

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members

FROM: Executive Director Donna A. Moore
Human Resources Division

DATE: April 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Selection of Officer/Member of the First Quarter for 2008

Recently, the Sheriff's Staff met and took into consideration those nominations for Officer/Member of the Quarter that were submitted for the First Quarter of 2008.

As a result of this consideration the following members were selected:

SWORN:

Deputy Calhoun has made 62 arrests this quarter. He has made 55 physical arrests. He has issued 1 Notice to Appear. He has written 6 criminal citations.

Deputy Calhoun patrols the area known as Stock Island. Some of the common complaints by the residents of this area are drug activity to include crack cocaine; vagrancy to include trespassing; crimes of violence to include battery and domestic violence, and traffic related complaints to include DUI.

Deputy Calhoun made 10 arrests during this area specifically for drugs. He seized approximately 7 grams of cocaine or crack, and approximately 60 grams of marijuana throughout the Quarter. In addition he has seized several different kinds of control substances in pill form.

Deputy Calhoun seized 12 crack pipes through the course of this quarter.

Deputy Calhoun is actively seeking to improve the quality of life for those law abiding citizens who call Stock Island their home by actively engaging in a war on drugs. Drug abuse has long been known to be associated with other types of crimes to include burglary, theft, and dealing in stolen property. By actively seeking out and engaging in drug investigations, Deputy Calhoun is reducing the primary problem of drug abuse and reducing the risk of burglaries, and thefts throughout the community, making it a safer community for all.

Deputy Calhoun made 5 vagrancy related arrests this quarter to include trespassing, open containers, and disorderly conduct.

Vagrancy is a social issue that has no easy solution. Society in general tends to demand immediate results to this complex social issue. Society does not often offer viable solutions to this issue, instead demanding Society's rights be enforced while ignoring the rights of the individual.

Deputy Calhoun balanced both the rights of Society and the rights of the individual this quarter as evident by the number of vagrancy related arrests. Deputy Calhoun arrested the individuals who had clearly stepped off the boundary of acceptable behavior as established by Society while recognizing the individual's rights as evident by the fact that at least one of the vagrant violations was issued a Notice to appear in lieu of physical arrests.

Deputy Calhoun made 5 battery and domestic violence related arrests this quarter.

Domestic violence is another complex issue faced by Law Enforcement today. The goal of enforcement over domestic violence is to protect the innocent from getting hurt. Every time Deputy Calhoun arrested the primary aggressor or someone who was violating a restraining order, he was protecting the safety of the other person who was being victimized. His willingness to aggressively investigate and arrest those who commit domestic violence brought credit upon the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and himself.

Deputy Calhoun made 11 traffic related arrests to include 2 DUI's.

State Road 5 is an exceptionally dangerous highway. Traffic related deaths occurred almost monthly. Deputy Calhoun's traffic related arrests to include the DUI's, a racing arrest, and a reckless driving arrest clearly saved lives and made the highway safer for the average citizen.

During this quarter, Deputy Calhoun earned a commendation for his actions during an incident wherein the victim hung himself. Deputy Calhoun's experience, knowledge, and professionalism were instrumental in helping to bring a chaotic situation under control. His presence on the scene provided the primary investigator the extra edge she needed to help stabilize her adrenaline rush and together they were able to resolve the situation quickly and efficiently, saving the victim's life.

The purpose of a Deputy Sheriff is to protect the life and property of the citizens who fall under their jurisdiction. Deputy Calhoun has protected the lives and property of the citizens in his zone throughout the entire quarter. His conduct has been exemplary and brings credit upon the Community, the Sheriff's Office, and himself.

CORRECTIONS:

Sergeant Detention Deputy Lisa Lawson began her career with the MCSO in April 2000. Sergeant Lawson began this year by initiating an investigation of a bondsman who was using inmates to solicit business. Sergeant Lawson had noticed that there was a small group of inmates in the dorm that were approaching the new intakes as they were processed into the dorm. She saw that this group would take the new intakes to the phone, dial for them, say a few words and then hand the new intake the phone. Her years of corrections experience with Monroe County as well as the State of Connecticut told her that something wasn't right. She followed up by monitoring the phone calls and discovered that the new intakes were being set up with a bondsman and the inmates that were setting them were getting compensated for the referrals. She began gathering information and contacted our detectives at the Roth Building. She was then able to establish a prior link between the bondsman and the inmate that proved the bondsman knew the inmate was a convicted felon. The information was turned over to the detectives and there is now a warrant for the bondsman's arrest on charges of allowing a convicted felon to act as a bail agent.

Last month, we had a case where a subject was brought to jail on the charge of driving while his license was revoked. He provided the name of Steven Delise. As part of the booking process, he was fingerprinted. The fingerprints as well as the name he provided were run through the state database and they came back with no hits. The next day, he posted bond and was released. Two days later Sergeant Lawson received a phone call from the Marathon Detention Facility. They had received a teletype message from the FBI stating that the fingerprints matched a subject known as Justin Bakely.

Bakely was wanted by New Jersey for distributing cocaine in a school zone. Sergeant Lawson followed up by communicating with the FBI and sorting through multiple criminal histories and driver license records. Once she had a concise package of information together, Sergeant Lawson contacted Detective Sergeant David Carey. Sergeant Carey and his squad were able to locate and arrest the subject. He subsequently confessed to assuming his stepbrothers identity to avoid the arrest warrant.

In addition to her normal workload, she takes on numerous extra duties to include working as a liaison with work release, programs and FDLE. Her assistance with payroll consumes hours of her time and isn't always easy. Captain Sharon Delos Santos (retired) described her as a "payroll detective" and once wrote, "Sergeant Lawson has the patience of a saint! Not to mention a can do attitude with each and every additional task requested and/or assigned to her." Thanks to the assistance of Sergeant Lawson, I can assure the Sheriff and county that all times is accounted for.

Having Sergeant Lawson on the team here in Plantation Key affects my job in a positive manner every day. She is always willing to assist and take on new responsibilities, excels in the agencies core values, and is loyal to the Office of the Sheriff. She comes to work every day ready to work and has not called out sick even one day during the seven years she has worked for the agency.

SUPPORT:

Elaine was called into Chief Mauldin's office and presented with a packet. The packet included 14 letters from officers recommending Elaine for the Outstanding Victim Advocate for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Elaine was hired by the Sheriff's Office in 2001 from the State Attorney's office where she held the position of victim's advocate. She currently covers from Big Pine Key south into the City of Key West. Elaine is an asset to the department and to the victims of crime for Monroe County, but did not realize the impact Elaine had on the officers of Key West Police Department.

Below is a summary some of the comments made by the officers about Elaine's work:

"She is called on for virtually all types of victims from children too young to speak for themselves to senior citizens who can no longer speak for themselves and for all victims in between"

"As a Victim Advocate she has shown a commitment to the job that I have never seen. She is constantly called out to meet with victims and never fails to show concern, compassion, and empathy to all."

"Without question Elaine Woodson has distinguished herself through her service and commitment to victims of crimes in Monroe County and is deserving of this great honor."

"She has a commitment that is second to none and has the natural ability to calm victims down with her level headed approach to them and her empathy for their situation."

"Elaine brings peace and confidence to officers and victims on all types of incidents. I have never seen Elaine falter in her work as she comforts victims from the aftermath of a homicide to a simple assault."

"Through the years I have witnessed Elaine give all she's got in the pursuit of justice for her victims."

“During my more than twenty years of law enforcement experience in two states, and with two police agencies within Florida, I have never encountered a more professional, more caring, or more supportive advocate that Elaine. “

Elaine has been the anchor for the advocate program and she never falters in her compassion and dedication to the victims of crime.

RESERVE:

Sergeant Luna has been with the Reserves for several years and always is available to assist wherever he is needed. He is also present for all details in which the reserves participate and provides leadership for the new and untrained recruits. He interacts very well with officers, and citizens alike. He is an excellent role model for the department. I can always depend on him whenever we need help.

EXPLORER:

Explorer Martin has been an asset to Post 905 since the day she applied. She has been with the post for a little over a year and whenever there is a need for a volunteer or for ideas she is the first to come forward.

Explorer Martin absorbs every bit of information and training she receives and has built on it applying it to life situations. She always seeks out new ways to obtain training for the explorers and the cadets that are both interesting and fun. Explorer Martin feels that you need to be both physically fit as well as mentally fit in order to do any job successfully, but even more so when comes to law enforcement.

During previous trainings Explorer Martin has not only done what was required of her but also gone above and beyond taking the time to watch and critique fellow explorers and deputies in order to improve her skills. She is not afraid to ask questions or to point out when something is wrong or unsafe.

Upon graduation Explorer Martin plans to attend college and earn her degree in Criminal Justice before going on to the academy to pursue a career as a law enforcement officer. She hopes to apply and work for Monroe County in the near future. Until then she will continue being an active part of the Explorer program and learn as much as she can.

DAM: mev

xc: Sheriff Richard D. Roth

Colonel Richard Ramsey

Major Tommy Taylor

Chief Michael Rice

Director Becky Herrin, P.I.O.
Community Relations Office