



City of North Miami Beach, Florida

Police Department

Memorandum No. _____

Date: February 15, 2023

To: Distribution

From: Harvette Smith, Chief of Police 

Subject: 2022 Officer of the Year – Officer Villalonga

It is my pleasure to announce that North Miami Beach Police Department (NMBPD) Officer Rebecca Villalonga, badge #335, received the 2022 Officer of the Year Award. In November 2022, Officer Villalonga was awarded the Medal of Honor, Combat Cross, and Officer of the Month for the month of November 2022 for the reasons as set forth below:

On Thursday, November 3, 2022, at approximately 0936 hours, Officer Villalonga advised on the main radio frequency that there was a subject with a knife at C.G. Bethel High School (C.G. Bethel). Officer Villalonga asked for backup at C.G. Bethel located at 16150 NE 17th Avenue where she was working an off-duty detail. Officer Villalonga sounded out of breath on the radio as she appeared to have been involved in a struggle.

Officer Villalonga was on the second floor of the high school when a student (subject), who had been expelled from the school the day before, entered the school running past her. As the subject ran towards the classrooms, Officer Villalonga saw a large knife in the former student's hand and she immediately ran after the subject. The subject was yelling as he ran and was confronted by one of the teachers in the hallway. A struggle ensued between the subject and the teacher and as a result they both fell to the ground. During the struggle, the teacher pushed the subject toward Officer Villalonga and she was able to deploy her taser and strike the subject. The subject was taken into custody by Officer Villalonga.

It was later learned that the subject came to the school on that day to specifically stab this teacher, who had previously notified his mother of his expulsion. Officer Villalonga's quick actions and training immediately stopped the subject and saved the teacher from imminent death. Without hesitation, Officer Villalonga put her own life in danger for the protection and safety of the students and staff. Officer Villalonga's outstanding act of bravery and heroism, while on duty, placed her life at great risk and resulted in the saving of many lives.

It is for these reasons that Officer Villalonga is awarded the Officer of the Year Award for November 2022.

HS/ap