



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

For Additional Information:

Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager
305.234.2121, Ext. 180
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk
305.234.2121, Ext. 120
clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov

Media Contact: Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov
786-606-3042

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pinecrest Police Officer receives top honors for disarming veteran contemplating suicide

Pinecrest, Fla. – Officer Julian Perez was awarded the L.E.O. (Law Enforcement Officer) Foundation's 2013 Uniform Service Award during the foundation's 14th annual awards gala in March for stopping a veteran from committing suicide with a handgun. This award recognizes a Miami-Dade County law enforcement officer who performs in an outstanding or exemplary manner in a uniform patrol position.

Officer Julian Perez was also awarded the Pinecrest Police Department 2013 Medal of Valor, which is reserved for outstanding performance or bravery, such as, risking one's own life to save another or where an officer's actions go above and beyond the call of duty. In addition, he was recognized by the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police with the Officer of the Month Award in July 2013 and the Life Saving Award. He was also named the Pinecrest Police Officer of the Quarter in July 2013.

Officer Perez arrived at the scene after a man called the 911 dispatch center and said he had a gun and was going to shoot himself March 16, 2013. The man was sitting by a large tree with a handgun in his right hand when patrol units arrived at the scene.

Officer Perez was able to diffuse the situation through dialogue and convince the man to put the handgun down and move closer to him and farther from the gun. Officer Perez then made the decision to rush and grab the man to prevent him from getting a hold of the gun again.

Officer Perez is Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified as are all of Pinecrest police officers and has been with the Pinecrest Police Department for five years. He currently serves as a patrol officer, crime scene investigator and field training officer. And because of Officer Perez's actions during this incident, he was chosen to be trained as a hostage negotiator and is part of the Pinecrest Police Crisis Management Team.

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12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida 33156
T: 305.234.2121 | F: 305.234.2131
www.pinecrest-fl.gov

