

“Welcome to the
New Year”

THE NEW BEAT

VOLUME 2008, ISSUE 1
January

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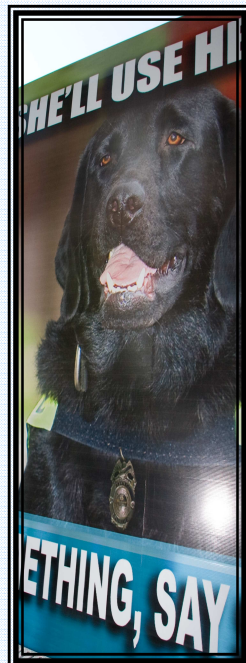
A NEW SUBSTATION

A ribbon cutting ceremony on October 11, 2007 launched the opening of the Grapeland Heights Substation. In attendance (*from left to right in photo*) were City Manager Pedro G. Hernandez, Major Armando Guzman, Mayor Manuel A. Diaz, Chief John F. Timoney, Commissioner Angel Gonzalez, Miami-Dade Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, Deputy Chief Frank G. Fernandez, Commissioner Joe M. Sanchez, and Commissioner Marc Sarnoff.



The substation, scheduled to operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, will house the Accident Investigations, Crime Suppression, Special Events, Patrol Support, and Specialized Patrol Units. Citizens in the area will be able to file a criminal report, request for police and receive other city services such as completing a delayed accident report. Flagami residents who attended the ceremony expressed their happiness with the station in their neighborhood. Aside from the services available at Grapeland Heights, residents are pleased to know that there will be more police presence.

A FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM



After its inception on November 25th, 2005, Miami Shield has metamorphosed into several components aimed to address terrorism. One example was the "Seven Signs of Terrorism," that helped citizens recognize the signs of a potential terrorist target as they went about their every day activities. In June of 2007, during the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism Conference, the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (O.E.M.) announced the latest Miami Shield project, "The See Something, Say Something" campaign. Symbolized by a black Labrador with a collar and badge, the Miami campaign was the first in the State of Florida to adopt the program. By way of televised commercials and billboards, residents commuting via local transit and highways were now more savvy about what to look for in a potential terrorist. The success of these programs was due to the many efforts of O.E.M., under the command of Captain Richard Waltermann.



"The New Beat" is the official employee newsletter of the Miami Police Department, published by the Public Information Office. Inquiries and comments may be directed to (305)579-6420.

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CHIEF'S CORNER



Greetings:

Regretfully, just a week after ushering in the New Year, the Miami Police Department lost one of its finest, Detective James Walker of the Domestic Violence Unit. Shortly after leaving work, James encountered a heavily armed criminal and without regard for his personal safety, engaged this man. James made the ultimate sacrifice in that exchange on January 8th, 2008. This dedicated officer, who served with distinction for close to seven years, received full line of duty honors in addition to the Department's prestigious Medal of Honor, posthumously. He will be greatly missed by his Miami Police family.

During 2007 we were constantly reminded of the dangers of this profession as our neighboring agencies in Dade and Broward counties experienced the same misfortune. I was gratified to see how you lent your support to fallen Officer Jose Somohano's loved ones by participating in several charity events. It is during times like these, when our badges are draped in black and our flags are flown at half staff, that jurisdictional barriers are erased and we mourn together as one police family.

Last year, Officer Michael New of Central District Patrol had a close call. Responding to assist a fellow officer who had radioed for assistance, Officer New collided with Officer Garrett Wing who just a week before had been heralded for his arrest of Philadelphia cop murderer, John Lewis. It just goes to show you how unpredictable this job can be! Fortunately, Officer Wing has been medically discharged, however Officer New will require many months of rehabilitation to get back on his feet. I wish him the best during his convalescence and encourage you to pay him a visit when you get a moment.

As you read through the pages of this quarterly, you will get a glimpse of the noble projects the men and women of the Miami Police Department carry out on a daily basis. I take this opportunity to recognize the members of the Community Relations Section whose work, on behalf of the underprivileged, ill and forgotten members of our community, is multiplied during the holidays. Also, allow me to congratulate the Specialized Operations Section who will call the Grapeland Heights Substation home in 2008 after building renovations are completed.

Thank you all, both sworn and civilian, for everything you do. The Staff and I look forward to continue working with you this year and wish you the very best in all respects. Stay safe and always remember to remain vigilant and continue to back each other up as you perform your duty to protect the citizens of Miami.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Timoney".

John F. Timoney
Chief of Police

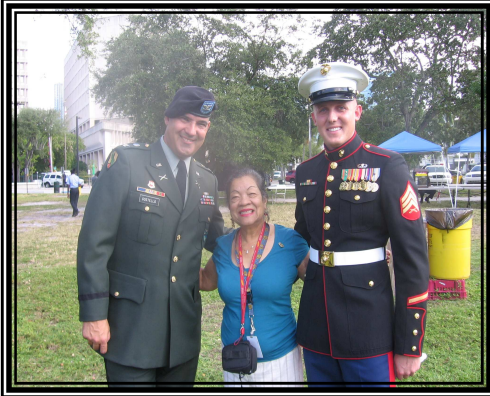
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



With a carnival style ambience, complete with a dunking booth, games, slides and many prizes, the 12th Annual Holiday Celebration took place. At the event, sponsored by Wal-Mart, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital and the South Florida Youth Foundation, over 430 bicycles and helmets were provided to local elementary students, ages four to twelve. City of Miami elementary school administrators were contacted by the Community Relations Section and asked to select 15 of their most needy students. The fortunate participants were treated to such delights as cotton candy, popcorn, hotdogs and enjoyable activities. The Mayor and the City Manager's Offices partnered with the Miami Police Department to sponsor an inflatable slide and bounce houses for the children. The event's success was due to the relentless work of Community Relations, headed by Major Brenda Williams.



OPERATION MIAMI VETS



On November 12, 2007, Chief Timoney and his staff paid tribute to active and retired military personnel with a celebratory event at the Miami Police Department. The vets and their families were entertained with music by the South Florida Youth Symphony, a liturgical dance by the

New Way Praise and Worship Center and performances by the Miami Police Explorer Drill Team and Miami's own, Cafidia Stewart. The vets were also presented with a special hero's certificate. Guest speaker Colonel Bill Costello of the U.S. Army is shown above on the left with Promotional Assistant Mimi Freedman, along with Miami Police Officer John Fedak who is currently a reserve in the Marines. Fedak has been deployed twice during his tenure, once in 2003 to Afghanistan where he spent seven months and also to Iraq from where he just returned after serving an additional seven months. "It went above and beyond the expectations I had as a welcome back ceremony," says Fedak. "It was awesome for the Department to recognize those who have served our country." A special thanks goes to the Community Relations Section, F.O.D and O.E.M., to name a few, for organizing the event.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

October

**Ofc. Eduardo Roque
Ofc. Daniel Bernabe**

November

**Sgt. Ronald Luquis
Sgt. Octavio Aguero
Det. Sergio Diez**

Officers of the Year

**Officer Carlos Decespedes and
Officer Alexander Canovas**

Community Policing Officer of the Year

Officer Harvey Nairn

P.S.A. of the Year

Ismaelia Castillo

MIAMI POLICE EVENTS

October 6 - Law Enforcement and Fire Rescue Benefit Car Wash for fallen Miami-Dade Ofc. Jose Somohano.

November 16 - Hispanic Officers Association (H.O.A.) Memorial Golf Tournament also for Ofc. Jose Somohano.

December 5 - Community Relations holiday toy giveaway for hospitalized children at J.M.H.

December 7 - H.O.A. Mad Hat Domino Tournament fundraiser for Ofc. Michael New who was involved in a serious car accident.

December 18 - Auburndale Elementary toy giveaway for 150 children, made possible by Spanish broadcast stations.

December 22 - Brickell Honda toy giveaway for over 300 Little Havana children.

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Colorfully decorated with flags from Hispanic countries across the world, the South District Station housed this year's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with an array of savory foods and uplifting entertainment. One of the highlights was a performance with Chris D'Boss, from Valencia, Spain, and a young boy afflicted with Cerebral Palsy who he has been mentoring. The boy, who was never expected to speak when diagnosed with the illness, has made such an improvement that he was able to rap along to Chris' power house voice. Added to the list of performers this year were La Progresiva School, the Fina Escayola Flamenco Dance School, Violinist Maestro Aguillon, the Little Havana Dancers, the Dream Catchers, and Lazaro el Mago (the magician). National Hispanic Heritage Month has always provided an opportunity to express deep appreciation to Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to society. "It is very important not to forget your heritage and make sure our children feel a sense of connection with family and society," said Crime Prevention Specialist Olidia Hernandez who coordinated the event.



MOVING ON

The following personnel retired this quarter:

33 Years

Lieutenant Judith R. Bezark
Lieutenant Martin L. Zirk

32 Years

Major Hector F. Martinez
Officer Arthur N. Moe

30 Years

Sergeant Carlos A. De Los Santos

29 Years

Sergeant Roberto Baez

27 Years

Lieutenant Eduardo Martinez
Officer Jose C. Cruz
Officer Luis Diazlay
Officer Juan Inastrilla
Officer Fernando E. Quintana

26 Years

Lieutenant Oscar Sigler
Sergeant James Mann
Officer Francisco Cruz, Jr.

25 Years

Officer Janice Freeman
Officer Francisco J. Gonzalez

24 Years

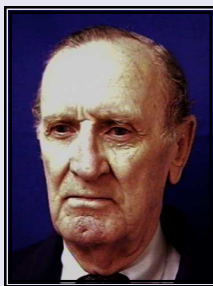
Devery C. Thumann

21 Years

Lieutenant Harold W. Bishop

20 Years

Officer Orlando Denis
Officer Mark Kalarchian



Special tribute goes to Police Clerk I **Cornelius Francis Gallagher** who retired after **33 years** of service. Gallagher was a WWII veteran who served 27 years for the N.Y.P.D., obtaining the rank of Sergeant.

SANTA'S HELPERS



"Just seeing the smiles on their face makes the whole event worthwhile," says Officer Wanda Mendez, who organized the toy giveaway which took place on December 20,

2007. "Officer Jeff Glazko and I feel like Santa's little helpers, spreading joy and cheer to all the children of the school." This is the fifth annual toy giveaway held at the Downtown Miami Charter School. The event, which provides toys for over 625 students from kindergarten to sixth grade, was sponsored by several downtown businesses. Each merchant adopts a classroom and purchases the toys for the students. Other sponsors included the Miami Police Federal Credit Union, Budget Unit, Public Information Office, and Special Events. Many downtown police officers and Citizens On Patrol were also instrumental in the success of the event. As if that were not enough, the following day the same group of merry men and women provided toys for over 100 kids at a Homeless Assistance Center. (In photo above, from left to right: Ofc. Greg Collier, Ofc. Madelin Garcia, C.O.P. Carmen Valle, Ofc. Richard Diaz, Ofc. Jackie Jesurum, Ofc. Wanda Mendez, C.O.P. Luvi Guido, Ofc. Wayne Lawrence, and C.O.P. Rodolfo Paz with a first grade class).

CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

At 18, this person worked at the Cloverleaf Amoco Gas Station in North Miami Beach while studying to be an Operation Technician at Miami-Dade Community College. After graduation, he worked at Cedars Hospital while keeping his night job as manager at the gas station. At age 21, after being dared for over two years by former Miami Police Officer Kevin Heath and Judge Harvey Baxter, he entered the Police Academy. This individual has moved up the ranks and held the positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander. Can you guess who this is?

Answer below.

Major Craig McQueen, Commander of S.T.S.

If you have a story or event that took place that you would like to see featured in "The New Beat" newsletter, send an email to Napier.Velazquez@Miami-Police.org.