



March 14, 2019

Deputy Anthony Ortega
Broward Sheriff's Office
2601 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dear Deputy Ortega:

On November 20, 2018, while off duty, you and Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Bartlett, Tubbergen, and Celis, along with Miramar Police Officer Balough, were enjoying a night out with friends at The Promenade in Coconut Creek. Numerous gunshots were heard being fired from the area of the Sun Trust Bank located on the north side of the complex.

Based on what has been occurring throughout the country with the numerous senseless shootings, all five of you—without hesitation—went directly towards the area where the gunshots had been fired.

After you reached the area of the Sun Trust Bank, you observed a subject armed with a handgun. You immediately went directly to the threat, at which time the subject placed the handgun into his vehicle. After confronting the subject, you were able to detain him until the arrival of on-duty Coconut Creek Police Officers.

We are extremely grateful to you and your fellow law enforcement officers who sacrificed your own safety to protect all of the other patrons at The Promenade that evening. There is no doubt that your swift, courageous actions prevented a potential tragedy from occurring.

On behalf of the Coconut Creek Police Department, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your actions.

Sincerely,

ALBERT A. ARENAL
Chief of Police

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