



PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER OF THE MONTH
July 2019

Officer Stephen Buscemi

Based on your diligence and excellent investigative skills, 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 July 2019.

On July 2, 2019, you observed a Mercury sedan with no visible tag lights driving up and down side streets in the north end of town. Concerned the occupants of the vehicle were canvassing the area to commit crimes, you began to follow and surveil it. After a short time, the vehicle abruptly stopped in the northbound travel lane of North County Rd. and the driver exited quickly, claiming to need help. A passenger in the vehicle also quickly exited, also through the driver's side front door. You took control of the situation by directing them out of the roadway and having them sit on the curb until your backup could arrive. Your subsequent investigation revealed oxycodone, cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle and the occupants were arrested accordingly.

This was not the first time that your investigative skills were on display, however. On April 23, 2019, while observing traffic in the 300 block of Royal Poinciana Way, you noticed a black Hyundai run a red light at Royal Poinciana Way and North County Rd. You attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, which fled from you at a high rate of speed into West Palm Beach. After terminating your attempted traffic stop, you continued to investigate this vehicle and its occupants and were able to obtain the vehicle license plate. You determined the address at which the vehicle was registered, which was in West Palm Beach. You made contact with the West Palm Beach Police Department in reference to your suspicion about this vehicle being stolen. The West Palm Beach Police Department responded to the address and confirmed with the registered owner that the vehicle had, indeed, been stolen.

On June 8, 2019, you responded to the Town of Palm Beach Docks, located at 500 Australian Avenue, in reference to a suspicious person. After meeting with the on-duty security guard, you searched a nearby boat that you believed the suspect was concealing himself on. During your search you observed a pair of sneakers and some clothing that was wet. You then followed wet footprints from these items to the deck below where you located the suspect in only his underwear. After advising the suspect of his Miranda Warnings, you obtained a full confession. The suspect advised that he had come to Palm Beach with the intent to steal a car and when that plan did not bear fruit, he decided to burglarize a boat instead. The suspect was then charged with Burglary and Loitering and Prowling.