

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## - MEMORANDUM -

**TO:** ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL MILLER  
AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** May 4, 2015

**FROM:** MICHELLE CHRISTENSEN   
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

**SUBJECT:**  
OFFICER OF THE MONTH

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I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Officer Kevin Kelley for Officer of the Month for April 2015. Officer Kevin Kelley is deserving of this award for his actions which led to the arrest of two subjects involved in a larger credit card ring.

On April 09, 2015, while working the burglary detail, Officer Kelley was patrolling the Village of Merrick Park, when he observed two males enter Nordstrom carrying several shopping bags and both on their cell phones. Officer Kelley's suspicion grew however, when both males exited the same vehicle at separate times and entered through separate entrances. Based on his experience and knowledge of fraudulent incidents routinely occurring at Nordstrom he followed both subjects inside and continued to observe their behavior. The male subjects approached two different sales associates and proceeded to make returns all while appearing to be on their cell phones. Officer Kelley alerted the Loss Prevention office who began to monitor the situation. Further investigation revealed the subjects were making returns on previously purchased items and insisting the refunds be put onto a personal check card and not a store gift card which further raised the suspicion of the Loss Prevention officers.

After further research it was discovered that the subjects were using fraudulent credit cards to purchase Nordstrom gift cards. The subjects would then purchase items using the gift cards. They would then return the items and insist the refund be put back onto their personal debit/credit cards. The subjects traveled all over the coast from Florida to North Carolina committing this fraud resulting in numerous identity theft victims and several thousands of dollars in loss.

Officer Kelley arrested both subjects and transported them to the station for further questioning. Upon questioning by this detective, one of the male subjects confessed to receiving the fraudulent credit cards by mail, and under the direction of an unnamed "boss", he would use the credit cards to purchase the gift cards and once the items were purchased then returned, he would pay the "boss" based on the amount of the refund. The male subject stated he was recruited shortly after arriving from Cuba and could not provide further information on his "boss". Both subjects were transported to TGK.

I contacted a US postal Inspector who advised he was familiar with the male subject and was currently working on an indictment involving eight other subjects involved in the same ring. This detailed and involved crime was all uncovered due to Officer Kelley's experience and dedication to thwart criminal activity in our city. Officer Kelley is deserving of this award for his outstanding efforts.

  
Major Raul Pedrosa  
for Asst Chief Miller