## CITY OF CORAL GABLES

## - MEMORANDUM-

TO: EDWARD J. HUDAK, JR

CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE:

**FEBRUARY 27, 2018** 

FROM:

MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE

SPECIALIZED ENFORCEMENT DIV

**SUBJECT:** 

**AWARDS SELECTION** 

**COMMITTEE** 

**RECOMMENDATIONS - OFFICER** 

OF THE YEAR - 2017

Per SOP#066, the Awards Selection Committee (ASC) has been established and designated to review and select nominated Department personnel for certain awards, and make recommendations for Officer of the Month, Detective of the Quarter and Officer of the Year, to the Chief of Police for Approval. The ASC met this afternoon and submits for your approval our recommendations for the following awards:

## 2017 Officer of the Year Joel Rios

(Nominated by Brian Lawrence – Chairperson, Lieutenant Jesse Medina, Sergeant Joshua Nuñez, Detective Jason Cruz, Officers Nelson Rodriguez and Tomas Salcedo, Civilian Krizia McGraw - ASC Members)

APPROVAL

DATE

DISAPPROVAL

Edward J. Hudak, Jr.

3/27/18

Edward J. Hudak, Jr.

#### CITY OF CORAL GABLES

#### - MEMORANDUM-

TO: MICHAEL C. MILLER

DATE:

APRIL 3, 2017

AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

FROM:

A/MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE

**SUBJECT:** 

SPECIALIZED ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OFFICER OF THE MONTH

**NOMINATION** 

Please accept this memorandum on behalf of OFFICER JOEL RIOS as I believe he should be recognized as the OFFICER OF THE MONTH for MARCH 2017. The particulars for the basis of the nomination are stated below.

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, Officer Joel Rios was assigned to zone patrol to assist the Uniform Patrol Division with personnel shortages. He was actively patrolling his assigned area when he received a dispatch call that a vehicle burglary had just occurred in the swale area of 1711 Segovia Street. Officer Joel Rios immediately responded and made contact with the victim. Officer Joel Rios began the initial investigation and learned that the victim had suffered the loss of electronics, a briefcase, and files that are used for his business. Upon further questioning, Officer Joel Rios learned that one electronic item (an Apple IPAD) had a locator mechanism installed.

Officer Joel Rios had the victim activate the locator mechanism for the IPAD. The parties on scene subsequently learned that the device was at a location in the City of Miami (i.e. GPS). Officer Joel Rios organized backup officers and responded to the location in Miami. Upon arrival, the victim activated an alarm signal for the device and the officers subsequently heard the device sounding from inside a bedroom at the subject's house. The City of Miami Police Department was notified and all officers on scene surrounded the home. A short time later, the juvenile subject and his mother responded outside and spoke to officers. Officer Joel Rios informed the juvenile subject of his Miranda Rights and continued the investigative process. Officer Joel Rios was able to recover the IPAD thus making the victim feel satisfied and whole. Officer Joel Rios utilized all resources necessary for this case including the call in of Crime Scene personnel and notification of the Crimes Against Property Unit. The juvenile subject was transported to the Coral Gables Police Department for further questioning and processing before being delivered to the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC).

Officer Joel Rios displayed dedication in going "above and beyond" in recovering the victim's property and I humbly request that he be considered as the Officer of the Month. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please see the attached paperwork including Arrest Report and Incident/Investigation Report.

Reviewed by:

Michael C. Miller

Assistant Chief of Police

4/9/17— Date

Cc:

Sergeant Josh Nunez Officer Joel Rios

BL/bl

# CITYOFCORALGABLES

### - MEMORANDUM-

TO: A/MAJOR BRIAN LAWRENCE

DATE:

May 8, 2017

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

MAJOR RAUL PEDROSO #6856

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** 

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

I am writing to nominate the listed police officers for the distinguished Silver Medal of Valor for their act of bravery described below that met established award criteria:

**Listed Personnel** 

FROMA

Officer James Molina Officer Joel Rios Officer Manny Rivero

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, at approximately 12:55 hours, the listed police officers responded to calls for emergency assistance regarding an active shooter at the Equinox Gym, located at the Village of Merrick Park. These officers responded without delay, running towards the business as hundreds of people were running away. As other officers worked to perimeter the area, these police officers quickly coordinated a plan of action, while on the move, and tactically made entry into the business where there was believed to be at least one suspect actively engaged in shooting innocent people. Their devotion to duty, despite the very clear presence of great personal danger, led them to enter the business without hesitation or delay; this after moving past the glass frontage of the business that provided no cover or concealment. Once inside they observed two victims of apparent gunshot wounds on the floor. Their immediate concern was not for themselves, but for other possible victims, as they could see people in fear for their lives cowering behind gym equipment and doing what they could to hide from the assailant. Their mission was clear, find and neutralize the shooter, doing whatever was necessary to prevent anyone else form being seriously injured or killed. These officers skillfully moved from room to room, each time they turned into or entered a room, not knowing if that was where the shooter was hiding in wait. They knew this process had to be swift and purposeful, as any delay could cost someone their life. Ultimately, the police officers located the shooter deceased in a locker room from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. These police officers acted selflessly, demonstrating extreme bravery and courage, and did so to keep others safe, while creating a safe working environment for Fire-Rescue personnel so they could make their way to the injured and provide emergency medical care. The actions of Officers Molina, Rivero and Rios were above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.

Reviewed by: San Jawlee 6820
A/Major B. Lawrence

Date: 05/09/17

## CITY OF CORAL GABLES

#### - MEMORANDUM-

TO: A/MAJOR B. LAWRENCE

**DATE:** 

**JANUARY 9, 2017** 

ASC CHAIRMAN

FROM: JOSHUA NUÑEZ, SGT

**BICYCLE PATROL UNIT** 

**SUBJECT:** 

AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION

OFC J. RIOS 8444

Please accept this memorandum as my Officer of the Month Nomination for the Month of December 2017. It is a pleasure to nominate Officer J. Rios for his exceptional work and performance in the apprehension of a subject and recovery of a stolen vehicle on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He is a brief synopsis of his actions.

On December 14, 2017, Officer Rios was responding to a fraud in progress call at 2401 Ponce De Leon Blvd(TD Bank). Officer Rios along with Officer Orbe were able to apprehend the subject prior to his departure. During the course of the investigation, he was able to conclude that the subject had come alone contrary to what he initially said. Thereafter, Officer Rios and Orbe were able to locate the subject's vehicle, which was a stolen rental. Further investigation revealed the subject is involved in identity theft, credit card fraud, stolen vehicle, and even a stolen diamonds from New York. This portion has been referred to SIS and the State Attorney's Office for further. The subject's apprehension has led to many cases to include future investigations that involved SAO, NYPD and to include Homeland due to the subjects' international travel related to the diamond importation.

Officer Rios demonstrated excellent police skills to safely and quickly apprehend a criminal that would have continued crime spree in the area. I respectfully request that you reward his hard work, outstanding efforts by awarding him **Officer of the Month for December 2017.** 

Reviewed by:

Date

01/09/18

B. Lawrence, A/Major

ana 6840

SED Commander

**ASC**