



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
November 12, 2019**

ITEM TITLE:

Congratulations to Detectives Taha Khaled and Jason Cruz, recipients of the City of Coral Gables "Detective of the Quarter Award," for the third quarter 2019.

BRIEF HISTORY:

I would like to nominate both Detectives Khaled Taha and Jason Cruz for the Detective of the 3rd Quarter Award. Both detectives collaborated and networked with the Miami-Dade Police Department on several vehicle burglaries that occurred overnight on Tuesday, July 21st in zone 7; as a result, a total of eight cases were closed and cleared by arrests.

Our Crime Analyst, Antonio Abreu provided the Property Crimes Unit information that two known juvenile female gang members were arrested by the county for committing numerous vehicle burglaries in the area of Sabel Chase on July 21st. The lead county detective was contacted. He provided vital information from his investigation that ultimately assisted us in potentially linking the juvenile females to some of our cases from zone 7. Detective Cruz took the initiative and contacted the lead county detective for further follow up; as a result of his keen investigative skills and willingness to fully investigate his case, Detective Cruz was successful in positively identifying the two juvenile female subjects as the subjects that entered and ransacked his victim's vehicle (19-005173). Thereafter, both Detectives Taha and Cruz interviewed both juveniles at the detention center where they admitted that they did enter the City of Coral Gables during the night of the 21st and broke into several vehicles. Their interview and interrogation skills deserve recognition. The remaining vehicle burglaries that occurred that night were assigned to Detective Taha, who truly did an outstanding job throughout his investigation (19-005172, 09-005174, 19-005175, 19-005181, 19-005194, 19-005195, and 19-005280). He was diligent and did not rest until he had successfully investigated each case by linking recovered items, viewing surveillance videos, interviewing victims, and conducting a through area canvas making each case solid. He also collaborated and networked with the county lead detective and the City of Miami Gang Unit. In addition, Detective Taha attended their bond hearing and relayed to the judge how much their crime spree negatively affected several of our residents; as a result, the judge placed them on Secured Detention. Detective Taha also requested to issue the juvenile females a stay away order from each other. The judge granted it.

For their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Coral Gables, I believe both Detective Taha and Cruz deserve this recognition.

**ATTACHMENT(S):
Nomination memo**