

# Officer Riley honored for significant arrests

**BY SANDY KRAMER**

The Miami-Dade Police Department has announced that Officer David Riley has been awarded the departmental Exceptional Service Award and selected Distinguished Officer of the Month for November 2006. Officer Riley has been a department member since 1995 and is assigned to the Cutler Ridge District.

During the months of April, May and June, Officer Riley made several significant apprehensions and arrests. Following is a brief synopsis of some of his most noteworthy accomplishments:

**Apr. 3** — With his trainee, Officer Cynthia Lendore, Officer Riley observed a vehicle parked off the roadway in front of a residence on SW 178th Street. The two occupants ducked down when they saw the marked unit. A records check revealed the tag was not assigned to the vehicle, so the officers exited their vehicle to conduct an investigation.

Neither subject had identification. One of them started yelling to warn an accomplice who was hiding in some bushes behind a pickup truck and who subsequently ran inside the residence. As Officer Riley and a responding officer were placing handcuffs on one of the subjects, the other escaped but was apprehended by backup officers.

After the arrest, an inventory of the stolen truck revealed flashlights, tools, digital cameras, a cellular phone box, and a stereo set. Also in the truck were cinder blocks, heavy-duty floor jacks, and gloves. Further investigation led to a stolen vehicle in the rear yard of the residence.

The owner of the stolen pickup truck later advised Officer Riley that he owns Auto Store Inc., and that his business was burglarized and that both vehicles, along with property had been taken. As a result of Officer Riley's actions, three subjects were taken into custody and the property was being returned to a grateful owner. The charges included Operating a Chop Shop, Grand Theft Auto, Grand Theft (\$7,000) Commercial Burglary and Criminal Mischief.

**Apr. 13** — After tracking a LoJack signal to a Leisure City residence, Officer Riley requested backup units and spoke

with the homeowner who allowed entry to the backyard. There Officer Riley discovered two Ford Mustangs with switched VIN Plates. As a result of Officer Riley's actions, three subjects were arrested and charged with Operating a Chop Shop, Grand Theft (\$4,000), and Grand Theft Auto.

**Apr. 17** — At approximately 12:30 a.m., Officer Riley was on patrol in the area of SW 176th Street and 104th Avenue when he observed a 2005 gray Jeep Cherokee parked in front of a known drug house. A check of the tag revealed it was reported stolen from Opa-locka.

Officer Riley conducted surveillance and requested backup when two subjects drove off in the vehicle. Soon afterward, he conducted a traffic stop and the driver was taken into custody and charged with Grand Theft Auto. The subject was out on bond for the same offense. The passenger also was taken into custody for a Bench Warrant.

**Apr. 18** — Officer Riley observed a 1997 Ford Ranger driving south on SW 112th Avenue. Officer Riley had reviewed the Stolen Vehicle Hot Sheet prior to his shift and recognized the vehicle's description. He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the female driver and male passenger. She initially provided him with a false name, but when questioned further by Officer Riley, admitted she had lied as she was on probation. She later admitted that she and her passenger had stolen the vehicle together.

**Apr. 24** — Officer Riley conducted a traffic stop on Homestead Avenue and Hibiscus Street for a driver running a red light. A check of the tag revealed it was not assigned to the vehicle. Upon verifying the VIN number, he was advised that the vehicle had been stolen recently from the City of Miami. The driver was subsequently charged with Grand Theft Auto.

**Apr. 26** — Officer Riley received a LoJack hit for a motorcycle and followed the signal to a specific residence. As he was waiting for backup units, he noticed a vehicle driving slowly through the area. He ran a check of the license, and it came back to the residence he was watching. He advised responding backup units



Officer David Riley

and issued a BOLO for the vehicle.

As the subject was attempting to leave, another officer observed the vehicle and detained the subject while Officer Riley made contact with a woman at the residence. She showed Officer Riley another motorcycle in the garage, saying it belonged to her husband. Further investigation revealed that the motorcycle had been stolen earlier in the day. After receiving legal permission to search the property, the officers located three additional stolen motorcycles and four stolen ATVs, as well as numerous parts for both. The husband was arrested.

**May 9** — Officer Riley observed a 2004 Honda southbound on SW 137th Avenue at SW 288th Street. Upon seeing the officer, the driver started acting suspiciously. After determining that the vehicle had been stolen on May 3, Officer Riley continued to follow the vehicle until he could conduct a traffic stop with backup units.

The subject was arrested and a records check revealed numerous Bench Warrants. It was also discovered that his license had been revoked for 60 months and that a second driver's license under another name had been issued.

**May 31**— While patrolling an area along S. Dixie Highway that had been

experiencing a rash of commercial burglaries, Officer Riley observed a couple sitting in a Suburban parked behind a closed business. He ran a check of the license plate, found it had been stolen, and placed the two subjects in custody.

**June 27** — Officer Riley observed a vehicle parked in a driveway of a known narcotics dealer's home. A check of the license plate revealed it had been stolen in the city of Sweetwater on Apr. 16. The officer maintained surveillance and, as it became occupied, requested backup units. He followed the vehicle until it drove into a service station at SW 220th Street and 112th Avenue. As back-up units arrived, Officer Riley took the subject into custody.

**July 2** — While on routine patrol, Officer Riley received a LoJack hit in the area of Marlin Road and S. Dixie Highway for a 2006 Suzuki Motorcycle that had been stolen earlier that day. The signal led him to a residence at 9478 Easter, where he made contact with a subject who advised that he did not have a motorcycle.

The motorcycle, however, was clearly visible from the side of the residence and a witness advised Officer Riley that the subject had showed him the motorcycle moments earlier. The subject was taken into custody and investigation revealed that the ignition had been punched. Officer Riley contacted Auto Theft Detective Bill Kostopolus who responded to the scene. They obtained a Consent to Search the residence and the subject directed Officer Riley and Det. Kostopolus to a room where he had been sleeping.

A rifle protruding from under the bed was later identified as subject's wife's AK-47. A large quantity of ammunition was also found. The subject further advised that the room was used for storage of his personal items. As the officers approached the second room, they detected a strong odor of marijuana and found several large bags in the room, which contained approximately two pounds of marijuana. They also found growing equipment including high intensity lights, and generators. Narcotics units were called out to continue the investigation.

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