



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC #059-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2006

SUBJECT: L.E.O. Award Recipient - Detective Gustavo Sanchez

This Letter to the City Commission is to announce the selection of Detective Gustavo Sanchez as the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police's Officer of the Year for 2005.

This prestigious award was given in recognition of the heroic efforts by Detective Gustavo Sanchez on June 12, 2005. Detective Sanchez responded from an off-duty job to the report of drowning in progress off the beach behind 100 Lincoln Road. The seas on this date were forecast to be eight to ten feet high with the winds blowing at twenty knots and gusting up to thirty knots due to Tropical Storm Arlene.

Despite these extremely dangerous conditions, Detective Sanchez did not hesitate to put his own life at risk by immediately responding to the scene and going into the water to attempt to rescue two Russian exchange students who had become overwhelmed by the violent surf and became entangled in a riptide. Detective Sanchez was able to locate one of the victims and bring her to shore while an off-duty life guard, Cayetano Garcia, joined the rescue effort and was able to locate the second victim with the assistance of the Coast Guard. By the time this tremendous rescue effort was concluded, the weather conditions also required that the Coast Guard rescue two additional rescuers on the scene.

Detective Sanchez is a nineteen year veteran of the Miami Beach Police Department and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, afternoon shift Violent Crimes Squad. Please join me in congratulating Detective Sanchez for this tremendous achievement.

JMG\DWD\tr