591), arrived on scene, approached the door, and kicked it open. After the door was kicked open, Officer Steele noticed the female subject standing in the room with a knife in her right hand. Officer Steele was able to slap the subject's arm away and then proceeded to grab both of her arms and redirect her to the bed. The knife was

immediately pulled out of her hands by Officer Steele and she was taken into custody without further incident.

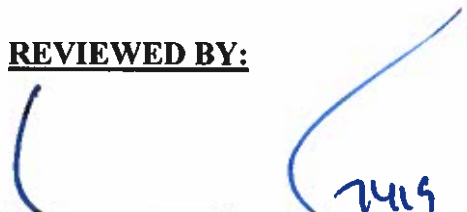
The listed individual was transported to Larkin Hospital by Coral Gables Fire Rescue # 2 (Lt. Tabon, Run # 20-004739) and released to hospital staff for treatment.

SYNOPSIS/CONCLUSION

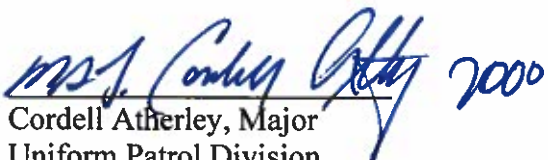
Based on the demonstrated courageous efforts, Officer Steele was able to disarm a combative subject that had in her possession a knife; while utilizing a minimum use of force. I am recommending that Officer Andrew Steele be recognized for his efforts via the Officer of the Month Award.

REVIEWED BY:

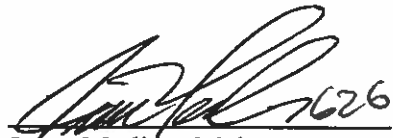
DATE


Vicky Merino, Lieutenant
Uniform Patrol Division

08/25/2020


Cordell Atherley, Major
Uniform Patrol Division

8/26/20


Jesse Medina, Major
Award Selection Committee

8-26-20

INCIDENT/INVESTIGATION REPORT

Agency Name
Coral Gables Police Department

ORI
FL 0130200

Case#
20-004287

Date / Time Reported
08/18/2020 04:30 Tue

Last Known Secure
08/18/2020 03:02 Tue

At Found
08/18/2020 03:22 Tue

**** Contains Restricted Names ****

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|----------|
| Location of Incident 905 Alfonso Av, Coral Gables FL 33146- | Premise Type Residential- House / | Zone/Tract 08 | |
| #1 Crime Incident(s) (Com) Property Found / Impounded PRA | Weapon / Tools KNIFE | | Activity |
| | Entry | Exit | Security |
| #2 Crime Incident (Com) Baker / Marchman Act ZOJ | Weapon / Tools | | Activity |
| | Entry | Exit | Security |
| #3 Crime Incident () | Weapon / Tools | | Activity |
| | Entry | Exit | Security |

MO

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|-------------|-------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| # of Victims 0 | Type: | Injury: | Domestic: N | | | | | |
| V1 | Victim/Business Name (Last, First, Middle) | Victim of Crime # | DOB Age | Race | Sex | Relationship To Offender | Resident Status | Military Branch/Status |
| Home Address | | | | | | | Home Phone | |
| Employer Name/Address | | | | | Business Phone | | Mobile Phone | |
| VYR | Make | Model | Style | Color | Lic/Lis | VIN | | |

VICTIM

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| CODES: V- Victim (Denote V2, V3) O = Owner (if other than victim) R = Reporting Person (if other than victim) | | | | | | | | | |
| Type: INDIVIDUAL | | | | | Injury: | | | | |
| Code | Name (Last, First, Middle) | Victim of Crime # | DOB Age | Race | Sex | Relationship To Offender | Resident Status | Military Branch/Status | |
| IO | PFISTER, THERESE NICOLE <i>Restricted</i> | | 08/14/1962 Age 58 | W | F | | Resident | | |
| Home Address 905 Alfonso Av Coral Gables, FL 33146 | | | | | | | Home Phone 305-662-7177 | | |
| Employer Name/Address | | | | | Business Phone | | Mobile Phone 305-439-1028 | | |
| Type: INDIVIDUAL | | | | | Injury: | | | | |
| Code | Name (Last, First, Middle) | Victim of Crime # | DOB Age | Race | Sex | Relationship To Offender | Resident Status | Military Branch/Status | |
| IO | PFISTER, KATHRYNE M | | 09/17/1937 Age 82 | W | F | | Resident | | |
| Home Address 905 Alfonso Av Coral Gables, FL 33146 | | | | | | | Home Phone 305-662-7177 | | |
| Employer Name/Address (RETIRED) | | | | | Business Phone | | Mobile Phone 786-614-2909 | | |

OTHERS INVOLVED

L = Lost S = Stolen R = Recovered D = Damaged Z = Seized B = Burned C = Counterfeit / Forged F = Found
("O") = Recovered for Other Jurisdiction)

| VI # | Code | Status Fm/To | Value | OJ | QTY | Property Description | Make/Model | Serial Number |
|------|------|--------------|--------|----|-----|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 55 | 5 | \$1.00 | | 1 | TASER PRONGS | AXON Taser 7 | |
| | 55 | 5 | \$1.00 | | 1 | SILVER KITCHEN KNIFE | | |
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PROPERTY

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|---|--------------------------|--|
| Officer/ID# GIBSON, G. J. (UPD, PTRL) (11014) | Invest ID# (0) | Supervisor RODRIGUEZ, J. J. (UPD, PTRL) (8456) |
| Status | Complainant Signature | Case Status Active Case 08/18/2020 |
| Case Disposition: | | Page 1 |

INCIDENT/INVESTIGATION REPORT

Coral Gables Police Department

Case # 20-004287

Status Codes L = Lost S = Stolen R = Recovered D = Damaged Z = Seized B = Burned C = Counterfeit / Forged F = Found

| | UCR | Status | Quantity | Type Measure | Suspected Type | Up to 3 types of activity |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| D R U G S | | | | | | |
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Assisting Officers
BLUMSTEIN, S.M. (7707), RODRIGUEZ, J.J. (8456), BECKER, A.C. (10596), STEELE, A. (10591), HERNANDEZ, C. (10771), SMITH, R.M. (11052)

Suspect Hate / Bias Motivated: *None (No Bias)*

NARRATIVE

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at approximately 3:02 a.m., CGPD units responded to 905 Alfonso Avenue in reference to a baker act. Ms. Kathyne Pfister called 911 in reference to her daughter, Involved Other 1, having a mental breakdown. Upon arrival, Ms. Pfister advised Involved Other 1 locked herself in her bedroom with a knife and threatened to kill herself.

Officers A. Becker (10596), C. Hernandez (10771) and I approached the locked door and attempted to talk to the individual. Involved other 1 locked the door and screamed that she had a knife and would kill herself and kill anybody else that tried opening the door. Several attempts were made to kick the door while additional units responded with a breaching kit. After a few attempts to kick the door open, the individual opened the door holding a silver kitchen knife and screaming. Ofc. C. Hernandez deployed his taser and one prong struck her in the upper right chest area, causing her to step back and shut the door. A second Taser attempt was made by Ofc. Hernandez but the door shut before making contact.

A small crowbar was used but unsuccessful. At this time, Ofc. A. Steele (10951) approached the door and kicked it open (Refer to Ofc. Steele's supplement for details). The knife was taken from the individual's possession and was taken into custody without further incident. The individual was transported to Larkin Hospital by Coral Gables Fire Rescue #2 (Lt. Tabon, Run# 4739) and released to hospital staff for treatment.

Ofc. A. Becker took photographs of the scene and uploaded a total of 37 photographs to the UPD Digital Photos folder on the (Y:) Patrol drive. The Taser prongs were retrieved from the scene and impounded. The silver kitchen knife used by the individual was impounded into CGPD Property following the incident.

Incident Report Related Property List

Coral Gables Police Department

OCA: 20-004287

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Property Description TASER PRONGS | | | Make AXON | | Model TASER 7 | | Caliber | |
| Color Silver | | Serial No. | | Value \$1.00 | | Qty 1.000 | | Unit | |
| Status Impounded / | | Date 08/18/2020 | | NIC # | | State # | | Local # | |
| Name (Last, First, Middle) Coral Gables City Of, | | DOB 11/30/1982 | | Age 37 | | Race W | | Sex M | |

Notes

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|--|---|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 2 | Property Description SILVER KITCHEN KNIFE | | | Make | | Model | | Caliber | |
| Color Silver | | Serial No. | | Value \$1.00 | | Qty 1.000 | | Unit | |
| Status Impounded / | | Date 08/18/2020 | | NIC # | | State # | | Local # | |
| Name (Last, First, Middle) Pfister, Therese Nicole | | DOB 08/14/1962 | | Age 58 | | Race W | | Sex F | |

Notes



Report of Law Enforcement Officer
Initiating Involuntary Examination

State of Florida, County of MIAMI DADE, Florida

I, Off. GERONIMO J. GIBSON (11014), am a law enforcement officer certified by the State of Florida, Florida.

In my opinion, THERESE NICOLE PEISTER appears to meet the following criteria for involuntary examination:

1. I have reason to believe said person has a mental illness as defined by section 394.455, Florida Statutes: "Mental illness" means an impairment of the mental or emotional processes that exercise conscious control of one's actions or of the ability to perceive or understand reality, which impairment substantially interferes with the person's ability to meet the ordinary demands of living. For the purposes of this part, the term does not include a developmental disability as defined in chapter 393, intoxication, or conditions manifested only by antisocial behavior or substance abuse impairment.

AND because of the mental illness (check all that apply):

a. Person has refused voluntary examination after conscientious explanation and disclosure of the purpose of the examination; AND/OR

b. Person is unable to determine for himself/herself whether examination is necessary; AND

2. Either (check all that apply):

a. Without care or treatment said person is likely to suffer from neglect or refuse to care for himself/herself, and such neglect or refusal poses a real and present threat of substantial harm to his/her well-being and it is not apparent that such harm may be avoided through the help of willing family members or friends or the provision of other services; AND/OR,

b. There is substantial likelihood that without care or treatment the person will cause serious bodily harm to (check one or both) self others in the near future, as evidenced by recent behavior.

Circumstances supporting this opinion, including specific information about the person's behavior, threats and actions, and information offered by others:

MS. THERESE NICOLE PEISTER (8/14/62) BARRICADED HERSELF IN HER BEDROOM WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE AND THREATENED TO KILL HERSELF AND RESPONDING POLICE OFFICERS.

Has the law enforcement officer initiating this examination completed a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program?..... Yes No

Was the examination initiated in the officer's capacity as a school resource officer?..... Yes No

[Signature] (11014)
Signature of Law Enforcement Officer

8/16/20 03:02 am pm
Date (mm/dd/yy) Time

Off. GERONIMO J. GIBSON
Printed Name of Law Enforcement Officer

CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Full Name of Law Enforcement Agency (printed)

11014
Badge or ID Number

20-004287
Law Enforcement Case Number

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
NOT SUPERVISOR APPROVED

Printed: 08/18/2020 04:46

OCA: **20004287**

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Investigator: *BECKER, A. C. (10596)*

Date / Time: *08/18/2020 04:31:10, Tuesday*

Supervisor: *(0)*

Supervisor Review Date / Time: *NOT REVIEWED*

Contact:

Reference: *Supplement*

On 08/18/20, I responded to 905 Alfonso Av in reference to a female having a breakdown in her bedroom.

Upon arrival, Officer C. Hernandez, Officer Gibson and I attempted to make contact with the female; however, she barricaded herself inside her bedroom. After several attempts to verbally have the female exit the room, she opened the door brandishing a kitchen knife in her hand and moved toward officers. Officer C. Hernandez discharged his taser. Refer to incident report for further information.

Per my crime scene investigation, I observed taser prongs in the wall to the right of the doorway and on the floor, just outside of the doorway of the bedroom. I observed the knife that was in the female's hand on a table inside of the bedroom. I observed pry marks and damage to the door from the forced entry into the bedroom.

I observed a red mark from a taser prong on the female's upper right chest area. There were no other signs of visible injury. Coral Gables Fire Rescue responded and transported the female to Larkin Hospital.

No officers sustained any reported injuries on scene.

A total of 37 photographs were taken and uploaded into the UPD Digital Photos folder.

Investigator Signature: _____

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
NOT SUPERVISOR APPROVED

Printed: 08/18/2020 04:47

OCA: 20004287

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Investigator: *HERNANDEZ, C. (10771)*

Date / Time: *08/18/2020 04:44:12, Tuesday*

Supervisor: *(0)*

Supervisor Review Date / Time: *NOT REVIEWED*

Contact:

Reference: *Supplement*

On 08/18/20 at 0302 hours I responded to 905 Alfonso Avenue in reference to a diagnosed consumer having a medical episode.

Upon arrival, contact was made with the mother who advised her daughter was having a medical episode in the bedroom and had barricaded herself in there and refused to come out. The mother further advised she did not have a weapon accessible. Officer Gibson, Officer Becker and I tactically placed ourselves on the exterior of the locked bedroom on the east side of the home. Several attempts at establishing a rapport with the patient produced negative results. The patient then proceeded to state she was actively cutting herself and was going to commit suicide. It was determined at this time that a breach would be necessary to preserve life. Officer Gibson positioned himself with lethal force on one side of the doorway and I attempted to breach the door while maintaining a less lethal (Taser) alternative. After numerous attempts to breach the door, the patient opened the door with an approximate 5" kitchen knife in her right hand. She proceeded forward into the doorway and I discharged my Taser as I stepped back. Contact was made in her right chest with one prong and I discharged my second cartridge as she closed the door, thus the second set of prongs lodged themselves in the door.

A unit with a breaching tool was requested at which point Officer Steele responded. Officer Steele was able to breach the door with his right foot and entry was made. Officer Steele observed the patient with the knife in her hand and ordered her to drop it. Officer Steele was able to slap the hand holding the knife away which caused the patient to turn. At this time the patient was taken down to the bed and Officer Gibson, Officer Becker, and I placed the patient into custody.

Investigator Signature: _____

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
NOT SUPERVISOR APPROVED

Printed: 08/18/2020 04:20

OCA: **20004287**

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Investigator: *STEELE, A. (10591)*

Date / Time: *08/18/2020 03:43:13, Tuesday*

Supervisor: *(0)*

Supervisor Review Date / Time: *NOT REVIEWED*

Contact: *Steele, Andrew*
2801 Salzedo St, Coral Gables
305-442-1600

Reference: *Supplement*

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at approximately 3:18 a.m., I responded to 905 Alfonso Avenue in reference to a Baker Act. Upon arrival, several officers were standing outside a locked bedroom door with the subject inside. I proceeded to breach the door by using my right foot to kick the door in and then observed the subject standing in the room with a knife.

I initially pointed my sidearm at her telling her to drop the knife but she refused. I then holstered my sidearm and slapped the subject's arm away which resulted in her turning partway around and then I proceeded to grab both her arms with my hands and redirect her to the bed where I was able to pull the knife out of her hand without further issue.

Other CGPD officers then placed the subject into custody.

Investigator Signature: _____