MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# **217-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: May 12, 2016

SUBJECT: **2015 Crisis Intervention Team of the Year Award - MBPD**

This Letter to the City Commission is prepared to announce that the Miami Beach Police Department's Homeless Resource Officers (HROs) and Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) received the first-ever Miami-Dade County "Crisis Intervention Team of the Year Award" for 2015.

This outstanding achievement was recognized on Wednesday, May 11th at the Fifteenth Annual Mental Health Transformation in Action Conference. This was the first time in Miami-Dade County history that this award was given. It was done in recognition of the outstanding dedication and positive contributions made by the Miami Beach Police Department's team in providing services and assistance to persons in the community suffering from mental health challenges, including our homeless population. While the entire Miami Beach Police Department effort in this regard was recognized, the award specifically named Officers Ysidro Llamoca, Carlos Cuellar, Eliut Hazzi, Kevin Lantigua and Julio Blanco.

The Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team efforts are supervised by Captain Ian Robinson. More than half of the Patrol force is C.I.T. trained.

The goal of this team effort has been to provide citizens the help they need instead of just incarcerating them over and over again. On a daily basis, these officers patrol the streets of Miami Beach and encounter individuals in mental health crisis, some of whom are also engaged in various forms of misdemeanor criminal activity. Many of these potential arrestees are clearly in need of social services. These individuals are given the opportunity to participate in a criminal diversion program where they are not taken to jail but diverted to local facilities to treat their medical, mental or substance abuse issues. As recognized by this new award, the hard work of these officers has become a model for other local law enforcement agencies to follow, and they are making a positive difference in our community.

We are pleased that the Mayor and Commission plan to honor these officers at an upcoming Commission meeting. Their achievement is a credit to the Police Department and the City of Miami Beach.

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