

# THE NEW BEAT

MESSAGE FROM  
THE CHIEF 2

VOLUME 2013, ISSUE 1

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Chief of Police  
Manuel Orosa

Public Information Office  
Major Delrish Moss

Editor in Chief  
Napier Velazquez

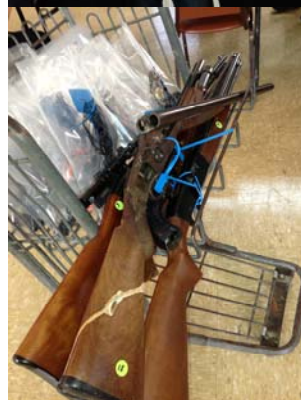
Editor  
Liz Babun-Matos

Photographer  
Detective William Moreno



## GUN BUY BACK

With the culmination of three operations on January 19th, 26th and February 2, 2013, a total of 384 guns were removed from the streets of Miami. The most recent Gun Buy Backs, now in their nearly fifth consecutive year, have turned out to be the most successful. The Miami Police



Department along with Mayor Tomas Regalado and with the support of local sponsors, gave out Wal-Mart and Winn Dixie gift cards along with Miami Heat tickets in exchange for weapons which ranged from a pocket size Derringer to an M16 Assault Rifle. "This is the biggest Buy Back we have ever had," said Miami Police spokesman Sergeant Freddie Cruz II. "We joined forces with the community to make the City of Miami a safer place to live."

## VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION



On February 12th and 14th, 2013, the N.E.T. officers visited four downtown senior centers accompanied by the "Fiesta Grande Mariachi Band" that serenaded the seniors. Valentine's cards,



hand-made by children from the Downtown Charter School, were distributed. Mary and Eduardo Dominguez provided chocolate hearts and SBS Radio Jose Llerena and Laura Garcia gave out t-shirts. Additionally, there was a Valentine's dance at the Chapman Homeless Center where a king and queen of hearts were crowned. A special thanks goes to Ken Ratner, Genesis Rodriguez and Kary Bernat for their support.

*Photos by Ofc. Balbuena*

## CHIEF'S CORNER



Dear Employees:

We're off to a fresh new start this year at the Miami Police Department, excited to see how we reaped the benefits of our employees' hard work in 2012 and looking forward to more of the same in 2013. Last year was my first full term as Chief, and I couldn't be prouder of everything we accomplished internally, as well externally in our communities and business sectors. As the president would say, "the state of the Miami Police Department is good!"

Recently, we received the UCR Crime report from the FDLE which revealed a 2.3 percent drop in Part I crimes last year in the City, while increasing arrests by 17.4%. This is a testament to the relentless commitment demonstrated by our sworn and civilian men and women who, in spite of the challenges encountered, performed excellently. Nonetheless, I think you would agree that it wouldn't be fair to measure our successes solely on a crime reduction. While this is what our elected officials and citizens mostly judge us by, so much more is accomplished in the daily operations of the police department, inside our offices and on the streets, that warrants accolades and certainly, my profound admiration and respect for our personnel.

A few months ago, a little girl who visited my office put everything in perspective for me. Nine-year-old Bella, who is battling an aggressive type of Cancer, had no qualms about walking into my office with her thinning hair. The ladies in my office prepared a rudimentary plate with her name and the title "Chief of Police" directly under. We then placed an MPD cap and a police t-shirt on her and sat her at my desk, and with very little pomp or circumstance to follow, proclaimed her Honorary Chief of Police. How simple, I pondered, what it took to make her happy. You see, Bella's dream is to be a Miami Police officer. Not any officer... a Miami Police officer. After she walked out, she left an air of hope in our midst. It occurred to me that Bella's hopes, dreams, positive spirit, and fervent sense of pride for our department, must be our driving force, no matter what obstacles we encounter, to remain on the path of excellence moving forward.

Once again, the MPD took top honors at the Law Enforcement Officers Charitable Foundation and the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police awards ceremony. We received eight awards in the categories of Uniform Services, Investigative Services and Safety. We were one of a handful of finalists, winning in several categories. Outstanding!

Until next time, I congratulate you for all the hard work and wish all those who will be completing their DROP soon much health and happiness in your retirement. You will leave a huge void at the MPD and we will miss you tremendously. This is what you worked for, so enjoy!

Sincerely,

Manuel Orosa



## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Miami Police Department participated in several holiday events during the month of December. Among the many were the Police Benevolent Association Employee

Luncheon, the Barrett Green Foundation Toy Giveaway, the Holiday Celebration at Curtis Park, the Easter Seals Holiday Event, and the "Heroes and Helpers" at Target. Take a look at some snapshots:

*(continued on page 4)*





## **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

On January 19th, 2013, 38 Miami Police officers embarked to Washington D.C. for the second inauguration of President Barak Obama. On the 20th, the officers were sworn in as U.S. Marshalls for the duration of the event. During the wee hours of the morning of the 21st, the officers were transported to their posts located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 13 and 14 streets and given the task of providing security for the president of the United States. "This was a great honor for me personally," said Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security Captain Richard Waltermann. "Many of the team felt the same since we represent the City of Miami as true professionals." Most felt that it was an experience of a lifetime so they gave more than 100 percent.

*Photos by Ofc. Sheila Cockfield*



## **MONTHLY WINNERS**

### **OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

#### **OCTOBER**

Officer Jorge Coladas  
Officer Rigoberto Hernandez

#### **NOVEMBER**

Detective Lorraine Rubio  
Detective Dino Paul Thompson

#### **DECEMBER**

Officer Ketra Alexander

### **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

#### **OCTOBER**

TCII Martha E. Montiel

#### **DECEMBER**

C.S.I. II Wendell Harris  
C.S.I. I Howard Davis  
L.P.E. Supervisor Rupert Butcher



## **CHIEF BELLA**



Bella is a courageous 9-year-old girl whose been battling Rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive childhood cancer for some time now. Just recently Chief Orosa made Bella "Chief for the Day". She has a profound love for law enforcement and was enjoying every minute of it. Bella has

thousands of followers through [www.PrayforBella.com](http://www.PrayforBella.com). This remarkable little girl is surrounded by love and compassion from family and friends from all over the nation. Kudos to the Rodriguez-Torres family. The day of Bella's surgery in Texas, members of the Miami Police and Fire Departments showed their support by remotely sending a picture displaying her favorite color, red. Gooooooo Bella!



*Story by Ofc. Kenia Reyes*



**MOVING ON**

The following employees retired during this quarter. Their years of dedicated service to the citizens of the City of Miami are appreciated. They will be missed. We wish them continued success and a very happy retirement!

**28 Years**

Officer Isador O. Ramirez

**27 Years**

Sergeant Jose Diez

**26 Years**

Officer Alexandro E. Gutierrez

Forensic Inv. Supervisor Lazaro R. Fernandez

**25 Years**

Officer Rafael Acosta

**24 Years**

Lieutenant Bartholomew Gunderman


**23 Years**

Officer Hector M. Lopez

Crime Scene Investigator Priscilla J. Miller

**22 Years**

Sergeant Juan A. Herrera



On November 7, 2012, Communications/Support Services Section Lieutenant Raimundo Socorro achieved a tremendous milestone in his life by obtaining a PhD from Barry University in Leadership and Education. After seven rigorous years of studying and writing his dissertation, he reached this admirable and worthwhile goal. According to Wikipedia, only 3% of the U.S. population obtains a Doctorate Degree. This is truly commendable and we are proud of Doctor Socorro!

*Story by Vilma Diaz-Neda*

A collage of 15 photographs showing various community events and police activities. The images include: a family portrait with a man in a mask; a police officer interacting with children; a group of people in a store; a police officer with a dog; a group of people at a table; and various other community interactions.

# COMMUNITY CORNER

## MODEL CITY NET

- March 23rd from 1 P.M. to 8 P.M.—“A Love Thy Neighbor and Stop the Violence Community Event” in front of the Liberty Square Community Center located at 6304 N.W. 14 Avenue.

Commander Carr is working closely with the community to help reduce violent crimes. As a result, a homicide offender was arrested in February. Anyone with information on other cases may remain anonymous by calling (305)471-TIPS or text 274637, enter CSMD followed by the tip information.

## LITTLE HAITI NET

- March 29th—Good Friday Procession at the Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church located at 130 NE 62 Street.
- March 31st—Easter Celebration at the Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church located at 130 NE 62 Street.
- March 31st—La Mere Rouge (The Red Sea) Revival at St. Mary Catholic Church located at 7525 NW 2nd Avenue.

## UPPER EASTSIDE NET

- March 20th at 7 P.M.—Citizen Crime Watch Meeting hosted by City of Miami Police, Miami -Dade Police and El Portal Police Departments located at 759 N.E. 87 Street.

Upper Eastside N.E.T. officers continue to focus their crime efforts in combating the break-ins to motor vehicles.

## ALLAPATTAH NET

- March 29th—Annual Good Friday Procession at Corpus Christi Catholic Church located at 3220 N.W. 7 Avenue. Residents are encouraged to attend.

## WYNWOOD/EDGEWATER NET

- March 9th from 6 PM to Midnight—Wynwood Arts and Entertainment District Art Walk located from N. Miami Avenue to N.W. 5 Avenue and from 23rd Street to N.W. 29 Street.

## OVERTOWN NET

- March 12th at 6:30 PM—St. Agnes Homeowners Association Meeting at the Central Plaza behind the mailboxes located on the 1900 block of N.W. 3rd Avenue.
- March 14th at 2:30 PM—Crime Watch Community Meeting at the Rainbow Village Housing Facility located at 2010 N.W. 4 Avenue.

Due to the efforts of the officers in the Overtown NET Area, there has been a decrease in overall crime.

# COMMUNITY CORNER

## **DOWNTOWN NET**

- March 3rd Ultra Fest promoters hosted a question and answer session for community members and stakeholders at the Miami Police College located at 390 N.W. 2nd Avenue. The discussion included traffic and security plans for the two-week event.
- Residents and visitors are encouraged to report any suspicious activity in their buildings and parking garages to help reduce the vehicle break-ins and bicycle thefts.
- The Downtown Beat area just added three more officers who will be working in the afternoon and evening shifts.
- Downtown NET has developed a task force comprised of the Fire Department, Code Enforcement, ABT, and police officers to curtail the illegal pop-up clubs and to address safety issues in all the clubs.

## **LITTLE HAVANA NET**

- March 8th—Calle Ocho and Trail Community Walk with S.D.S.S. staff to contact merchants and residents.

Vehicle thefts have been reduced by 34% this quarter.

## **FLAGAMI NET**

- Feb. 15th—The N.E.T. team hosted a Valentine's Day Party for the senior citizens at Antonio Maceo Park.
- Feb. 18th—A Community Relations Board Meeting took place at Antonio Maceo Park.
- Feb. 18th and 19th—Operation Prominence II was hosted in the Flagami NET Area resulting in 70 arrests and 400 summonses issued.
- Feb. 21st—A Community/Merchants Meeting was held at the Palmetto Plaza. Also in attendance were staff members from Miami-Dade, West Miami and South Miami Police Departments, along with Miami Commissioner Francis Suarez, Assistant Chief Ricardo Roque, Major David Sanchez, Commander Winsor Lozano, NROs Margarita Baro and Luis Camacho, and the Flagami NET Administrator Ana Rodriguez.

## **BRICKELL/ROADS NET**

- March 15th to the 17th—St. Patrick's Day Festivities at Mary Brickell Village. March 17th will have road closures on South Miami Avenue between 9th and 10th Street and between 14th Street and 14th Terrace.
- March 22nd—Sony Open Tennis autograph signing and interaction.
- March 23rd—Brickell Wine and Food Festival from the Miami Circle to Brickell Avenue next to the ICON.
- March 27th—Brickell Area Association Meeting and the Brickell HOA at Simpson Park.
- April 17th—United Way Food & Wine Brews & Bites at Mary Brickell Village.
- April 18th to the 31st—Sony Erickson at Crandon Park Tennis Center in Key Biscayne.

## **CORAL WAY NET**

- March 11th & April 8th—Shenandoah HOA.
- 2012 ended with a 6.6% reduction in overall crime and a 41% increase in arrests.

### **Accomplishments:**

- P.S.T. Sergeant Melissa Valdes conducted a comprehensive analysis targeting burglaries in the Coral Way area. A action plan was implemented which resulted in several arrests by the P.S.T. team along with patrol officers. Burglaries have since decreased.
- Eight new beat officers were assigned in January. One in particular, Officer Surami Kelly, in a short period of time, has made significant strides with local business leaders along the S.W. 8 Street corridor.

## **COCONUT GROVE NET**

- On March 2nd the Coconut Grove Drug Free Coalition and Ministerial Alliance held a meeting at St. Paul AME Church with several pastors from the community.
- ABT Operation scheduled to address underage drinkers within the business district.

### **Accomplishments:**

- The month of January and February ended with a decrease in crime.