



PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICER OF THE MONTH  
June 2019

***Officer Jonathan Rothenburg***

Based on your diligence, compassion, and dedication, you have been nominated and named by the Awards Committee and the Chief of Police as the Palm Beach Police Department's Officer of the Month for June 2019.

While conducting proactive patrol near Midtown Beach, you observed a subject sleeping in a parked vehicle. You made contact with this individual to check on his welfare and observed beer cans in the console cup holder and rear floorboard. You also observed a coiled twine rope on the front passenger seat.

When asked why the subject was sleeping in his vehicle, he advised you that he came to the beach often to think. When asked about the rope on the passenger seat, he withdrew and refused to answer. Suspecting the worst, you calmly changed the course of the conversation to put him at ease. You asked about his family, of which he had a wife and child. You developed a rapport with the subject and he eventually confided in you that he had recently lost his job, and that his family still did not know. Seeing this as an opportunity, you again asked about the rope. This time, the subject confirmed that he intended to use it to harm himself, and that that was the real reason he had come to Palm Beach.

Based on your training and experience, you knew the subject fit the criteria for a Baker Act; however, you continued to talk with him, getting him to acknowledge that he needed help as well. Palm Beach Fire Rescue then responded to the scene and transported the subject to the hospital under a Baker Act, while you contacted his family and made them aware of what had transpired, while assisting them with any arrangements that needed to be made.