

June 1, 2017

Commander Um Set Ramos
Deputy Commander
PIO / Community Relations Section
Miami Police

Category A: Outstanding Crime prevention Program

To FCPA Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to nominate the City of Miami Police Department's Crime Prevention Specialists Unit and their implementation and execution of the **Neighborhood Block Meeting Programs**.

The Crime Prevention Specialists (CPS) Unit is comprised by C.P.S. Rosa Fernander, C.P.S. Suhail Nazario, C.P.S. Nikko Evans, C.P.S. Barbara Sweet, C.P.S. Sergio Guerrero, C.P.S. Aileen Rodriguez, and commanded by Lieutenant Freddie Cruz, Lieutenant Lazaro Alfonso, Sergeant Lorena Ramirez.

On October 2016, the Crime Prevention Specialists embarked in creating a new program that would enhance their crime prevention capabilities throughout the City of Miami. The unit saw a need to provide citizens with a greater understanding and awareness of the crimes that were occurring in their neighborhoods. The use of community meetings at local parks, crime watch, and homeowners meetings only served a specific group of the community, many who only attended if the event location was close to their homes. Additionally, many of the participants of the traditional meetings were not receiving specific crime prevention tips relating to their needs. A need for a situational crime prevention model was necessary.

It became imperative to create a community meeting model that fit the need to mobilize community support when necessary. The unit understood the police department could prevent crime by recognizing at a micro-level the social and criminal conditions in specific neighborhoods that were allowing for crime to exist. However, this could only be examined and prevented with personal and firsthand experiences and relationships. The use of a one size-fits-all thinking and approach to crime prevention would no longer be the norm. The response was to create a program where on a weekly basis a specific "community block" was visited. The Crime Prevention Specialist analyzed the crime data of a particular small 2 to 3 block area and examined the crimes that were occurring. With the crime data in hand, the Crime Prevention Specialists would coordinate and schedule a date to visit the block location. The **Neighborhood Block Meetings** were announced via social media, and residents were given prior notice to our arrival.

During the **Neighborhood Block Meetings** the Crime Prevention Specialists arranged for multiple units from the police department to attend and address the specific problems plaguing their community. For example, on numerous occasions the Crime Prevention Specialists teamed up with:

- Tactical Robbery Units to provide BOLO information of local offenders;

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- Police Athletic League Officer and School Resource Officers to offer services to our youth (such as cheerleading, summer camp, and basketball league);
- Public Information Officers to provide detailed explanations on how to communicate during a 911 call;
- Local government officials civic organizations to discuss societal concerns;
- Local community activists to strengthen relationships;
- Neighborhood Resource and Beat Officers to put a face to their personal officer;
- Command Staff Officers to share their vision and crime control strategies;
- Crime Against the Elderly (CATE) officers to provide crime prevention tips to our elderly citizens;
- Criminal Investigation Detectives (i.e. Homicide and Assault), after a violent act of crime or critical incident. The Block meeting was formatted into a **Critical Incident Debrief Block Meeting**. The residents received information about the crime and we received their input.
- Crime-Stoppers Tips Officer to explain the process of using our tip lines;
- Crime Prevention Specialist to provide the latest strategies in crime prevention, security and environmental surveys of the block, trends, information, tips, and collection of information.

With the assistance of all the participating officers and community leaders, the team walked door to door asking for the citizens to meet us at a centralized location on the street. We placed police vehicle with their lights on to show our presence and symbolize the partnership between the members of the block and residents in the area. During the **Neighborhood Block Meeting** the officers passed out flyers, conducted presentations, and performed a "roll call" where all officers and residents announced their names, official capacity in the police department, and their place of residence. The ability to put a face to a name created a sense of family and intimacy that is vital for the reduction and prevention of crime during a community oriented model of policing. The bonds that were created supplanted a culture that united the members of a block to a single mind frame; that crime and disorder would not be tolerated and they would work together to accomplish one common mission.

The **Neighborhood Block Meetings** were introduced in 12 Neighborhood zones (Allapatah, Brickell, Coconut Grove, Coral Way, Downtown, Flagami, Little Haiti, Little Havana, Model City, Overtown, Upper East Side, and Wynwood). Each zone experiencing a unique set of crime prevention needs and environmental culture. In part from outstanding work from patrol functions, but also with the help of the crime prevention efforts facilitated through the block meetings each particular neighborhood zone experienced crime reductions in the areas that the Crime Prevention Specialists targeted. The Allapatah neighborhood saw a 16% decrease in burglaries when compared to 2016, the Coconut Grove and Coral Way neighborhoods experienced a 27% and 29% decrease in theft respectively, the Downtown neighborhood showed an 11% decrease in motor vehicle thefts, the Little Haiti and Little Havana areas improved and saw a 13% and 47% decrease in Robberies, and the Model City and Overtown neighborhoods experienced a 17% and 45% decrease in Aggravated Assaults. The **Neighborhood Block Meetings** assisted in the proliferation of education, community involvement, and prevention that was vital in the reduction of crime in these areas.

The Crime Prevention Specialists understood that there are still several aspects of crime or its prevention that cannot be quantified and do not offer tangible statistics. So the main focus of the **Neighborhood Block Meetings** was to create a voice for the neighborhood block and create an atmosphere where they could express their direct concerns, suggestions, strengths, and weakness, of not only their community, but primarily the police. Importantly, the police and many stakeholders

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were present to listen. The Crime Prevention Specialists attended to the concerns of the residents and enlisted the help of the Social Media unit to create public service announcements (PSA) about their specific issues and crime problems. Many of the public service announcements received outstanding media attention and allowed the concerns of block meeting residents to reach a large audience and also act as a crime prevention tool through visual content:

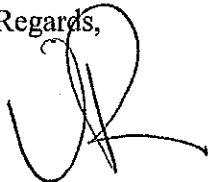
- Auto Theft Video (100,000 views on Facebook):
<https://www.facebook.com/MiamiPoliceDepartment/videos/1431137366976802/>
- Burglary Prevention Video (37,000 views on Facebook):
<https://www.facebook.com/MiamiPoliceDepartment/videos/1277355949021612/>
- Holiday Crime Prevention Video (9,000 views on Facebook):
<https://www.facebook.com/MiamiPoliceDepartment/videos/1218065641617310/>
- Credit Card and Tax return Fraud Video (200,000 views on Facebook):
<https://www.facebook.com/MiamiPoliceDepartment/videos/1339850809438792/>

The opportunity to meet with our residents at **Neighborhood Block Meetings** improved the inter-agency collaboration critical to prevent crime that was affecting our citizens, and can also be affecting the communities that surround us, of which we were able to reach through social media efforts.

Crime prevention works exceptionally well when the police and the public work as a team to enhance a community policing system. Citizen involvement is essential and requires the creation of new avenues, like **Neighborhood Block Meetings**, to form true partnerships. The Crime Prevention Specialist were able to produce a crime prevention model, and also work together with our citizens to identify and prioritize contemporary problems with the goal of resolving issues that are of concern. The **Neighborhood Block Meetings** succeeded in addressing crime prevention needs, the elimination of crime and fear of crime, neighborhood decay and social problems, civil disobedience, but most importantly improve the overall quality of life; allowing for all residents and visitors of the City of Miami to work, play, visit, and live safely without fear.

For their dedication and commitment in the **Neighborhood Block Meetings Program**, I recommend the unit to receive the Florida Crime Prevention Association 2017 Award for Category A: Outstanding Crime Prevention Program.

Regards,



Um Set Ramos
Commander of Police
City of Miami Police Department

Samuel Latimore
Charles Hadley H.O.A., President
1300 NW 50 Street
Miami, Fl. 33142
June 23, 2017

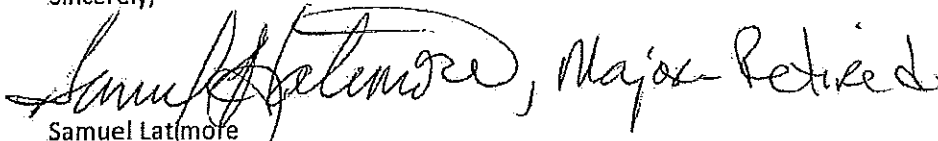
Dear Florida Crime Prevention Association:

It is with distinct pleasure that I write this letter to commend the crime preventive actions of the City of Miami's Crime Prevention Specialist Detail. I have, on numerous occasions, experienced firsthand the phenomenal community service that this group of dedicated individuals perform in the Model City area and the entire City of Miami. As a home owner's association president, I understand the importance of police strategies and tactics adapting to fit the needs and requirements of different communities that a department serves. The Crime Prevention Specialist through the use of their dynamic Community Block Meetings have introduced the availability of the diversification of programs and services that our community needs and demands. The Crime Prevention Specialist have enhanced the notion of foot patrol and brought the efficiency of traditional community meetings to the front door of our residents' homes. Through these efforts, our community has expressed increased confidence in the police, they have learned crime prevention tips and approaches, they have come together and met fellow neighbors and local beat officers, but most importantly they have received one-on-one services and felt as though the police cared to make them part of the solution against crime and disorder.

It is my unequivocal belief that the City of Miami Police Department's Crime Prevention Specialists' Community Block Meeting Program has reduced crime and equally vital, reduced the sense of fear that many of our residents have. I would be honored to personally and publicly commend their efforts and ensure them that their work has not gone unnoticed; they have numerous community partners willing to combat crime along with the crime prevention specialist and the police, and converse with them during all their community block meetings.

Thank you for reminding us on a consistent basis that the community is the police and the police is the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Latimore, Major Retired". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Samuel Latimore
Charles Hadley H.O.A., President