



DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION

July 9, 2015

Officer Laurence A. Christopher, Jr.
Coconut Creek Police Department
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Dear Officer Christopher:

It is a great pleasure to present you with the **Lifesaving Commendation Award** for the actions you took on January 12, 2015.

You immediately responded to an emergency call dispatched to Margate Police Department that involved an occupied vehicle in a canal. You were one of the first to arrive on scene and saw an elderly female struggling in the driver's seat of her partially-submerged vehicle. The four-door vehicle was approximately 25 to 30 feet from the canal bank and in about 20 feet of water.

You and a Margate K-9 Officer Woolley stripped off and secured your duty gear and dove into the canal. You used a hammer-type window punch to break the driver's side window and then the driver's side rear window as the vehicle began to quickly submerge completely. As the vehicle vanished in the canal, you and the Officer Woolley pulled the female out of one of the windows and helped her to the canal bank. The female was not injured but was transported to the hospital as a precaution. You did receive cuts to your hand and were treated on scene.

If not for your expedient, life-saving actions and teamwork, this victim would not have survived this accident.

For this, it is with great pride that I present you with the department's **Lifesaving Commendation Award**. On behalf of the Coconut Creek Police Department, I would like to extend to you our thanks for an outstanding job!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory B. Lees".

GREGORY B. LEES
Interim Chief of Police

GBL/cmb
L10009144

cc: Mary C. Blasi, City Manager
Pamela J. Kershaw, HR Director
Captain Douglas J. Barclay, Ops. Bureau Cmdr.
Significant Event File
Coconet