

Robert L. Crowder  
Sheriff

(772) 220-7000

August 30, 2012

Laura Passanesi  
C/O Martin County Sheriff's Office  
FCPA Awards  
800 S.E. Monterey Rd  
Stuart, FL 34994

Dear Ms. Passanesi:

***I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the men and women of the Sewall's Point Police Department*** which is a small agency in the Town of Sewall's Point within Martin County. This is a peninsular community bounded by the Indian River to the east and the St. Lucie River to the west. The Town, which is 3.6 miles long and 1.2 miles wide, was incorporated in 1957. It is led by a Chief and is staffed by 9 sworn officers, including the Chief of Police. They patrol the Town 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Police Department's focus has always been Community Policing. When the Department identifies a problem, they immediately formulate a solution. Example: being a coastal community that is affected by many hurricanes, the agency saw the need to be able to identify the property of their residents after disasters, as well as from other losses such as theft. The agency then wrote a grant to purchase a camera which would allow officers to videotape all the residents' property from top to bottom, inside and out, down to the smallest details. The camera burns the video to a DVD which is then given to the resident, never keeping the DVD, only the resident. The DVD's can be used to identify property if it is damaged, lost or stolen.

In April, this community fell victim to the "Pillow Case" burglars. Immediately Chief Eric Cerniglia contacted the Martin County Sheriff's Office to obtain the assistance of Neighborhood Watch. Within weeks the "entire town" was plugged into the Neighborhood Watch concept. With phone chains and email chains; and saw an influx of residents calling-in suspicious persons.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office has a great "working relationship" with the all personnel of the Sewall's Point Police Department; therefore, ***I am proud to nominate this agency for the New Horizon Award.***

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Crowder, Sheriff

by:

  
Lieutenant Wes Starling, Supervisor  
Community Orienting Policing Unit

WS/lgp

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