



Unit

Nomination Contact Information

Name of Person or Group Being Nominated

Palmetto Bay Community Outreach Unit

Name / Agency / Business Name: Village of Palmetto Bay

Address: 9705 East Hibiscus Street Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157

Telephone #: 305-278-4018

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Nominated By

Name: Gregory H. Truitt

Agency / Business: Village of Palmetto Bay Policing Unit

Address: 9705 East Hibiscus Street Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157

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Florida Crime Prevention Association Nomination Crime Prevention Unit of the Year

We respectfully request that the Village of Palmetto Bay (VPB) Policing Unit, Community Outreach Unit be nominated for the Florida Crime Prevention Association, Crime Prevention Unit of the Year.

The VPB is a vibrant community of more than 25,000 residents who enjoy its beautiful surroundings and family-oriented atmosphere. Incorporated on September 10, 2002, the VPB is the 33rd municipality in Miami-Dade County. The VPB extends from the centerline of SW 136 Street, south to the centerline of SW 184 Street, expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway, including the center island, and east to Biscayne Bay covering 8.8 square miles. The demographics of Palmetto Bay as of the most recent census are 49.5% white, 6.2% black, 38.6% Hispanic, 4.5% Asian and 1.2% multi-racial.

The Miami-Dade Police Department's (MDPD) VPB Policing Unit was conceived through an interlocal agreement between the VPB and Miami-Dade County. The VPB Policing Unit officially began its operations with the VPB on July 14, 2003. Charged with the primary responsibility to protect, the VPB Policing Unit is fully committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the Village of Palmetto Bay community, emphasizing community-oriented policing, and traffic safety. The VPB Policing Unit is responsible for maintaining order and providing for the safe expeditions flow of residents and visitors upholding the values of integrity, respect, service, and fairness.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit is a specialized unit within the VPB Policing Unit, has been, and continues to be proactive in serving the crime prevention needs within the VPB, Miami-Dade County, and the State of Florida. The Community Outreach Unit is comprised of a special group of police officers who have professional demeanors, leadership attributes, and mentoring qualities. Officers Peter Judge and Patience Glasko are assigned to the Community Outreach Unit and are supervised by Sergeant Jorge Luis Montero, Lieutenant Jorge Carreño, and Commander Gregory H. Truitt. Regardless of the assignment they are assigned to, together they work as one team to prevent crime through the use of new ideas, tactics, and programs. This commitment was most evidently displayed in 2012 and 2013.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit strives to reach out to every resident in the VPB, regardless of his or her age. To reach the youngest and most impressionable members of the community, Officers Judge and Glasko have implemented the "Officer Friendly" program, the rad/KIDS Personal Empowerment, and Safety Education Program, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program, and the Youth Crime Watch program. The topics that are taught by the officers include bullying, stranger danger, home safety, gun safety, bicycle/helmet safety, basic first aid, internet safety, conflict resolution, and the danger of drugs and alcohol, to name a few. These topics may not

be considered true crime prevention in nature, but what they are doing is not only teaching the students about how to be safe, it is introducing them to a police officer. The officers reach approximately 2,500 students at the three public elementary schools and an additional, 500 students at area private schools in VPB. The officers will see each student in their classroom three times throughout the school year. One of the first things the students are ever told about police officers is that their number one priority is to keep them safe. The officers that teach the program sometimes have to compete with what some of the students are told about police officers by family members, the media, and what they see on television.

Again, this may not be considered true crime prevention, but teaching a student about strangers and what to do if someone tries to grab them, will keep them from being abducted. Teaching a student about the dangers of drugs will keep them healthy and as police officers know, it will keep them away from a life of crime. The VPB Community Outreach Unit believes every youngster should have an opportunity to grow-up healthy, safe, secure, and equipped with the skills needed to succeed in life.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit has three active programs in VPB that directly addresses crime prevention. The first program is "Operation Lookout" which empowers the citizens of VPB to call the police if they see something out of the ordinary. "Operation Lookout" was presented to all the VPB employees which included; the Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Finance, Building and Zoning, and Human Resources departments, along with the VPB Village Clerk's Office. We pressed upon the employees the importance of calling the police if they saw suspicious activity, people and vehicles, illegal activity, unusual events or incidents, and dangerous situations. Each employee was provided with an "Operation Lookout" card. The card instructs the employee on what to report, how to describe a person, and how to describe a vehicle. Upon completion of our first training class, one of the VPB employees was driving home and saw a vehicle parked on the side of the road facing the wrong direction. The employee contacted the VPB Police Unit and when the officer arrived, he discovered that the person in the vehicle was stalking a woman in VPB. The officer also discovered that the man was in possession of a bulletproof vest and he was armed with a handgun. With the success of "Operation Lookout," our next phase was to present it to the residents of VPB.

To ensure that the "Operation Lookout" information was provided to every resident of VPB, the VPB Community Outreach Unit created an information card that was mailed to every residence in VPB. The front side of the information card provides the VPB resident with the emergency and non-emergency phone numbers for the MDPD, what type of behavior to report and how to describe a person and vehicle to the police complaint officer. The back of the information card provides the resident with a home security checklist, with such questions as; "Do exterior lights illuminate all entrances to your home?" "Is shrubbery kept trimmed?" "Are exterior doors made of solid core construction?" and "Is there a peephole viewer in your front door?" On the bottom of the card, residents are provided with contact information for the VPB Community Outreach

Unit, so they can have a thorough residential security survey conducted at their residence. For further information, see pictures of the "Operation Lookout" cards below.

"OPERATION LOOKOUT"
REPORT CRIME TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

WHAT TO REPORT	REPORTING PERSONS	REPORTING VEHICLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Suspicious activities, people and vehicles ⊕ Illegal activities ⊕ Unusual events or situations ⊕ Dangerous situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Gender ⊕ Race ⊕ Age ⊕ Height & weight ⊕ Hair color and style ⊕ Complexion ⊕ Speech ⊕ Scars ⊕ General appearance ⊕ Clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Make ⊕ Model ⊕ Year ⊕ Color ⊕ License plate number and state ⊕ Bumper stickers, damage or dents, lettering ⊕ Direction of travel ⊕ Occupants

"OPERATION LOOKOUT"
REPORT CRIME TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

FOLLOW THESE CRIME REPORTING TIPS FROM THE VPB POLICING UNIT

- If you witness criminal activity, call a tip to the Policing Unit or your local law enforcement agency.
- Dial 9-1-1 if it's an emergency, if not call the VPB Policing Unit's Sgt phone number at 305-510-8825.
- Provide as much detail as possible about the incident or activity, the situation, location, time of day, suspects, and any related vehicle information.
- Remember that you can report crime anonymously
- Don't forget "DAD SITS" for reporting possible terrorist activities.

"OPERATION LOOKOUT"
REPORT CRIME TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

FOLLOW THESE CRIME REPORTING TIPS FROM THE VPB POLICING UNIT

- If you witness criminal activity, dial 9-1-1 if it's an emergency, if not call the Miami-Dade Police Dept. Non-emergency number at 305-476-5423 (305-4POLICE)
- Provide as much detail as possible about the incident or activity, the situation, location, time of day, suspects, and any related vehicle information.
- Remember that you can report crime anonymously.

WHAT TO REPORT

- ⊕ Suspicious activities, people and vehicles
- ⊕ Illegal activities
- ⊕ Unusual events or situations
- ⊕ Dangerous situations

REPORTING PERSONS

⊕ Gender	⊕ Complexion
⊕ Race	⊕ Speech
⊕ Age	⊕ Scars
⊕ Height & weight	⊕ General appearance
⊕ Hair color and style	⊕ Clothing

REPORTING VEHICLES

⊕ Make	⊕ Bumper stickers, damage or dents, lettering
⊕ Model	⊕ Direction of travel
⊕ Year	⊕ Occupants
⊕ Color	
⊕ License plate number and state	

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
 Village of Palmetto Bay Policing Unit
 Community Outreach Unit
HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do exterior lights illuminate all entrances to your home?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Is shrubbery kept trimmed so a burglar can't hide near windows and doors?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Are garage doors kept closed and locked at all times?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Are exterior doors made of solid core construction (including door leading from garage to house)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Is there a peephole viewer (180°) on the front door?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Are sliding glass doors secured with auxiliary locks or pinned, and are screws in the track to prevent removal of doors?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Are exterior doors secured with a deadbolt lock (single or double cylinder) with a minimum 1 inch throw?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Are windows secured with auxiliary keyed locks or pinned with a nail?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Do you report suspicious persons or activity in the neighborhood to the police immediately?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Are doors locked at all times?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Are your valuables marked with your Florida driver's license number and do you have a record of them with complete serial number, make and model?

If you are able to answer yes to all of the above precautions, you have greatly decreased the likelihood of your home being burglarized.

Check to see who is at the front door before opening it to strangers. Require identification from all repair and delivery personnel. If in doubt, check the authenticity of the identification by calling the company before letting the person into your home. Check I.D. through the peephole viewer. A wide angle viewer is easy to install and inexpensive.

For a free home security survey or information regarding Crime Watch, contact the Village of Palmetto Bay Policing Unit, Community Outreach Unit, **Officer Peter Judge** at (305) 278-4018 or e-mail, pjudge@mdpd.com.

The second program in VPB is the Emergency Commercial Identification Program (ECIP), which was created and initiated in the early part of July 2012. Officers Judge and Glasko started the program on the northern most boundary of VPB and met with each business. The business owners were asked to fill out a contact card providing the officers with information about their business such as; type of business, hours of operation, and emergency contact information. A sticker with a number on it was placed in the window of their business.

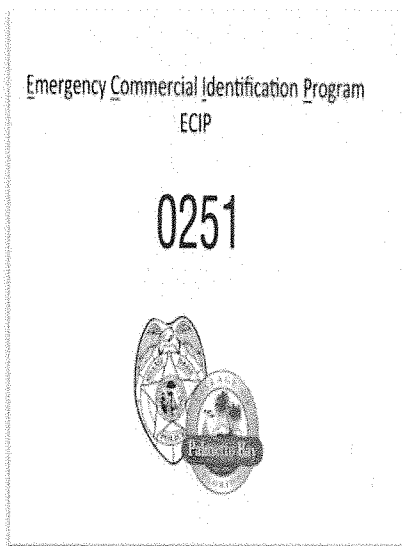
The VPB Community Outreach Unit has an additional program that does not necessarily prevent crime; it helps the victims of crime recover their stolen property. The Community Outreach Unit, makes appointments with homeowners to have their valuable marked

with invisible ink that can only be seen under an ultraviolet light. Each resident is assigned a unique number, which is written on the item to be marked. The items marked will be recorded in a database that each of the VPB Officers have access to. If an item is located in a pawn shop the Detective or Officer can shine the ultraviolet light on it revealing the unique number and be able to identify the owner. In the past this process was usually done with engravers, but due to the nature of today's electronics, the invisible ink system should work well.

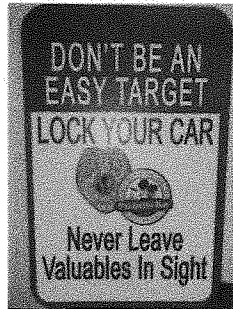
It was explained to the owners that if a police officer were to drive by their business and see a broken window, a door left unlocked, or perhaps a person in the business after hours, he could check the sticker number, which would correspond to the business information in the ECIP database and the officer could call the owner directly and advise him of the problem or concern. To date over 190 businesses in VPB participate in the ECIP program. One other great aspect of the ECIP program is that it provides each business owner, manager, or employee an opportunity to speak with a police officer one on one. It not only puts a face to the police department, it gives the business owner an opportunity to talk with the officer about any concerns they may have and it gives the officers an opportunity to offer the business owner a commercial security survey. For further information, see pictures of the ECIP card and window sticker below.

Village of Palmetto Bay Policing Unit
 Emergency Commercial Identification Program
 ECIP

Business Name _____ Business Number _____
 Address _____ Telephone number _____
 Hours of operation _____
 Type of business _____
 After Hours Contact _____ phone number _____
 Secondary contact _____ phone number _____
 Alarm Company _____ phone number _____
 Cleaning crew _____



The third program is centered on preventing vehicle burglaries and reminding residents and visitors to VPB to always lock their cars and to never leave valuables in plain sight. Using grant money, the Community Outreach unit designed and had one hundred and fifty signs created. The signs are placed in the parks, and in area shopping plazas. For further information refer to the picture of the signs below.



For their work with the community and schools, Officers Judge and Glasko were nominated for YCW Advisors of the year and YCW Elementary School of the year.

Officer Judge was nominated and received the Dade County Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, under the category Crime Prevention and Community Policing.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit has applied for and secured over \$100,000 in grant money to support and maintain these programs in the VPB.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit has also represented the MDPD and the VPB, at several community events, including the VPB's Annual Picnic, the Deering Estates Seafood Festival, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Officer Glasko also held a DARE arts and crafts festival, raising \$2,900 for the DARE program.

At these events, the officers provide child ID kits and over two hundred children were photographed and fingerprinted using fingerprint cards provided by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Information about residential and commercial security surveys, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and citizen crime watch is also provided to the residents. Again, this gives the residents an opportunity to meet with the officers one-on-one and express any concerns they may have.

Officer Peter Judge is a 21-year-veteran of the MDPD and has been assigned to the VPB Community Outreach Unit for six years. He is a School Resource Officer, rad/KIDS Instructor, Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner, and CPTED Practitioner.

Officer Patience Glasko is a 10-year-veteran of the MDPD and has been assigned to the VPB Community Outreach Unit for three years. She is a School Resource Officer, rad/KIDS Instructor, DARE instructor, and is in the process of taking crime prevention classes.

The VPB Community Outreach Unit is to be commended for the teamwork displayed and for your exemplary dedication to prevent crime in the Community. The results obtained are attributed to the combined work of your team and not to one individual. It is the abovementioned work that deserves a nomination for Crime Prevention Unit of the Year for the Florida Crime Prevention Association Award.



VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY

VILLAGE MANAGER
RON E. WILLIAMS

August 7, 2013

Florida Crime Prevention Association
800 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34994

Dear Selection Committee:

As Manager of the Village of Palmetto Bay, I am pleased and honored to nominate the Community Outreach Unit of the Palmetto Bay Policing Unit as the Florida Crime Prevention Association "Crime Prevention Unit of the Year." With more than 30 years in municipal government administration, I can confidently attest to this team's professionalism, dedication, and ongoing success at providing an effective, well managed crime-prevention program.

Palmetto Bay is a residential community known for quality schools, impeccable parks, quiet tree-lined streets, and family-oriented events. This close-knit Village of about 24,000 residents is also renowned as one of the safest communities in South Florida, due in great part to the close partnership our Police Outreach Unit has with Palmetto Bay residents, schools, and businesses. Our Outreach Officers are on the front lines of crime prevention every day, by proactively providing an environment of familiarity, accessibility, and cooperation within the community – which translates directly into crime prevention and reduction.

The Community Outreach Unit is comprised of a special group of police officers and supervisors who possess unparalleled leadership and communications skills. They work in concert as one team to prevent crime through the use of new ideas, tactics, and programs. Residents and business owners readily agree, as I do, that this Unit goes above and beyond the call of duty. Everywhere you turn, our Outreach Officers are seen interacting with the public by providing education, safety tips, or just a reassuring smile.

There is a definite correlation between effective police outreach programs in Palmetto Bay and crime reduction. If viewed as an investment – which is entirely appropriate – our Police Outreach Program continues to net measurable returns:

- Consistently fewer crimes/incidents than 33 other cities of Miami-Dade County.
- Continual expansion of Neighborhood Crime Watch program here.

- Hundreds of school-age kids are empowered each year by with self-defense skills.
- Residents/Village field staff are more inclined to report suspicious activity.
- Merchants and residents employ proven techniques to thwart crime at their businesses and/or homes.

As long as our Police Outreach team continues to offer new and proven programs, we will continue to reap the benefits of lower crime and greater communication and cooperation between residents and law enforcement.

To be an effective public administrator, one must be in tune with community wants, needs, and concerns. As Village Manager, I am pleased to report that public input regarding our Policing Unit and Outreach Programs continues to be highly supportive and positive. All indicators are that citizens are extremely pleased and appreciative of the Public Safety services we provide through our Policing Unit.


I am also keenly aware of their successful track record in the area of grant funding. Even as funding sources continue to diminish in this difficult economy, the Outreach Unit remains adroit at capturing the attention – and funding dollars – of multiple federal, state, and local agencies. I am proud to report this Unit has gained a reputation for managing successful crime prevention, education, and awareness campaigns and they are widely recognized for it at many levels.

Will we even know how many child abductions were prevented due to the empowerment skills our Outreach Officers have instilled in hundreds of local students through rad/KIDS? Will we ever know the number of DARE graduates who were spared a life of substance abuse and the drug-related crime? Can we count how many thefts were prevented last holiday season due to our Outreach Team's aggressive promotion of annual shopping-safety tips? Will we ever know the number of businesses or home burglaries that were prevented due to a certified security audit?

The answer is no. And we may never know. And that's a good thing.

Again, I am pleased to nominate the Palmetto Bay Community Outreach Unit Association "Crime Prevention Unit of the Year."

Sincerely,



Ron E. Williams
Village Manager



Office of the Mayor
Shelley Stanczyk

July 22, 2013

Florida Crime Prevention Association
800 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34994

RE: Nomination for Crime Prevention Unit of the Year

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of the Village of Palmetto Bay, I am pleased to nominate the Community Outreach Unit of the Village of Palmetto Bay's Policing Unit to receive the honor of "Crime Prevention Unit of the Year" from the Florida Crime Prevention Association. The dedication of the officers and their ongoing success at providing effective, well-managed crime prevention programs is commendable and deserves recognition.

The Village of Palmetto Bay is a family-oriented community known for its outstanding parks system, quality schools, and quiet streets. Our Village is proud of the committed members of the Community Outreach Unit, as their hard work has resulted in Palmetto Bay being well-known as one of the safest places to live in Miami-Dade County. The enthusiasm and energy of our Outreach Officers is remarkable; they take great strides to create partnerships with all of the stakeholders of this community, regularly meeting with residents, with students, administration and faculty, and with business owners. Their efforts go above and beyond what is expected of Police Officers; as a matter of fact, their service to our community has resulted in the following:

- Consistently fewer crimes/incident than 33 other cities in Miami-Dade County;
- More residents are participating and organizing Neighborhood Crime Watch programs than ever before;
- Hundreds of school-aged children are receiving instruction on self-defense skills through the rad/Kids program;
- Elementary students are learning how to effectively say no to drugs through the D.A.R.E. program;
- Residents and Village staffers are more inclined to report suspicious activity through the Operation Lookout outreach; and
- Business owners and residents employ proven techniques to prevent crime.

Correspondence to Florida Crime Prevention Association
July 22, 2013
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In order to effectively represent the needs of my constituents, I must be keenly aware of the challenges and concerns that the residents and business owners face daily. As Mayor, I am happy to report that I hear nothing but positive feedback from all concerning the services of the Community Outreach Officers. The comments range from being pleased that their children learned how to be assertive and recognize "stranger danger" to merchants that were surprised to find that they were not following some common prevention tactics to help keep their businesses safe, but happy to learn how to correct their mistakes. When I visit the local schools, every child knows our Community Officers and is proud and happy to consider the officers their "friends."

The dedication of this group of Officers is highly commendable and the Palmetto Bay Community Outreach Unit deserves to be recognized as "Crime Prevention Unit of the Year."

Sincerely,



Shelley Stanczyk
Mayor

SS/mja