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Title: Congratulations to Officer Alexander Rodriguez, recipient of the City of Coral Gables “Officer of the Month Award,” for the month of February 2022.

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Congratulations to Officer Alexander Rodriguez, recipient of the City of Coral Gables “Officer of the Month Award,” for the month of February 2022.

It is an honor to nominate Officer Alexander Rodriguez for the Officer of the Month Award for February 2022, due to his law enforcement actions in reference to the apprehension of two grand theft auto subjects and the recovery of a stolen vehicle, narcotics, and drug paraphernalia (CGPD Case# 22-000838).

Case 22-000838 Synopsis:

On February 10, 2022, at approximately 10:21 am, CGPD Dispatch received an ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) hit at SW 8 Street and Ponce De Leon Blvd (southbound) on a stolen white Toyota Highlander (FL tag KLPK96). Officer Alex Rodriguez responded and canvassed the area. At approximately 10:34 am, Officer Rodriguez located the stolen vehicle parked at the rear parking lot of Chateau Bleu Hotel (1111 Ponce De Leon Blvd). Officer Rodriguez observed a female in the driver seat and a male standing outside the front right passenger side window communicating with her. Officer Rodriguez maintained a distance until backup officers arrived on scene. Once sufficient units arrived, both subjects, later identified as Vanity Alexis Morales (female) and Jorge Garcia (male), were detained for further investigation. A records check revealed both subjects had an extensive past.

Officer Rodriguez conducted a thorough examination of the vehicle and made confirmation that the vehicle was stolen out of unincorporated Miami-Dade County (MDPD Case PD22020804431) on February 8, 2022. Further investigation revealed the subjects were also in possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Several items confiscated were indicative of drug use and drug sales. Due to these findings, both subjects were arrested and charged accordingly. Subsequently, Property Crimes Detectives conducted their follow-up investigation. Post Miranda Rights, MORALES advised she assumed the vehicle was stolen, but GARCIA invoked his rights.

Due to Officer Rodriguez's police actions, keen observation skills, and strong work ethic, he is most deserving of Officer of the Month for February 2022. It is without a doubt this arrest positively impacted the community, as well as both subjects, who were highly susceptible of overdosing on the potent/dangerous drugs in their possession.

Thank you for your consideration.