



PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

"DEFENDER OF POLICE OFFICER'S RIGHTS"

An affiliation of International Union of Police Associations

Regional Council Local 6024



May 30, 2022

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Eric Garcia, Major
Miami-Dade Police Department
4200 NW 21st Street
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Major Garcia,

In all my years working to assist Law Enforcement Officers with work-related issues, I have encountered complicated situations. However, I never would have thought to include failure to assist an officer in acquiring a uniform as one of them. Members of your command staff were made aware by Officer Burgos that she had requested new uniform shirts from the Quartermaster before her return to work from her pre-approved leave. They were also aware that there were no uniform shirts available and would not be until sometime in July 2022, as relayed by the Quartermaster. To find a possible solution, Officer Burgos learned that the Airport District did have uniform polos available issued as a pilot program at the district. Officer Burgos requested permission to wear the polo shirt temporarily until her regular uniform shirts came in so that she could continue to work patrol. Unfortunately, you decided that the solution would be to have her return to work in civilian clothes and report to desk operations for the next two (2) months or so.

I contacted you on Friday, May 6, 2022, via email, requesting your assistance in resolving this issue, knowing that Officer Burgos would not be returning to work until Tuesday, May 10, 2022. You had three days to find a viable solution. Instead, on Monday, May 9, 2022, the day before Officer Burgos returned to work, you sent two (2) of the district lieutenants to her home to relieve her of her marked police vehicle. The lieutenant informed her that she had to use her private car to come to work. I fail to understand how this was a solution to the issue. Did you feel superior because you wore the polo shirt and did not want another female officer wearing it? Did you become upset with Officer Burgos because she contacted her representative for assistance, specifically PLEA? Did you become upset with Officer Burgos because you could not force her to wear someone else's used uniform in place of allowing her to wear the polos temporarily? Have you decided to include your personal opinions and feelings about a situation above the mission of the Department?

In an atmosphere where more incidents and uncertainty continue to occur, and there is a constant shortage of officers, I do not understand why you would decide to place an officer on the desk when there is a viable solution to keep her on the road.

I'm perplexed why this simple issue had to be relayed to the Director's Office for resolution. Why did your superiors have to order you to do the right thing? - An order that resulted in you returning Officer Burgos' marked police vehicle to her and finding uniform shirts for her. Your action in this situation speaks volumes. Instead of assisting the officer, you decided to "punish" her. You were not thinking about what was in the best interest of the district, the officer, or the Department. Like some, I believe that you have forgotten that as a police Major, you are held to a higher standard and a role model to others.

Domingo Montoute-Howard

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President