



***BROWARD COUNTY PBA
DAILY CLIPS***

June 23, 2017

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Grand jury clears Sunrise cop in fatal shooting of mentally ill man

BYLINE: Susannah Bryan

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/sunrise/fl-sb-cop-fatal-shooting-grand-jury-rules-20170622-story.html>

STORY: A grand jury has cleared Sunrise Police Officer Gregory Loor in the fatal shooting of a mentally ill man at a Walgreens parking lot more than two years ago.

Marlon Woodstock was hit several times with a stun gun, attacked by Loor's police dog and shot twice while he was on the ground, according to a federal lawsuit filed by his family.

But police reports claim Woodstock refused to drop a knife and continued to resist officers in the Sept. 30, 2014 incident.

Woodstock's brother called 911 that morning after Woodstock used a knife to flatten the tires on his cousin's truck, police reports show. The brother warned police that Woodstock was schizophrenic and had been Baker Acted several times since 1999.

Loor's attorney, Robert Buschel, said the veteran officer was relieved by the grand jury's decision.

"It's always stressful when the grand jury is convened on a justifiable shooting," Buschel said. "This was well within the use of force policy."

Loor's legal troubles are not over, however. The lawsuit filed by Woodstock's family is seeking more than \$75,000 in damages.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Public Defender ‘Help Me Howard’ Finkelstein says he’s not running for Congress

BYLINE: Anthony Man

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/fl-howard-finkelstein-congress-20170622-story.html>

STORY: Howard Finkelstein said Thursday he’s not sure what he’ll be doing when he retires as Broward County public defender when his current term expires — but it won’t involve running for Congress in 2018.

“It’s nothing I’d ever thought about. I’m really focused on finishing up this term, making sure poor people don’t fall through the cracks, and my great hope is to make sure that the next person that sits in the public defender chair is someone that is there for the mission of helping poor people. Not for the political power or patronage or political stepping stone. That’s really my interest,” he said.

Finkelstein said the notion hadn’t even crossed his mind until he was asked by a reporter, adding the question solved a mystery. “That’s why I’m getting these weird texts and emails,” he said. “I was getting some really strange texts and emails.”

The question came up because a website devoted to courthouse politics posted an item late Wednesday hinting at the possibility, without providing any sourcing or details. “People are talking,” it proclaimed. “Howard Finkelstein v. Debbie Wasserman Schultz? Mr. Finkelstein goes to Washington?” The idea prompted lots of chatter, with more than 75 comments by Thursday afternoon ranging from praise for the notion to ridicule.

Finkelstein said Democratic primary voters in the Broward/Miami-Dade County 23rd Congressional District already have a choice in Wasserman Schultz, the incumbent from Weston, and Tim Canova, her challenger from Hollywood. Wasserman defeated Canova in the August 2016 Democratic primary, 57 percent to 43 percent. Canova said last week he’ll challenge her again in 2018.

“You have two people out there who I think represent Democratic Party issues very well. And whether you are a more traditional liberal and in the Debbie Wasserman Schultz camp or you see yourself as more progressive and you’re in the Tim Canova camp, all I can tell you is these two people are extraordinarily bright and capable and articulate,” he said. “They know the issues. I really wouldn’t bring anything to the table except being tall, dark and handsome — and I’m none of those things.”

Finkelstein, 63, well known for his “Help Me Howard” legal segments on WSVN-Ch. 7, is in his fourth term as public defender, which lasts through the 2020 election. His chief assistant, Gordon H. Weekes Jr., has opened a campaign account to run for the job and Finkelstein said he wants Weekes to succeed him.

MEDIA OUTLET: Miami Herald

HEADLINE: Man pretending to be cop arrested after trying to pull over an actual police officer

BYLINE: Elizabeth Koh

LINK: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/crime/article157789904.html>

STORY: A Hialeah security guard was arrested Wednesday evening after attempting to pull over a real Miami police officer, authorities said.

Officer Kenia Fallat, who serves as a spokeswoman for the Miami Police Department, was driving west around 7:30 p.m. down Southwest Seventh Street near 13th Avenue when a man pulled up next to her, according to an arrest form.

The man, identified as Milton Morales-Perez, 46, rolled down the window of his 2010 white Ford Mustang and flashed a silver badge at her, telling her to hang up the phone and saying in Spanish, "Policia, stop the car."

Fallat was driving in an unmarked police car but was in uniform.

According to the report, Fallat then called police for backup.

Two more officers arrived and arrested Morales-Perez. When asked why he had a badge, Morales-Perez told them he was a security guard and that he had tried to stop Fallat because "it is very dangerous to be on the phone while driving."

Morales-Perez was charged with one count of impersonating a police officer.

MEDIA OUTLET: NBC Miami (Channel 6)

HEADLINE: Pembroke Pines Dog Park Will Be Named After Fallen K-9 Police Officer

BYLINE: NBC Miami

LINK: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Pembroke-Pines-Dog-Park-Will-Be-Named-After-Fallen-K-9-Police-Officer-430141623.html>

STORY: A Pembroke Pines dog park will be named after a fallen police officer who suddenly died earlier this month.

“It is with heartfelt emotion to report the park naming passed unanimously,” Jay Schwartz, Pembroke Pines district 2 commissioner, announced on Facebook. Schwartz proposed that the park, on Johnson Street near the intersection with Northwest 98th Street, be renamed Wednesday.

The area will be named after K-9 Police Craig Rupp, who died just more than a year after retiring.

Rupp was well known in the community for his service on and off duty. He worked for the department for more than 25 years, including 11 years with the K-9 unit.

Rupp is survived by his wife and two teenage daughters.

MEDIA OUTLET: NBC Miami (Channel 6)

HEADLINE: Protesters Upset After Hollywood Officer Seen Taking Picture With Pro-Confederate Street Name Group

BYLINE: NBC Miami

LINK: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Protesters-Upset-After-Hollywood-Officer-Seen-Taking-Picture-With-Pro-Confederate-Street-Name-Group-430177113.html>

STORY: Two photos circulating social media have the Hollywood Police Department on the defense after one of their officers was seen taking pictures with members of a group supporting keeping the names of several former Confederate generals on city streets.

Levell Strong, who was part of the group protesting the names of three streets – Lee, Hood and Forrest – snapped a photo about an hour after the protests had ended. It showed an unidentified officer posing for photos with those supporting the names – people who some protesters said were hurling racial slurs at them during the often contentious events Wednesday.

The anti-street name protesters, including members of Take Down Slavery Symbols Hollywood and the Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward, say that the pro-street sign members were still pointing and laughing while taking pictures with the officers – however, they say he did not participate in that behavior.

"It wasn't quick and not just a picture, it was contact he participated in. He was laughing and joking and to see these women turn and point at us and laugh after it was all over was absolutely disgusting," said Jasmen Rogers with Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward.

Hollywood Police spokeswoman Miranda Grossman spoke with NBC 6's Marissa Bagg, saying a woman asked to take a picture with the officer as part of the Hug a Cop initiative designed to thank officers for their service.

Grossman went on to say that "this wasn't the officer or anyone with the police department siding with either side" and that members of the department were talking to both sets of protesters. She did agree that it "wasn't the right time to fraternize", but said it wasn't malicious and he did not mean to upset anyone.

Five people were arrested during Wednesday's events – the latest in various efforts that have been made in the past to change the names, honoring Robert E. Lee, John Bell Hood and Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was also the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Some of the people protesting in the counter-rally called themselves white supremacists and yelled at members of the Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward.

"I'm against them entirely. I hate them. They're black supremacists," said Chris Cedeno, a member of the Florida League of the South.

State Rep. Shevrin Jones says the counter protesters called him a racial slur.

"I was called the n-word and a monkey. I've heard about those terms from my parents and read from the Civil Rights Movement, but I've never been called that," Jones said.

Although the women in the photos with the officer weren't the ones screaming racial slurs, the clothes they wore spoke for what they came to represent.

Several cities, including Orlando and New Orleans, have taken down statues in recent weeks commemorating the Confederacy after heated debate from both sides of the issue.

MEDIA OUTLET: FOX Miami (Channel 7)

HEADLINE: Armed subjects pose as cops in SW Miami-Dade home invasion

BYLINE: Sheldon Fox and Katrina Bush

LINK: <http://wsvn.com/news/local/armed-subjects-pose-as-cops-in-sw-miami-dade-home-invasion/>

STORY: SOUTHWEST MIAMI-DADE, FLA. (WSVN) - Authorities are searching for two men who, they said, posed as police officers when they barged into a Southwest Miami-Dade home, handcuffed the homeowners and took off with the contents of the victims' safe.

Surveillance video captured the armed perpetrators as they kicked their way inside the residence near Southwest 159th Street and 98th Avenue, June 13, just before dawn.

"When they were inside, they got the homeowners, they handcuffed them both, and forced them to go into their safe," said Miami-Dade Police Detective Argemis Colome.

Detectives said both subjects had guns. They said the duo took the family's money and fled eastbound on Southwest 159th Street.

Area residents told 7News they are now in a constant state of fear. "I am absolutely scared," said one neighbor.

Investigators said one of the criminals was wearing a police vest and a badge, and his accomplice was wearing a long-sleeve shirt with the words "police" on the sleeves.

Police said three of the victims inside the home were children.

Nobody was injured, but the ordeal have left the victims and their neighbors shaken. "I've been living here for 20 years, and this never happened before," said an area resident.

Thursday night, 7News cameras captured what looks like the remains of the door that was smashed in lying on the front yard of the home, feet away from the doorstep.

Police have identified one of the robbers as 29-year-old Usmael "Mylo" Carvajal. They have not been able to identify the second subject.

If you have any information on their whereabouts, call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS. Remember, you can always remain anonymous, and you may be eligible for a \$1,000 reward.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Men posing as police sought after Miami-Dade home-invasion robbery

BYLINE: Paradise Afshar

LINK: <https://www.local10.com/news/crime/miami-dade-home-invasion-robbery-june-13>

STORY: DORAL, Fla. - A 29-year-old man is being sought in connection to a home-invasion robbery that took place June 13 in Miami-Dade County, police said.

Meanwhile, another man believed to be involved in the incident has not been identified, police said.

Usmael "Mylo" Carvajal and another man forced their way into a residence in the 9800 block of Southwest 159th Street through the home's front door, police said.

While inside, the pair handcuffed the homeowners and demanded money, police said. They then made the homeowners open a safe and took an undetermined amount of cash.

Carvajal was wearing a police vest and badge during the robbery, police said. His counterpart was wearing a shirt that said "police" on it as well.

Neither the victims nor their children were harmed during the incident, police said.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Hialeah security guard arrested after pulling over Miami police officer

BYLINE: Amanda Batchelor

LINK: <https://www.local10.com/news/crime/hialeah-security-guard-arrested-after-pulling-over-miami-police-officer>

STORY: MIAMI - A Hialeah man who works as a security guard was arrested Wednesday after he pulled over a city of Miami police officer because she was talking on her cellphone, authorities said.

According to an arrest report, Officer Kenia Fallat was driving west on Southwest Seventh Street, approaching 13th Avenue when Milton Morales-Perez, 46, pulled up next to her in a 2010 white Ford Mustang.

Police said Fallat was in her unmarked police-issued Taurus and was in full police uniform.

Authorities said Morales-Perez flashed a silver badge at Fallat and told her to roll down her window and hang up the phone.

Fallat said she heard the suspect tell her in Spanish, "Police. Stop the car."

Fallat immediately used her police radio to call for backup, the report said.

Two officers arrived at the scene and arrested Morales-Perez on a charge of impersonating a police officer.

Police said when asked why he was carrying a badge, Morales-Perez said that he was a security guard.

Police also asked him why he tried to pull over Fallat, to which they said he replied, "She was on the phone and it is very dangerous to be on the phone while driving."

Local 10 News reporter Terrell Forney spoke to Morales-Perez Thursday, who said that he believes the incident was a misunderstanding.

He said he never claimed to be a police officer and that Fallat must have seen his security uniform.

Morales-Perez said he did tell her that it's dangerous to talk on the cellphone, but said Fallat pulled up in front of his car and yelled, "What did you say to me?"

Perez, who has a clean criminal record, now has a criminal charge pending against him that he believes is unfair.

"It's not possible to explain in English," he said.