

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## - MEMORANDUM -

**TO:** MAJOR JOHN P. BAUBLITZ  
CHAIRMAN AWARDS COMMITTEE

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 19, 2025

**FROM:** OFFICER PETER HERNANDEZ <sup>PH</sup> #10617  
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** OFFICER OF THE MONTH  
FEBRUARY 2025

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### ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

Major Baublitz and distinguished members of the award selection committee, it is my great honor and privilege to submit a nomination for February 2025 "Officer of the Month" for Officer Joshua De Leon.

### BACKGROUND

On the evening of February 15, 2025, at approximately 2310 hours, while working a Crime Suppression Team (CST) detail, Officer Joshua De Leon observed a white Hispanic male, wearing a black hat (white lettering), blue sweater (white stripes), black pants, and white sneakers, with a black Swiss Tech cross body bag traveling southbound on the 1700 block of Country Club Prado on a white Cannondale bicycle without any lighting equipment. The Crime Suppression Detail was being conducted due to the uptick in residential burglaries in Zone 3.

Due to Officer Joshua De Leon experience and keen awareness he immediately identified the male to be suspicious and notified Crime Suppression Team Officers M. Alzate (ID #11496) and myself who arrived in the area shortly after. Officer Joshua De Leon began to conduct mobile surveillance of the subject riding the bicycle. The subject made a left and turn and began traveling eastbound on Obispo Ave, bypassing the stop sign at the intersection of Obispo Ave and Country Club Prado. The subject proceeded to travel southbound on Country Club Prado in the northbound lanes.

Officer Joshua De Leon and Officer Alzate observed the male traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of the 1800 block of Country Club Prado and initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Cadiz Ave and Country Club Prado. The male identified himself as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was advised the reason for the stop was due to not having the appropriate lighting equipment on his bicycle, failing to stop at a stop sign, and riding his bicycle onto oncoming traffic. Officer Alzate asked [REDACTED] in Spanish if he would allow officers on scene to search the Swiss tech cross body bag [REDACTED] had over his shoulder, to which he consented. I conducted a search of the Swiss tech cross body bag which

revealed one 9mm luger "STV" bullet located in the large zipper portion on the front of the cross-body bag, a flat head screwdriver located on the large zipper on the back of the cross-body bag and a small clear plastic bag of suspected Methamphetamine approximately (.318 grams) in the small zipper located on the shoulder strap of the cross-body bag. at which point I placed him in handcuffs.

Miranda warnings were read per card in Spanish by Officer M Alzate to which [REDACTED] voluntarily waived his rights and opted to speak with Officers on scene. [REDACTED] stated he was staying at a friend's house near Flagler Street and 37 Ave, and he was riding his bicycle through Coral Gables because he was on his way to another friend's house who resides somewhere west of 57th Ave and Coral Way. [REDACTED] was unable to provide an exact location for both of his friends addresses. when questioned about the aforementioned findings inside the Swiss tech cross body bag, [REDACTED] stated that none of those items belonged to him. [REDACTED] stated his friend that lives near Flagler Street and 37th Ave lent him the Swiss tech cross body bag so that he was able to hold his black tablet and charger.

A routine records check was conducted on [REDACTED] revealing he is convicted Felon. Search Incident to arrest of [REDACTED] person revealed he was wearing multiple layers of clothing. [REDACTED] had two pairs of black pants along with black shorts underneath the pants. I located a grey folding knife (window punch) inside the right pant pocket of the second layer of black pants. [REDACTED] was issued citations for riding a bicycle onto oncoming traffic (AKKX5VE) and no lighting equipment (AKKX5UE).

The small clear plastic bag of suspected methamphetamine approximately (.318 grams) was impounded reference Miami Dade Sheriff's Office, (Case: PD250216048860) for lab testing. the 1, 9mm bullet and knife were impounded to the Coral Gables Property Section.

Base upon the totality of the circumstances [REDACTED] failed to dispel Officer Joshua De Leon's concern for property in the area

[REDACTED] was charged with (2) Counts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony: Firearm, Weapon, ammunitions possession by a convicted Felon, (1) Count, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony: Controlled Substance Possession Suspected Methamphetamine, (1) Count 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Misdemeanor, Loitering & Prowling.

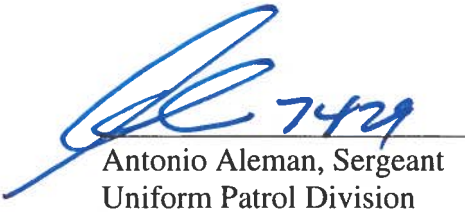
### SYNOPSIS/CONCLUSION

Officer Joshua De Leon has shown his tremendous dedication to apprehending criminals and keeping Coral Gables safe. Officer Joshua De Leon's determination to complete a thorough investigation of the scene was pivotal in keeping a convicted Felon armed with a knife, ammunition, and illegal narcotics off the streets of Coral Gables. The City of Coral Gables is safer because of Officer Joshua De Leon's actions on this arrest. Officer Joshua De Leon has continued to show the true value of the Crime Suppression Team and the success of the unit

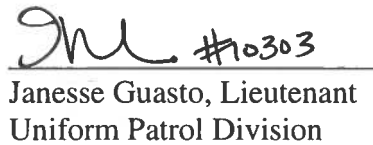
speaks for itself. It is for this reason I am recommending that Officer Joshua De Leon to be recognized for his efforts via the Officer of the Month Award for February 2025.

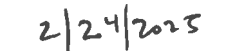
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**DATE**

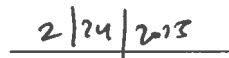
  
Antonio Aleman, Sergeant  
Uniform Patrol Division

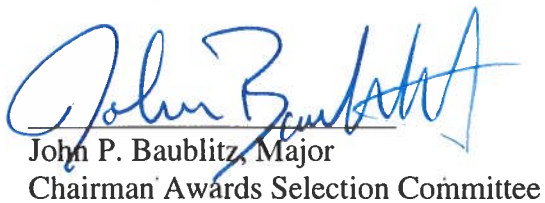


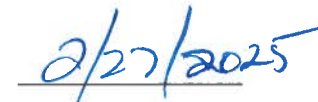
  
Janesse Guasto, Lieutenant  
Uniform Patrol Division



LT. WATTO  
TW2   
Jennie Hoff, Major  
Uniform Patrol Division



  
John P. Baublitz, Major  
Chairman Awards Selection Committee



Attachments:

Arrest Affidavit-Form (4 pages)

Incident Report (10 pages)

PH/ph