

**COPY**

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**

**- MEMORANDUM -**

**TO: ACTING MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE**  
**(AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE)**

**DATE: JANUARY 17, 2018**

**FROM: LIEUTENANT VICKY MERINO**   
**ALPHA SHIFT COMMANDER**

**SUBJECT:**  
**AWARDS/OFFICER OF THE**  
**MONTH FOR JANUARY**

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I would like to take this time to nominate Officer Khaled Taha for the "Officer of the Month Award" for the month of January. On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 0127 hours, Officer Taha was patrolling his assigned zone when he observed two males acting suspicious along the 3600 block of Ponce De Leon Blvd. Officer Taha parked his vehicle in a tactical location and shut off his vehicle lights. He continued to observe the two males acting suspicious, crouching down and continuously looking around attempting to conceal themselves. The subjects appeared very young which caused concern as to why they were out so late at night.

Officer Taha proceeded to conduct a consensual encounter to verify the age of the subjects. One of the subjects confirmed he was 15 years old. The other subject was an adult. Neither one of them lived in the area. Based on this information, Officer Taha read the subjects their Miranda rights per card and obtained consent to search a backpack one of the subjects was carrying. Inside the backpack was miscellaneous property including two different identifiable items belonging to someone other than the subjects. Upon further questioning of the adult subject, he subsequently admitted to breaking into a several vehicles in the area. He also confirmed that some of the property inside of his backpack did not belong to either one of them. The adult subject agreed to show officers what vehicles he broke into. Due to the time of night, the subject could not positively identify the vehicles but indicated it was in the alley along Ponce De Leon Blvd. The subjects also left behind two bicycles along the 200 block of Aledo which were recovered and impounded for safe keeping. The juvenile subject initially provided a false name to Officer Taha.

Both subjects were arrested and charged with Loitering and Prowling and Resisting without Violence for providing a false name. Later that morning, at least two victims (18-357/18-359) and a possible third (still pending) called Coral Gables Police to advise their vehicles had been broken into and property was stolen. The victims were able to identify the property that was recovered. Additionally, the subjects committed at least one vehicle burglary in the City of Miami.

Officer Taha is deserving of this award. Vehicle burglaries are one of our focal crimes we are always trying to combat on the midnight shift. It takes diligent patrolling; keen observation skills and immediate actions to lead to these types of apprehensions. Thanks to Officer Taha's dedication to investigate this suspicious behavior further, other crimes were prevented and two felony subjects were arrested. It is these types of actions that lead to a safer community.

Maj. Cordell Athley #7000  
Major Cordell Athley  
UPD Commander

1-18-18  
Date

Brian Lawrence 6821  
Brian Lawrence, Acting Major  
ASC Chairperson

01/18/18  
Date