

***Carmine Marceno***  
**Sheriff**



**State of Florida**  
**County of Lee**

***"Proud to Serve"***

To: Capt. Brian Jakacki  
Thru: Lt. Jeffery Dektas  
From: Lt. Bernie Faccilonga  
Date: November 17, 2020  
Re: Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Deputy of the Month

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On Wednesday, October 22, 2020, Sergeant James Bates was on uniform marked patrol. At approximately 0200 hours, Sergeant Bates was conducting proactive patrol in the Harlem Heights community in reference to recent crime trends. At that time, Sergeant Bates observed a blue Volkswagen FL. registration IH30FL, leaving Church St., which was a known area for local burglary suspects. Sergeant Bates conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, which was occupied by Rita Jenkins, black female, 12/10/85 and Vincent Jenkins, black male, 6/21/65.

During the investigation, probable cause was established to search the vehicle, which revealed Vincent Jenkins to be in possession of cocaine. Vincent Jenkins was on drug offender probation and admitted to being in violation of his curfew restriction. Sergeant Bates knew Vincent Jenkins was familiar with the criminal element within the Harlem Heights community. Armed with that knowledge, Sergeant Bates initiated a conversation with Vincent Jenkins in attempt to generate intelligence on a suspect, who was believed to be seeking refuge within the Harlem Heights community and was responsible for seven recent business burglaries. As the conversation progressed, Sergeant Bates showed Vincent Jenkins a photograph of the suspect, which was acquired from video surveillance from one of the burglaries. Without hesitation, Vincent Jenkins identified the suspect as "Lee Lee," Lee Andrew Williams, black male, 7/24/83.

Rita Jenkins described Williams as having short dreads and a scruffy beard, which matched the description of the suspect. Furthermore, Rita Jenkins added that she saw Williams that night with a black bike, which was the same colored bicycle ridden by the suspect during the business burglaries. Rita Jenkins voluntarily showed deputies where Williams resided, 7364 Concourse Drive.



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Based on the intelligence gathered, Sergeant Bates canvassed the vicinity of 7364 Concourse Drive and located a black colored bicycle, concealed in the bushes, near the rear of the residence. The design of the bicycle's frame matched the suspect's bicycle as depicted in the video surveillance of the business burglaries. In addition, Sergeant Bates compared photographs of Williams and the suspect and they appeared to match.

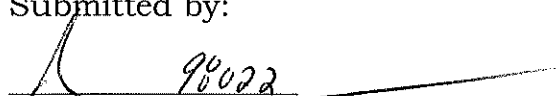
The intelligence was disseminated to West District personnel and the West District Criminal Investigations Division. Sergeants Bates' efforts established the identity of the suspect, which could have continued to go undiscovered.

On Friday, November 13, 2020, a CODIS match confirmed the suspect's identity as Lee Williams. During the early morning hours of November 14, 2020, Sergeant Bates and members of his shift attempted to locate Williams at his residence. Unfortunately, Williams was not present but contact was made with his family members. Later that morning, after deputies departed, William's returned to his residence. As a result, of the rapport that Sergeant Bates and his shift established with the family members, they contacted the Lee County Sheriff's Office and alerted them to William's presence at the residence. Deputies immediately responded, located Williams and took him into custody. At that time, Williams was arrested for five counts of burglary to a business, three counts of theft and one count of criminal mischief. Williams is the suspect in additional cases which are still being investigated.

Since being assigned to West District, Sergeant Bates has made it a point to familiarize himself with the criminal element and the district crime trends. Sergeant Bates makes every attempt to generate intelligence and assist with combating those crime trends. Sergeant Bates' performance is not only an example to be followed by his subordinates but his peers as well. Sergeant Bates is an asset to the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of West District are fortunate to have him.

The intent of this letter is to not only recognize Sergeant Bates for his outstanding performance but to nominate him for the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Deputy of the Month.

Submitted by:

  
Bernie Faccilonga