



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 292-2008

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: November 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Governor's Medal of Heroism

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

This Letter to the City Commission is to announce the selection of Detective Luis King and Fire Fighter David Anderson by the Governor's Committee of the Medal of Heroism to receive this prestigious award. This selection was the result of Detective King's and Fire Fighter Anderson's acts of bravery during a catastrophic yacht fire, which occurred at the Miami Beach Marina on March 31, 2008.

To summarize what occurred with the incident in question: Police and Fire units responded to a yacht on fire at the Miami Beach Marina with two young adults trapped inside the vessel. Arriving units found the yacht fully engulfed in flames, and heard the two trapped teenagers banging on the hull from inside the vessel. Two citizens at the scene offered their boat to aid in a planned rescue effort. The strategy was to put a fire fighter with a chain saw on board the boat and maneuver around to a safe area of the burning vessel where a hole could be cut into the hull and save the occupants. Realizing that, one fire-fighter (David Anderson) and the two citizens would not be enough to ensure a safe mission, Detective Luis King volunteered to assist.

While motoring to the starboard side of the vessel, the crew of the small boat braved rolling flames, stifling heat, as well as, thick hazardous smoke and fumes, to get to the hull and immediately get to work. Detective King took turns with Fire-Fighter Anderson running the chainsaw and painstakingly pried chunks of fiberglass away from the hull to make an opening. Eventually they were able to make a hole large enough for the teenagers to escape the burning yacht.

Without the efforts of Miami Beach Firefighter David Anderson, and Detective Luis King, (along with the assistance of the two civilian boat owners), these two young lives would certainly have been lost. Please join me, as well as, Chiefs Noriega and Yuhr in congratulating these outstanding Miami Beach Public Safety Employees for their heroic actions and steadfast commitment to protecting the citizens of our City.

It should be noted that the Governor's Medal of Heroism nominations were submitted through the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Florida State Lodge at the suggestion of FOP President Robert Jenkins. The ceremony for this prestigious award will be conducted on December 3, 2008 at the Capitol Complex in Tallahassee, Florida with a reception following the event at the Governor's Mansion.

JMG:CN:tr



Governor's Medal Of Heroism

To: Detective Luis King

From: The Governor's Medal Of Heroism Committee
President James Preston, Florida Fraternal Order Of Police
Sheriff Robert Crowder, Florida Sheriffs Association
President Bob Carver, Florida Professional Fire Fighters Association
Captain David Folsom, Tallahassee Police Department
Executive Director Matt Puckett, Florida Police Benevolent Association
Executive Director Tommy Owens, Florida Association of State Troopers
Commissioner Ed Depuy, Leon County Commission
Chief Tony Velong, Florida Police Chiefs Association

Subject: Governor's Approval Of Recipients

On September 16th, 2008 the Committee For the Governor's Committee of The Medal of Heroism met and voted unanimously to accept and recommend you to receive the prestigious award for your act of valor and heroism. Per the Florida Statute 112.194, you have met all of the required criteria to receive the Medal Of Heroism.

On October 29th, 2008 the Florida Governor's Office called and informed that Committee Director that , Governor Crist had given his final approval for you to receive the Medal Of Heroism.

At the present time, there are two potential dates for the awards ceremony. November 17th, 2008 or December 3rd, 2008. I will be notifying you of the final date, when I am given approval by the Governor's Office to begin protocols for the ceremony. If you have any questions, or need assistance please contact the Committee Director Lisa Henning, at 850-656-9881.

Please contact Lisa Henning, with the exact spelling of your name for the engraving.

Congratulations and Thank You for dedication to duty and the citizen's of Florida.