

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## - MEMORANDUM -

**TO:** ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL MILLER  
ASC CHAIRPERSON

**DATE:** APRIL 14, 2015

**FROM:** LIEUTENANT DAVID LEMON  
UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

**SUBJECT:**  
AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION  
FOR APRIL 2015

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I am respectfully submitting this memorandum to nominate the following members of the Strategic Initiatives Team for the department's Unit Certificate Award, recognizing their diligence in apprehending two subjects responsible for burglarizing a vehicle at Dante Fascell Park: Acting Sergeant Kristopher Clute, Officer James Molina, Officer Hector Diaz, Officer Joseph Fleres. While not assigned to the Strategic Initiatives Team, Sergeant Dean Wellinghoff, Detective Brad Baena, Officer Kevin Kelley and Officer Engmann should be recognized as well.

While working a burglary task force, unmarked officers observed a black Chevy Impala (166YUP) driving suspiciously in the area of Kendall Drive and Red Road. The units continued to follow the vehicle for nearly an hour, where it was observed casing the parking lots of Dante Fascell Park in South Miami, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and Matheson Hammock. The officers continued to monitor the subject's activities without compromising their surveillance detail. The vehicle eventually returned to Dante Fascell Park for a third time where the passenger was observed burglarizing a Ford Expedition and a purse was stolen.

After committing the vehicle burglary, the above officers continued to monitor the subject's activities and developed a plan to safely apprehend the subjects. The subjects were subsequently observed pulling into a residential driveway on the 5800 blk of Kendall Drive. Officer Hector Diaz saw this as a great opportunity to apprehend the subjects and a take-down was initiated. Both subjects were taken into custody without incident. South Miami Police was contacted and the subjects were transferred to them for arrest purposes.

Without the flawless observation skills of the officers involved and their quick thinking, there was a strong possibility that the surveillance would have been compromised or the subjects would have fled. These officers should be commended for their ability to work together and bring two well-known burglary subjects to justice.

**REVIEWED BY:**



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Major Raul Pedrosa  
Uniform Patrol Division

4/15/15

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Date

CC:

Officer Christopher Clute, Uniform Patrol Division

DL/dl