



**City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
February 12, 2019**

**ITEM TITLE:**

Congratulations to Officer Justin Gonzalez, recipient of the City of Coral Gables "Officer of the Month Award," for the month of December 2018.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

On December 19, 2018 at approximately 1438 hours, Officer J Gonzalez (ID 10924) was working on the Package Theft Task Force concentrating at the time in Zone 9. At that time, a call for service went through dispatch at 1320 S Dixie Highway (Gables One Tower) in reference to a suspicious person roaming inside the building. The subject was described as a black male with a tattoo under his eye, wearing a black hoodie, and carrying a black bookbag. The description of the male matched the description of multiple previous BOLOs which were issued for an offender who was committing various office thefts in Coral Gables. CGPD units responded and set a perimeter around the building. While taking his perimeter post, Officer Gonzalez observed a black male matching the exact description of the suspicious person and the BOLOs exit from the east side of the building.

The black male, later identified as Mr. Richard Jones, observed Officer Gonzalez and fled on foot eastbound from the building. Mr. Jones proceeded to jump over a concrete wall leading into the parking lot of 1200 S Dixie Highway and continued to run toward S Dixie Highway. Upon reaching S Dixie Highway, Mr. Jones ran across S Dixie Highway through traffic. Officer Gonzalez gave Mr. Jones numerous commands to stop and Officer Gonzalez finally stopped Mr. Jones at gun point on the 1200 BLK S Dixie Highway. While being taken into custody, Mr. Jones resisted arrest requiring multiple units to finally place him in custody.

Further investigation revealed Mr. Jones stole a cell phone from Suite 400 while inside the Gables One Tower. Ms. Madeleyne Barcelo stated she witnessed Mr. Jones walk into her office and swipe something from Mr. Richard Shelton's desk. Ms. Barcelo confronted and questioned Mr. Jones, at which point he said he just grabbing business cards, and left the office. When Mr. Shelton returned to his desk, after a conference call he was on, he noticed his Samsung Galaxy S8+ was missing.

An anonymous caller into CGPD dispatch advised they observed Mr. Jones throw an unknown object across S Dixie Highway, toward the Metrorail, while Officer Gonzalez was in foot pursuit. CGPD units canvassed the area and located the cell phone in the parking lot of the Metrorail station adjacent to S Dixie Highway. Mr. Shelton confirmed the phone to be his, and although the phone was permanently damaged due to the throw, it was returned to Mr. Shelton. Due to Officer Gonzalez's apprehension of Mr. Richard Jones, CID was able to close the following cases: 15-001161, 18-008557, 18-008720, 18-008732, 18-008770, and 18-008771. Mr. Richard Jones was denied bail on all charges, and the bail he was granted for previous cases, was revoked.

Officer Gonzalez, since the first day he stated at Coral Gable Police Department, has always been willing

to go the extra mile in the performance of his duties. Officer Gonzalez has the innate ability to locate and identify suspicious individuals, and being at the right place at the right time.  
Officer Gonzalez's proactive policing has taken numerous criminals off the streets of our city.  
Officer Gonzalez comes to work every day and is an example for the other young officers within our department.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. **Nomination memo**