

POLICE BEAT

Officer and Civilian of the Year Honored

The Surfside Police Department recently announced the Officer and Civilian of the Year awards for 2013.

Officer Bryant Luke was a top performer in 2013, issuing 481 traffic citations, 35 parking citations and 224 traffic warnings. He also completed 24 arrests, reviewed 830 red light camera violations and participated in nine community events. Officer Luke serves as a member of the Police Honor Guard and is a field training officer. He was also nominated for a LEO award in the area of uniform services and received letters of commendation for the 5th Annual Police Teen Summer Camp and Bring Your Child to Work Day. He was commended by Fire Chief Downey of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue for providing life saving assistance to fire rescue officers treating an injured child. Congratulations to Officer Luke!

Although Parking Enforcement Officer Alain Acosta issued 3660 parking citations in 2013, he never received a complaint. Rather he was praised many times for helping residents. Alain is proactive, professional and is always willing to help. He is highly visible in the business and residential districts. He was named Police



(L-R) Town Manager Michael Crotty, Lt. Jay Matelis, Officer of the Year Bryant Luke, Civilian of the Year Alain Acosta and Chief David Allen.

Civilian of the Month for April and September and received commendations for volunteering his time for the Kiwanis car wash, Bring Your Child to Work Day, and directing traffic and distributing candy during the Halloween Block Party. Alain also provides support and security to the volunteers coordinating the Trap, Neuter, and Release Program. Thank you for your outstanding effort and professionalism!

Significant Decrease in Surfside Crime in 2013

The 2013 Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics show that overall crime decreased by 26.3 percent compared with 2012. The crimes include murder, forcible sex offense, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny and auto theft. The chart below shows significant decreases in aggravated assault (66.7%), burglary

(39.1%), and larceny (22.5%). The total number of arrests decreased by 19.9%, from 211 in 2012 to 169 in 2013.

"These statistics show the excellent results of the hard work at all levels of the Department and the involvement of the community," said Chief David Allen.

	Total Crimes	%CH	Violent Crime	%CH	Nonviolent Crimes	%CH	Surfside Population	%CH
2012	167	-8.7	15	275	152	-15.1	5,776	0.5
2013	123	-26.3	7	-53.3	116	-23.7	5,794	0.3

Residents Beware of Distraction Crimes

Distraction crimes are committed primarily during daylight hours. The suspects work in pairs and target senior residents. The suspects will approach the victims at their home, either in their yards or at the door, and state they work for an agencies, private contractor or Town departments. They state they are there to make repairs or check meters. The suspects will ask for entry into the home or backyard and one of the suspects will distract the victim while the primary suspect will steal items such as cash and jewelry.

A distraction crime occurred in Surfside on February

17, 2014. Two individuals approached an elderly resident. The subjects posed as contractors claiming they were offering an estimate to repair the dock. One of the individuals distracted the elderly victim in the backyard while the other went into the master bedroom and stole miscellaneous jewelry valued at \$3,000.

If you are approached at your residence by a stranger requesting to perform work, obtain identification and confirm their identity. If you are suspicious, call the Surfside Police Department at 305-861-4862.