



City of North Miami Beach, Florida

Police Department

Memorandum No. _____

Date: February 15, 2023

To: Distribution

From: Harvette Smith, Chief of Police 

Subject: 2022 Civilian of the Year Award – PCO Brown

It is my pleasure to announce that North Miami Beach Police Department Police Communications Officer (PCO) Shadae Brown, ID #2056, received the Civilian of the Year Award for 2022. PCO Brown was previously awarded Civilian of the Month, Distinguished Service, and Team Awards for the month of December 2022. The below actions describe her worthiness of the award:

Case: 2022-1227-01:

On December 27, 2022 at approximately 0205 hours, PCO Brown received a call from a mother (subject) who advised she had just stabbed her three-year old daughter to death. Officer Ice Odum was the first to arrive at 0209 hours and Officer Robert Elder arrived just after him as they ran up the stairs together. PCO Brown still working alone then received a call at 0211 hours for a robbery in progress under case #2022-1227-01, which later changed to an occupied burglary. Not only did PCO Brown do an exemplarily job maintaining her professionalism and composure, she also did an outstanding job multitasking as well. PCO Brown was multitasking through an extremely stressful and grotesque call for service, along with additional high priority calls being received, and all the officers' requests on scene. I cannot reiterate enough how well PCO Brown handled herself through this horrific time.

Please see the transcript below for the call for service.

Subject: Hello

PCO Brown: Hi, this is Operator Brown from the North Miami Beach Police Department on a recorded line. Did you call for the police?

Subject: Yes

PCO Brown: Ok, what is your name?

Subject: Jellisa

PCO Brown: Jellisa?

Subject: Jellisa Baxter

PCO Brown: Jellisa, hi, can you tell me what's happening there?

Subject: Yes, I just killed my daughter.

PCO Brown: How old is your daughter?

Subject: Three

PCO Brown: Is there anyone else in the house?

Subject: God

PCO Brown: And how did you kill your daughter?

Subject: I tried strangling her. That didn't work, so I stabbed her with a knife, in the neck and chest.

PCO Brown: What area of the house is she in?

Subject: She is on the floor in the living room.

PCO Brown: Do you still have the knife?

Subject: I do.

PCO Brown: Is it, is it in your hand?

Subject: No

PCO Brown: Can you tell me what your wearing, Jellisa?

Subject: A robe

PCO Brown: What color is your robe?

Subject: Uh white

PCO Brown: Is there anyway I can get you to speak to the officer Jellisa?

Subject: (unintelligible)

PCO Brown: Tell me where you are, so I can have the officers speak with you.

Subject: I'm in the living room.

PCO Brown: Ok. I'm going to speak with the officers, ok? Just give me one moment, ok?

PCO Brown: (Transmitting to officers) 149, be advised I'm landline with the complainant. She advised that she is in the living room. She is no longer armed. She is wearing a white robe.

PCO Brown: Ok. Do you see the officers?

Subject: Let me open the door.

PCO Brown: Just leave the door open and go back and sit in the living room.

Subject: Ok.

PCO Brown: (Transmitting to officers) 149, I'm instructing her to leave the door open to the QTH (then unintelligible audio) units stay off the air.

Subject: I'm right here.

Officers arrive on scene and in the background "Oh, my God" is heard.

PCO Brown: (Transmitting to officers) 149, advise when it's QRU for rescue to move in.

End of recording.

The following officers were the first on scene and arrived pretty much in seconds of each other.

- Officer Odum
- Officer Elder
- Officer Alexander Gonzalez
- Officer Mauricio Villanueva
- Officer Yehuda Topper
- Sergeant Hancsak

Upon their arrival, the front door was in the open position and the victim was seen approximately six feet in from the doorway laying on the living room floor next to the couch. The subject was seen sitting on the couch just a couple of feet away from the

victim. Officers then took the subject into custody without incident maintaining their professionalism knowing that the subject just committed an unimaginable act against a small child. The officers who were not assisting in the handcuffing of the subject pushed through and conducted a protective sweep of the apartment verifying that no one else was in need of police/medical assistance.

Officer Topper was a former paramedic in New York City and carries with him his personal trauma/medical bag that he bought with his own money to assist anyone in need. Upon Officer Topper's arrival, he ran up to the apartment with his medical bag to provide aid to the victim once it was safe to do so. After the protective sweep was conducted, which only took seconds, Officer Topper saw there was nothing to be done to help the victim as she was dead on arrival with multiple fatal stab wounds (67 in total) throughout her torso, neck, and head. Once the apartment was deemed safe, personnel from Miami -Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) was advised to move in. Upon their arrival, personnel from MDFR also advised there is nothing that could be done to assist the victim, and she was pronounced deceased on scene. This information is mentioned to reiterate how it shows that midnight shift officers were trying to put ourselves in the best possible position to provide aid to the victim; however, there was nothing that we could do.

The officers' response to this call demonstrated their professionalism and perseverance to continue doing their job after witnessing the gruesome scene. The officers were able to contain their emotions when taking the subject who had just committed the brutal murder of her child in check and were able to do their job accordingly. The officers were able to remain focused knowing a protective sweep needed to be completed and did so as they were trained to do. After the protective sweep was completed, officers then went right into preserving the scene to make sure this child received justice. Officers set up a small inner perimeter on the third-floor walkway and an outer perimeter around the apartment building to try and keep media and crowds from being able to see the crime scene. One freelance cameraman was able to climb a couple of fences to get a short clip of the apartment door from the ground level before officers were able to escort him out of the area. The cameraman said to our officers "I got the money shot now that crime scene tape is put up. News channels will now pay big bucks for this shot." Our officers maintained their professionalism and removed the cameraman again not letting their emotions get the best of them.

CSTs Maria Aguilera and Nina Salazar then responded to the scene along with Detectives Pinillos, Detective Gonzalez, and Detective Aladin. CSTs, along with the detectives, were now subjected to witnessing this terrible scene and now they had to continue doing the good work that the officers were doing. They now had to look closer at the scene, examining it, picking up all the details, along with going to the autopsy of the victim having to re-live this traumatic event that will last with everyone involved for the rest of our lives. Due to the teamwork and professionalism of all the personnel involved, a quick arrest was made regarding a crime that had not only reached national news, but also international

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news. Unfortunately, it took a tragedy such as a three-year old child losing her life for the recognition of the professionalism of PCO Brown.

It is for these reasons that PCO Brown is awarded the Civilian of the Year Award for 2022.

HS/ah