



**City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
February 26, 2019**

**ITEM TITLE:**

Congratulations to Sergeant Velier Zaccheo, recipient of the City of Coral Gables "Officer of the Year Award," for 2018.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

During this Third Quarter of 2018, Detective Zaccheo was assigned to investigate numerous cases involving Domestic Violence, Aggravated battery, Sexual battery, and most notable, multiple robbery incidents. Highlighting on the focus crime the Crimes Against person Unit namely, robbery, Detective Zaccheo was able to clear Four (4) of the Five (5) cases with an arrest or pending arrest of subjects in the robbery cases.

These are the following highlighted robbery cases:

17-5746- (08/15/17-Armed Robbery)- Although this case was assigned in August of 2017, it is through Detective Zaccheo's perseverance and keen heuristic intuition which resulted in developing a subject that was involved in the Armed Robbery incident. The subject was apprehended on June 28, 2018, in Broward County.

On August 15, 2017, the victim arrived at the University of Miami with her son for "Move in Day." While she was waiting for her son to complete moving his property into his dormitory, the victim was seated inside her parked vehicle at a nearby parking lot. As she walked outside of her vehicle, she was accosted by a subject. The subject physically pummeled and stated that he had a gun to the victim. The subject the victim's precious wedding band and diamond ring, combined value of \$75,000. Needless to say the female victim suffered serious injuries, which she is recovering from. Detective Zaccheo initiated his investigation and with the help of fellow officers, he was able to identify the vehicle the subject utilized to leave the incident scene. The subject's vehicle information was entered into the FCIC/NCIC system. Later that week, the subject's vehicle (with one occupant driver) was stopped by an Officer of the Hialeah Police Department. The driver of the subject's vehicle was interviewed. The effused information from the driver provided further leads to the case. Hence, the information divulged by the driver led to the development of a subject's identity. Detective Zaccheo created a BOLO and disseminated throughout the Law Enforcement Networking system. Additionally, He later petitioned for a search warrant of a cellular phone tower site for the subject's cellular number. This proved to be productive, the cellular tower site placed the subject's cellular telephone number was utilized in the proximity of the armed robbery incident. There were similar robbery cases that were occurring in the City of Aventura (Miami-Dade County) and in the City of Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County). Neither of the two respective municipality Law Enforcement agencies had any leads in their cases. The Detective of these aforementioned agencies was able to connect with Detective Zaccheo. Thereafter, a collaborative meeting was set and Detective

Zaccheo shared the subject's information that he developed.

The Broward County agency was able to provide personnel resources for an operation with surveillance of the subject, since the subject resides within their jurisdiction. Without revealing the investigative operation methodology, the subject followed the decoy law enforcement undercover target, and as the undercover officer entered her vehicle, the officer was accosted by the subject where he physically struck the officer in an attempt to steal the decoy diamond ring from her hand. Unbeknownst to the subject, there were numerous officers over watching the operation, and as the officers approached to diffuse the violent attack by the subject against the officer, he fled and subsequently apprehended on June 28, 2018.

Currently, the case is being reviewed the by the Broward State Attorney's office for statewide prosecution (combining all involved municipalities) against the subject. The arrested subject has tumultuous violent criminal history, including previous armed robbery convictions, and attempted murder charges. This subject served prison time from 2003 to 2009 for Armed Robbery and Burglary with a Battery. Detective Zaccheo informed Chief Hudak of the apprehension, and in tum he called the victim and advised her of the arrest. Moreover, Detective Zaccheo perseverance attitude, analytical investigative method approach to develop the subject's information, and networking with other Law Enforcement Agencies resulted with the arrest of this violent offender, and essentially brought closure for our victim.

18-4005- (06/09/18/Armed Robbery): The victim in this case was befriended by the subject and agreed to rent a room at the Wishes Motel, where he was promised of a party with two female companions. The victim arrived at the motel and rented the room for the evening. The subject and his two female companions arrived at the hotel and went to the victim's room. Inside the room, the victim and the merry makers (female companions) indulged in the libation of spirits. During the course of this hell bender festivity, the subject displayed a handgun and demanded the victim's money. The victim was befuddled by the subject's thuggish action and refused to give his money. Without hesitation, the male subject wallops the victim's several times on his head with the gun, and forcefully removed the money from the victim's pocket. The armed robber and his female merry makers vacated the room. One of the female companions was located and interviewed by Detective Zaccheo, she was able to provide the male subject's name. The victim was able to confirm the subject's identity. Detective Zaccheo continues his investigative process and discovered the subject in social media outlets. Instead of waiting for the free flow of information to evolve, Detective Zaccheo entered the male armed robber into the felony hit message system, he networked with his counterpart Law Enforcement partner in City of Miami to assist with locating the male subject. The City of Miami was conducting a street justice operation in the Brickell area and located the subject that committed the robbery at the Wishes Motel. Learning the subject would be incarcerated by the City of Miami, Detective Zaccheo submitted an arrest affidavit and charged the subject accordingly.

18-4896-(07/20118-StrongArm Robbery)- The victim was dining and enjoying a robust piece of steak at Morton's restaurant. While he was feasting this carnivore meal, he was approached by a young sultry female and she was invited to join him in this celebrant moment, where the feasting of a single person was now increased by one. After they have devoured the meal, they both return to his rental abode within the City's beautiful limit. Once they returned to the victim's enchanted room, the young sultry female had a diabolical plan, which is to coax the victim to a beverage potation with her own added secret potion to the mixed into this spirit. The victim guzzled the special spirit and felt drowsy. The female subject stole the victim's Rolex watch, I Phone, and I Pad. The male and female then engaged in a small melee, where the

female choked the victim. The female threatened the victim that she was armed with knife and she would "stab" him. The evil sultry female fled the scene with the victim's property and the room's telephone. After reviewing the report, Detective Zaccheo went to the incident location to collect further evidentiary material to assist with the investigation. After developing an image of the sultry female subject, Detective Zaccheo went to the area restaurant/bar establishments and was able to hit a jackpot at one of the restaurants. The server at this restaurant was able to recall the female subject being at the bar, and attempting to court other potential players, but was unsuccessful. This female utilized a credit card that was issued to her name, to buy a mixed spirit. A development of the sultry female identity was completed. A line up was presented to the victim and he positively identified the female as the subject that slipped a 'mickey' in his drink, and stole his Rolex, I Phone and I Pad. Currently, we are strategizing a plan to apprehend the subject.

18-4898 (07/20/18- Armed Robbery)- A female subject entered the CVS and attempted to steal two cases of beer. The store clerks confronted the female subject, and prevented the female subject from stealing the two (2) cases of Heineken. The female subject threatened the clerks and said, "I have a gun in the car and I will go get it along with my boyfriend." The female returned inside the store with her boyfriend (2nd subject). The male subject stated that he had the gun in the vehicle to the clerks, and the female subject grabbed the two cases of beer and exited the store with her boyfriend. The subjects were last seen occupying an older model gold colored Nissan or Lexus, with rear end damage. Detective Zaccheo was able to develop the identity of the two subjects through his Law enforcement network. The subjects were identified and arrested for the Armed Robbery.

18-5553- (08/18/18- Armed Robbery)- The victim advised that she parked her vehicle in front of her residence on the 200 Block of Majorca, and was walking around to the other side to remove her two year old daughter from inside of the car. As she was walking around the vehicle, she was approached by the two male subjects. One of the subjects pointed a small, gray revolver at the victim and demanded her purse. The victim screamed and the subject told her to keep quiet. The subject stole the purse from the victim, and the Second Subject stole a black backpack, car keys and house keys from the victim.

The subjects fled the scene in the gray, older model sedan traveling eastbound on Majorca Avenue. Detective Zaccheo was able to meet with an area residence and download their security video. He reviewed the video surveillance footage and determined the vehicle involved with the armed robbery was a Toyota Solara. With the assistance of Lt. Ellinport, a review of the License Plate Reader displayed a Toyota Solara was captured in our LPR system earlier on the morning of the robbery, which indicates the Toyota Solara was within the City of Coral Gables boundary, at the time of the armed robbery. A felony message was entered into the system for this Toyota Solara.

Additionally, the victim's Saks 5th Avenue gift card that was inside the victim's backpack that was stolen during the armed robbery, was utilized at the Saks 5th Avenue located at Dadeland Mall. Without hesitation, Detective Zaccheo connects with his law enforcement/security network and was able to attain security footage of the subjects that compromised the victim's gift card at Saks Fifth Avenue store. Detective Zaccheo confirmed the vehicle owner information of the Toyota and researched further to develop a subject who is associated with the owner. Our law enforcement partner, MDPD stopped the said Toyota Solara in the south end of Miami Dade County. The subject gunman was placed under arrest and there is a pending arrest for the second subject.

Detective Zaccheo applied his investigative skills with the proliferation of today's available technology, and adding to his persistency, determination, and strong drive with fulfilling his duty ensured the above case(s) would result with an arrest. Detective Zaccheo should be commended for his strong personal commitment and dedication to solve the aforementioned cases. Detective Zaccheo surely deserves to be recognized and selected for the Detective of the Third Quarter 2018 award.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. **Nomination memo**