



**City of Coral Gables
COMMISSION MEETING
May 25, 2010**

ITEM TITLE:

Congratulations to Laura Rodriguez, Fire Department, recipient of the City of Coral Gables Employee of the Month Award, for the month of June 2010.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The nomination was submitted by Division Chief Hope Gibbs, Fire Department, which provided the following:

“Ms. Rodriguez has been employed by the City since 1994. Since her employment to the present, Ms. Rodriguez continues to not only go above and beyond in her work environment but ensures that her work and work products support the mission of the City. As the Public Education Specialist, Ms. Rodriguez is in charge of developing, coordinating and conducting many of the public education activities for the Fire Department. One such activity is the biannual Children’s Fire Safety Festival which takes place during Burn Awareness Week (February) and Fire Prevention Month (October). During these events, Ms. Rodriguez coordinates and conducts fire and life safety presentations for approximately 3000-5000 school age children. She has taken a subject that would normally not be on the radar of this age group and made it fun, exciting, and hip; thus, exposing them to important life saving information they would normally have no interest in.

In addition to these festivals, Ms. Rodriguez also works with coordinating and conducting many of the other educational activities such as: our Senior Citizen Safety Talks, Citizen CPR Program, Fire and Life Safety Evacuation Planning and Drills for area businesses, and KAPOW to name a few. She is directly and/or indirectly responsible for helping the department teach fire and life saving tips to the more than 25,000 participants each year.

There have been numerous unsolicited letters and emails received from customers regarding Ms. Rodriguez’s thoroughness, commitment and dedication to ensuring the participant had a good experience in dealing with the department. Ms. Rodriguez has become the face and voice behind the call for information of our department. Her day-to-day actions not only illustrate the traits for a model employee but, also an employee who knows that she can and does make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Winston Churchill once said, ‘We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.’ I can honestly say that Ms. Rodriguez exemplifies this.”

ATTACHMENT(S):

Employee of the Month Notification Letter