



## *The Neighborhood Resource Unit*

### Unit Members:

- Sergeant Chris Reed
- Officer Eduardo Gaitan
- Officer Mary Ann Stahl
- Officer Deborah Fleites

The Neighborhood Resource Unit (“NRU” or “the Unit”) utilizes a community-oriented policing approach to servicing the community. This includes establishing policies and strategies aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control. The NRU strives to improve quality of life by utilizing a proactive reliance approach on community resources which seeks to change crime causing conditions. These efforts contribute greatly in reducing the fear of crime in the community. The NRU maintains contact with business and homeowner associations to solicit their concerns and input. All in an effort to provide a higher quality of policing that meets the needs of the Town of Cutler Bay (the “Town”).

Through these personal contacts, the Cutler Bay community has become familiar with NRU officers. The officers attend community gatherings, such as Home Owners Association meetings, Neighborhood Crime Watch, Business Watch Groups, Church Organizations, and other community assemblies.

The NRU maintains a respectable working relationship with the schools in the Town of Cutler Bay and works closely with the Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works departments, on matters involving quality of life issues.

Overall, the Town of Cutler Bay NRU has been a valuable asset to the community it serves and has enhanced the public’s perception of its effectiveness, as well as increased the quality of services it provides.

Citizens Crime Watch Meeting’s take place every month and **are** attended by officers, supervisors, representatives from various county agencies and an abundance of concerned citizens from all over Miami-Dade County.



At these meetings, the NRU discusses various crime trends and distresses affecting citizens, particularly those in residential areas. The NRU is able to identify and provide solutions to quality of life issues and shares information on the effective strategies implemented in different areas of the county. NRU has also posted crime prevention tips on the Towns website.

For example, during the Citizens Crime Watch meeting, the Unit discusses new ways of safely archiving and documenting the valuables of citizens. As a citizen, if you were to become a victim of theft or a natural disaster, you will be able to access pictures and descriptions of your items following the misfortune, making it easier to file a police report or handle an insurance claim.

The NRU Mall Watch Meetings address the unique issues and crime trends that occur in malls and shopping plazas. In addition to police attendance, the NRU has Mall Security and Management working together on incidents that they both have experienced. This interaction affords the NRU knowledge of possible criminal groups and activities that may be targeting local businesses and shopping malls.

The NRU Best Practices Meetings consist of NRU's from around the county, discussing projects and new resources available to assist with their work in their communities. The Units brainstorm on how to better serve their assigned areas.

The NRU participates in burglary details, truant sweeps and juvenile curfew details for the Town. The NRU also attends the monthly Town of Cutler Bay Council Meetings. This year, the Town of Cutler Bay NRU began a distracted driving campaign with the Department of Health to conduct activities for the residents of Cutler Bay. The Officers activities included school visits, attendance at neighborhood meetings and various community events in order to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

Participants received promotional/educational material and were encouraged to sign the "No Text and Drive Pledge". This effort also resulted in signs being placed at the area schools as well as Town Hall. The signs read "One Text Could Wreck It All". The effort resulted in over 1100 adults and kids signing the pledge banner.



The NRU was contacted by Florida Technical College to participate in a Back to School Event at the Southland Mall. Over 100 book bags were given away to students that were identified with the aid of the Unit. These families were in need of financial assistance and NRU supplied each "needy child" with a brand new book bag filled with school supplies to help them start the new school year off right. The NRU continues to work with the schools throughout the year and often time is contacted by teachers or counselors regarding students with specific needs. Officers also distributed distracted driving prevention material to citizens in attendance.

The NRU conducted several residential and business security surveys. NRU officers were certified in basic and advanced Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). This CPTED certification provides the NRU officers with the concepts of design and effective use of the physical environment to achieve a more productive use of space and a reduction in crime. The officers completed over 100 business security surveys within the Town. NRU officers attended several community events and distributed crime prevention information to the citizens in attendance. Officers made contact with over 600 citizens and provided them with information about receiving a free home security survey

The NRU is also a part of the Back-to-School Details the first two weeks of school which addressed student and pedestrian safety, making sure that the children are safe from vehicular traffic as they make their way to and from school.

This year NRU will partner with the Cutler Bay Business Association (**CBBA**) to collect toys and distribute them to deserving youth that reside in Cutler Bay. The efforts of NRU and the CBBA last year resulted in over 500 toys being collected making for a joyous holiday for several of our neighborhood youth.

Throughout the NRU's daily activities, the Unit is faced with numerous issues that may not be law enforcement related, but can ultimately affect the safety and/or quality of life of the Town community, such as the counseling and mentoring of troubled youth. **The new officers are** contacted weekly by school administrators, teachers and park and recreation employees to come and speak to these youth.

In addition to the items mentioned above, the NRU has also participated in several momentous events in the Town:



- The Town of Cutler Bay Bike B Que Event
- Lauren's Kids "Walk in My Shoes" charity event to prevent sexual child abuse.
- The Town of Cutler Bay community Pool Party.
- The Carnival and Red Ribbon Week at Holy Rosary.
- Career Days at: Whigham, Bel-Aire, Whispering Pines, Gulfstream, Assurant, and Cutler Ridge Elementary Schools, as well as Cutler Bay academy of Advanced Studies Cutler Ridge Campus.
- Safety Events at Pine Villa Senior Homes and East Ridge Retirement Community.
- The Southland Mall Annual Kids Week event with the Miami Heat.
- The NRU was a part of Whispering Pines' July 4th Parade.

The NRU addresses many other concerns, such as:

- Complaints of Loud Music
- Loose Dogs
- Squatters and Code Enforcement Concerns
- Panhandlers in the Town
- Foreclosed and/or Vacant Homes
- Graffiti Concerns and Neighbor Disputes
- Security Surveys for Home Owners and Business
- Business Assistance with Trespassers or Shoplifters



- The “We Care” Sign Program
- Parking and Traffic Concerns Surrounding the Schools
- Assisting Handicap Residents
- Dealing with Illegal/Commercial Vehicles in Residential Areas

A few of NRU’s upcoming projects include:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black and Blue Fun Run
- “Safety Night Out” event in the Town Of Cutler Bay Communities.
- Thanksgiving Food Basket Give-Away
- Christmas Toy Drive
- Bike Safety and Helmet give-a-way
- Career Day Events at Elementary Schools within the Town of Cutler Bay

The NRU strives to be proactive and innovative when addressing crime and quality of life concerns in the Town of Cutler Bay. Officers in the NRU implement community policing services to reduce crime, improve the quality of life, and engage community members in building a partnership and solving problems. Using the principles of Community Oriented Policing, the NRU uses prevention, intervention and education as tools to meet the many diverse needs of the community. For more information on the NRU, please contact Sergeant Chris Reed at (786) 573-5559 or [cmreed@mdpd.com](mailto:cmreed@mdpd.com)