

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: EDWARD J. HUDAK, JR
CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2018

FROM: MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE *BL*
SPECIALIZED ENFORCEMENT DIV

SUBJECT:
AWARDS SELECTION
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS - OFFICER
OF THE YEAR - 2017

Per SOP#066, the Awards Selection Committee (ASC) has been established and designated to review and select nominated Department personnel for certain awards, and make recommendations for Officer of the Month, Detective of the Quarter and Officer of the Year, to the Chief of Police for Approval. The ASC met this afternoon and submits for your approval our recommendations for the following awards:

2017
Officer of the Year
Joel Rios

(Nominated by Brian Lawrence – Chairperson, Lieutenant Jesse Medina, Sergeant Joshua Nuñez, Detective Jason Cruz, Officers Nelson Rodriguez and Tomas Salcedo, Civilian Krizia McGraw - ASC Members)

APPROVAL

DATE

DISAPPROVAL

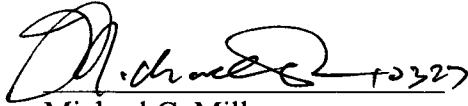


Edward J. Hudak, Jr.

3/27/18

Edward J. Hudak, Jr.

Reviewed by:

Handwritten signature of Michael C. Miller in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes the number '10327' at the end.

Michael C. Miller
Assistant Chief of Police

4/3/17
Date

Cc:
Sergeant Josh Nunez
Officer Joel Rios

BL/bl

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: A/MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: May 8, 2017

FROM: MAJOR RAUL PEDROSO #6856
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SUBJECT:
SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

I am writing to nominate the listed police officers for the distinguished *Silver Medal of Valor* for their act of bravery described below that met established award criteria:

Listed Personnel

Officer James Molina
Officer Joel Rios
Officer Manny Rivero

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, at approximately 12:55 hours, the listed police officers responded to calls for emergency assistance regarding an active shooter at the Equinox Gym, located at the Village of Merrick Park. These officers responded without delay, running towards the business as hundreds of people were running away. As other officers worked to perimeter the area, these police officers quickly coordinated a plan of action, while on the move, and tactically made entry into the business where there was believed to be at least one suspect actively engaged in shooting innocent people. Their devotion to duty, despite the very clear presence of great personal danger, led them to enter the business without hesitation or delay; this after moving past the glass frontage of the business that provided no cover or concealment. Once inside they observed two victims of apparent gunshot wounds on the floor. Their immediate concern was not for themselves, but for other possible victims, as they could see people in fear for their lives cowering behind gym equipment and doing what they could to hide from the assailant. Their mission was clear, find and neutralize the shooter, doing whatever was necessary to prevent anyone else from being seriously injured or killed. These officers skillfully moved from room to room, each time they turned into or entered a room, not knowing if that was where the shooter was hiding in wait. They knew this process had to be swift and purposeful, as any delay could cost someone their life. Ultimately, the police officers located the shooter deceased in a locker room from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. These police officers acted selflessly, demonstrating extreme bravery and courage, and did so to keep others safe, while creating a safe working environment for Fire-Rescue personnel so they could make their way to the injured and provide emergency medical care. The actions of Officers Molina, Rivero and Rios were above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.

Reviewed by: Brian Lawrence 5820
A/Major B. Lawrence

Date: 05/09/17

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: A/MAJOR B. LAWRENCE
ASC CHAIRMAN

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2017

FROM: JOSHUA NUÑEZ, SGT *JAN*
BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

SUBJECT:
AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION
OFC J. RIOS 8444

Please accept this memorandum as my Officer of the Month Nomination for the Month of December 2017. It is a pleasure to nominate Officer J. Rios for his exceptional work and performance in the apprehension of a subject and recovery of a stolen vehicle on December 14th, 2017. He is a brief synopsis of his actions.

On December 14, 2017, Officer Rios was responding to a fraud in progress call at 2401 Ponce De Leon Blvd(TD Bank). Officer Rios along with Officer Orbe were able to apprehend the subject prior to his departure. During the course of the investigation, he was able to conclude that the subject had come alone contrary to what he initially said. Thereafter, Officer Rios and Orbe were able to locate the subject's vehicle, which was a stolen rental. Further investigation revealed the subject is involved in identity theft, credit card fraud, stolen vehicle, and even a stolen diamonds from New York. This portion has been referred to SIS and the State Attorney's Office for further. The subject's apprehension has led to many cases to include future investigations that involved SAO, NYPD and to include Homeland due to the subjects' international travel related to the diamond importation.

Officer Rios demonstrated excellent police skills to safely and quickly apprehend a criminal that would have continued crime spree in the area. I respectfully request that you reward his hard work, outstanding efforts by awarding him **Officer of the Month for December 2017**.

Reviewed by:

Date

Brian Lawrence 5840

B. Lawrence, A/Major
SED Commander
ASC

01/09/18