

2012 Florida Crime Prevention Association
Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year
Nominee: Sergeant Joseph Bermudez

Sergeant Joseph Bermudez was hired by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) in 1993. His exceptional work ethic and dedication to crime prevention has enabled him to have an acclaimed career. Sergeant Bermudez' work product reflects professionalism and commitment to the community he serves, and the law enforcement profession.

In 2004, Sergeant Bermudez was assigned to the Community Affairs Bureau, where he excelled in investigative and crime prevention skills. In 2005, he became a proud member of the prestigious Florida Crime Prevention Association, and in 2008, he completed the required classroom instruction to achieve the distinguished title of Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner.

As a supervisor assigned to the Community Service Unit, he is responsible for a myriad of administrative and community service duties. Sergeant Bermudez conducts crime prevention presentations, where he provides informative lectures on crime reduction techniques, internet safety, and identity theft. He also provides residential and commercial security surveys where he presents recommendations, strategies, and methods to reduce burglary occurrences.

In addition, Sergeant Bermudez also coordinates safety day events for local businesses where he instructs the public on topics of safety awareness. These initiatives not only assist in the reduction of crime, but also foster a positive relationship between the police and the community. Sergeant Bermudez also coordinates the activities of the Citizen's Police Academy. This program is designed to promote better understanding of police work among civilians. The Academy graduates three classes per year, with each class meeting once a week for 13 weeks. The goals of the program include dispelling myths about police work, educating the public regarding the tactical and philosophical approaches to crime, and improving community relationships.

Furthermore, Sergeant Bermudez is also responsible for coordinating the Youth Alcohol Prevention Program, Police Explorer Program, and the Florida Sheriff Youth Ranch Program, where he is required to coordinate the general functions of the programs.

Sergeant Bermudez also has the responsibility to coordinate the Department's Crime Prevention Display Vehicle (CPDV). The CPDV serves as an extension of the Department's community awareness and education objectives. It is showcased at numerous community functions such as Crime Watch meetings, National Night Out, Park Watch, and Community Safety Days. The display vehicle is a state-of-the-art crime prevention tool that encapsulates community programs that educate citizens on drinking and driving, drug awareness, and

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crime prevention. The CPDV is extraordinarily popular amongst members of the community of all ages and is often requested months in advance. Sergeant Bermudez efficiently maintains the schedule for the CPDV, updates all materials, displays and equipment within the vehicle. Additionally, he maintains a commercial driver's license to ensure the vehicle can be utilized at these events.

In addition to the CPDV, the MDPD obtained a Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Mobile Education Center (MEC) to further educate citizens, particularly juvenile drivers, on the hazards of drinking and driving. The MEC is repeatedly utilized as an educational tool for the Youth Alcohol Prevention Program. It is utilized at high schools in Miami-Dade County throughout the school year to reinforce a "no drinking and driving" philosophy. At these events, the "Don't Let Alcohol Be Your Last Taste of Life" program is taught to students. Under Sergeant Bermudez' direct supervision, these programs have become quite successful. They encompass 24 senior high schools that participate in a kick-off breakfast at the beginning of the school year, a poster contest, a popular Zero Tolerance Youth Summit, and year-end banquet. Additionally, the high schools conduct in-house events, such as Seat Belt Checks, Ghost Outs, and Mock Crashes. All of these measures aid in educating and influencing students to make intelligent, mature choices regarding drinking and driving. Sergeant Bermudez is also responsible for the duties that accompany this vehicle. In 2010, he supervised the MEC's renovation, which consisted of upgrading the electronic equipment including television monitors, Digital Video Disc players, and installation of new cabinetry.

In 2011, the MDPD underwent a reorganization process. Four police officers originally assigned to Sergeant Bermudez were reassigned back to patrol duties at the district level. The officers assigned to work the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, Police Athletic League program, Police Explorer program, and the "Don't Let Alcohol Be Your Last Taste of Life" program were also transferred back to the district level. The importance of these programs is paramount, and Sergeant Bermudez has assumed the duty of serving as the departmental coordinator to those officers at the district level.

Sergeant Bermudez has established an admired reputation amongst many local businesses who often request him several times a month to personally conduct crime prevention presentations to their employees. He is well versed on these topics and his communication methods are entertaining and energetic. His effectiveness in this area has made him a much desired speaker. Sergeant Bermudez has received over 20 commendation letters and e-mails within the last year that have solely expressed appreciation for his presentations. He was also recognized in a local newspaper article for his devotion and expertise in crime

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prevention techniques. On occasion, the news media has featured crime prevention as a cover story, and it is not uncommon for Sergeant Bermudez to be contacted for pertinent information or be requested to appear as a guest.

In addition to his daily job functions, which are always performed in an exemplary manner, Sergeant Bermudez further demonstrates his commitment to crime prevention by actively partaking in several crime prevention organizations. He is the President of the Southeast Florida Crime Prevention Association and Region Eight Director for the Florida Crime Prevention Association. He is a member of the American Society for Industrial Security, where he once held the prestigious title of First Vice Chair for two years consecutively. Moreover, he is an active member of the National Crime Prevention Association. These are responsibilities that exceed the job description required by the MDPD. Nevertheless, Sergeant Bermudez has chosen to assume these positions to further achieve his personal goal of educating citizens regarding crime prevention.

Sergeant Bermudez' perseverance, integrity and enthusiasm are unparalleled. His compassion and personal commitment to educate the citizens of MDC regarding safety has not gone unnoticed. He has clearly demonstrated his dependability, loyalty and resolve to crime prevention, and his outstanding contributions are worthy of recognition.

Crime Prevention Display Vehicle



"Don't Let Alcohol Be Your Last Taste Of Life" Mobile Education Center

