



Legislation Text

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Congratulations to Officer Justin Gonzalez, recipient of the City of Coral Gables “Officer of the Month Award,” for the month of July 2019.

[On July 6, 2019., Ofc. Justin Gonzalez was riding two-man in an unmarked Police vehicle with the objective of stealthily drive around to detect and reduce crime. Ofc. Justin Gonzalez and his partner, Ofc. Steven Perez# 11092, decided to patrol the Wishes Motel (4700 SW Eighth St). Upon entering the Motel parking lot, Ofc. Gonzalez quickly recognized a known criminal in the driver seat of a parked Cadillac.

Previously, Ofc. Gonzalez had assisted the Criminal Investigations Division with the arrest of Lester Ramirez Rodriguez, a known burglar with an affinity for stolen vehicles. Upon recognizing Ramirez, Ofc. Gonzalez knew that some criminal behavior was afoot. Ofc. Gonzalez pulled into a parking space, and both Ofc. Gonzalez and Ofc. Perez conducted surveillance. For an unknown reason, Ramirez sped out of the Wishes Motel.

Not willing to throw in the towel, Ofc. Gonzalez asked a Motel employee to call him if and when Ramirez or the vehicle returned.

On July 7, 2019, Ofc. Gonzalez was enjoying his day off when he received a phone call from the Motel employee. Ofc. Gonzalez relayed the information to the Bravo Shift. Bravo Shift units quickly converged on the Wishes Motel. The follow up revealed the recovery of a 2019 Mercedes (CGPD 19-004826), an arrest (CGPD 19-004838) and an ongoing investigation.

Ofc. Gonzalez has been a Police Officer for a little less than 2 years, however, his drive is to be the best Police Officer is evident. Ofc. Gonzalez can be counted on to accomplish all tasks given to him, and is eager to learn. Ofc. Gonzalez is an integral part of Charlie Shift and is usually our highest productive Police Officer on the shift. Ofc. Gonzalez could have easily called it a day once the vehicle left the parking lot, but his persistence proved fruitful with a recovered stolen vehicle and an arrest.

As proven by Ofc. Gonzalez tenacity, he does not believe his job is finished with a response or report, he has proven that he will go beyond what is required of him to bring offenders to justice, and this is why I believe he is deserving of the Officer of the Month Award for July 2019.]