



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # *082-2014*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: March 12, 2014

SUBJECT: LEO AWARD WINNER – OFFICER Ysidro Llamoca

RECEIVED  
2014 MAR 13 AM 10:34  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

This Letter to the Mayor and City Commission is to announce that MBPD Officer Ysidro Llamoca received the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Award, for Crime Prevention/Community Policing, at the 2014 Law Enforcement Officers Charitable Foundation (L.E.O.), Awards Gala, held on March 8, 2014.

In September 2012, Officer Llamoca was assigned to partner with the City's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). This partnership between MBPD and HOT was formed to address the needs of the homeless, while dealing more efficiently with the habitual misdemeanor offenders found among the population of long-term vagrants; namely, aggressive panhandling, illegal camping, and public drunkenness. With the assignment of Officer Llamoca to liaise between HOT and MBPD, the Habitual Misdemeanor Offenders (HMO) team was fully formed and the program implemented.

Officer Ysidro Llamoca was recognized for his superior performance and ability to liaise with HOT and other neighborhood resource officers within MBPD to achieve the newly formed HMO program goals. A few highlights of Officer Llamoca's achievements include:

- I. Tireless outreach efforts with the homeless while identifying the patterns and habits of those vagrants who are habitual offenders in order to better enforce HMO guidelines.

Officer Llamoca worked 24/7 with HOT to assist homeless outreach efforts in South Beach. The region's temperate weather, ready access to tourists, and community amenities attract habitual vagrants. As of the last Census data, there were over 200 homeless persons living in Miami Beach, of which, 150 live in South Beach. Although the challenge of managing this population was daunting, Officer Llamoca immediately immersed in outreach efforts, while using smart policing skills to identify habitual vagrants. Most notably, those who on one hand decline HOT assistance, yet routinely commit misdemeanors. His efforts enabled the HMO program to efficiently coordinate community outreach efforts with police assets.

- II. Building partnerships with homeowner and merchant associations, as well as other neighborhood partners and leaders.

Officer Llamoca recognized early that he needed to partner with homeowner and merchant associations to leverage the public interest in this effort. His ability to gain the trust, cooperation and corroboration of community leaders and leverage shared goals in the interest of the safety, welfare and character of the City of Miami Beach neighborhoods, proved invaluable: This was especially evident during bond hearings for habitual offenders, where community concerns and relevant impact statements for specific offenders could be articulated.

- III. Superior liaison with other neighborhood resource officers within MBPD to better address the community's interests in Court to keep habitual offenders off of the street.

A principle goal of the HMO program was to keep habitual offenders who repeatedly commit "low-level crimes," or misdemeanors (such as trespassing after warning, drinking in public, etc.), from rapidly finding their way back to the community, only to repeat the cycle of offense, arrest, transport and incarceration. These misdemeanors can land a habitual vagrant in jail for mere hours. On occasions, Miami Beach police officers have arrested the same person twice, during a ten hour shift, for the same crime. To counter this disheartening burden on the community and resulting strain on enforcement resources, Officer Llamoca and other Neighborhood Resource Officers, testify daily on behalf of the citizens and merchants of Miami Beach, in order to get a bond issued for the offender. The resulting bond, ranging in value from \$500 to \$5,000, in combination with the potential denial of credit for time served, can remand the defendant to the custody of the Miami-Dade County Jail. The strategy results in a longer period before the habitual offender gains release, which in turn, slows the habitual offender's return to the community.

In summary, the benefits realized by HMO program management due to Officer Ysidro Llamoca's efforts include:

- Improved resource management of city assets by leveraging homeless outreach efforts with community leadership and smart policing.
- Reducing the cyclical demand of police resources by lengthening the period that a habitual misdemeanor offender is detained.
- Reducing the stress on residential neighborhoods and commercial enterprise by detaining habitual offenders for longer periods.
- Providing ample time for the State Attorney's Office to review the defendant's criminal record, and return to court at a later date to seek HMO guidelines be enforced. (This is not possible if the 'catch and release' cycle is too brief to allow sufficient review).

Please join me in congratulating Officer Llamoca on his tremendous accomplishments during 2013 and his recognition from the South Florida law enforcement community with the LEO Award.

JLM:RAM:jr