



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

Venice of America

DATE: April 1, 1999
TO: Patrol Division/Reserve Officer David Duncan
FROM: Patrol Division/A/Captain Mitch Van Sant
SUBJECT: Shift Level Commendation: 98-104992

On July 3, 1998 at approximately 2030 hours, you and Officer Michael Heller responded to a Domestic Disturbance, at 1700 Northwest 4th Street. The victim, Richea McDonald, told you that she had been beaten by her husband, Daron Nayton.

The victim explained that her husband had ransacked the house and she fled the residence to a neighbor's house. Ms. McDonald said that she had attempted to get back into the house but it was locked. She said she had knocked on the front door but her husband did not answer the door.

You and Officer Heller entered the residence and found Mr. Nayton hiding in the rear bedroom, holding a large kitchen knife with a 12" blade. He was holding the knife with both hands, pressing it against his stomach. Mr. Nayton was despondent and distraught over the problems with his wife. He was crying and saying, "I don't want to live." You and Officer Heller were able to establish a dialogue with Mr. Nayton. You both were able to convince him to put the knife down, away from his body. Mr. Nayton was taken into protective custody and transported to Broward General Hospital where he was committed under the Baker Act.

These situations are always extremely tense and unpredictable. They leave officers in the delicate position of balancing their safety with their attempt to safeguard the subject threatening to commit suicide. You and Officer Heller were able to achieve this balance. You are to be commended for your professionalism, your patience and your outstanding efforts in successfully resolving this situation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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