

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR EDWARD HUDA
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

FROM: SERGEANT KLAUS REINOSO *(initials)*

DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2010

SUBJECT: AWARD / HONOR
NOMINATION

I respectfully request that Officers Geisy Farinas be considered for Officer of the Month for November, 2010.

On 11-21-10 Officer Farinas and I were working off duty at 950 University Dr., The Coral Gables Presbyterian Church. The annual event is a gathering of several hundred people celebrating the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. The Church set up picnic tables in the grassy triangle area at the intersection of University Dr. and Bird Rd. There were hundreds of people, including children and elderly gathered in the area, a significant number of which were waiting in line to be served a turkey meal, along the Bird Rd. sidewalk.

Officer Farinas and I were positioned across Bird Rd. assisting arriving guests in crossing the street. While I was speaking with Officer Farinas, she was facing west and I was facing east, she jumped and ran across Bird Rd towards the church. She observed a car driven by an elderly woman make a turn onto Bird Rd in the wrong lanes of traffic. The woman was driving east in the westbound lanes. As she ran across Bird Rd, vehicles eastbound on Bird Rd. had to yield to her to allow her to run across. She then jumped in front of oncoming westbound traffic which was approaching at a high rate of speed, additionally distracted by the event at the church. At the same time Officer Farinas commandingly got the attention of the elderly driver and motioned to her to stop. All this transpired while I was still making my way across the street in traffic.

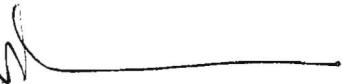
It is this supervisor's opinion, that Officer Farinas averted what would surely have been a catastrophic incident. If the oncoming traffic would not have been stopped there would have been a traffic crash involving at least several vehicles, and if the vehicles would have traveled just a few feet to the north they would have collided with the hundreds of people gathered at the church, a significant number which were in line next to the sidewalk on the church property.

It seemed that Officer Farinas acted without even thinking, even though in later conversation with her she consciously thought out how to react. Officer Farinas put herself in a difficult position between oncoming traffic with the hopes that she would be able to stop a collision. There was no guarantee that the drivers of the vehicles were going to see her or be able to stop in time. It is these types of actions that are the true nature of police work. They are dangerous but necessary to maintain safety and security within the community. Officer Farinas should be recognized and commended for her actions and the risk that she took on that day. For it is

because of that unselfish risk, a catastrophic collision was avoided. I therefore request she be considered for Office of the Month for November 2010.

REVIEWED BY:


Lieutenant Michael Frevola
Technical Services Division


Major Raul Pedroso
Technical Services Division


Major Edward Hudak
Uniform Patrol Division

KR/kr

DATE

11-24-10

11-24-10

11-28-10