



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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November 19, 2014

**FLPD MOURNS LOSS
OF A MEMBER OF THE
MOUNTED UNIT**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is grieving the loss of a member of their Police Mounted Unit, ten year old American Quarter Horse named Thomas Red. Thomas Red served the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Mounted Unit and the Community Resource Unit.

Thomas Red was recently diagnosed with an illness called Laminitis. Laminitis is a painful inflammatory condition of the tissues that bond the hoof wall to the coffin bone in the horse's hoof.

Thomas Red underwent several weeks of intensive therapy and his condition did not improve. On Tuesday, November 18th, the Department's Veterinarian and Mounted Unit staff were forced to make the difficult decision to end his suffering and he was laid to rest.

Thomas Red was ridden by Mounted Unit Sergeant Hugo Fontalvo and Mounted Unit Officers Eric Sweet, Chuck Sierra and Kerri Champagne. His primary duties were patrolling the downtown and beach sectors of the City of Fort Lauderdale and providing additional security during special events. Thomas Red will not be forgotten.

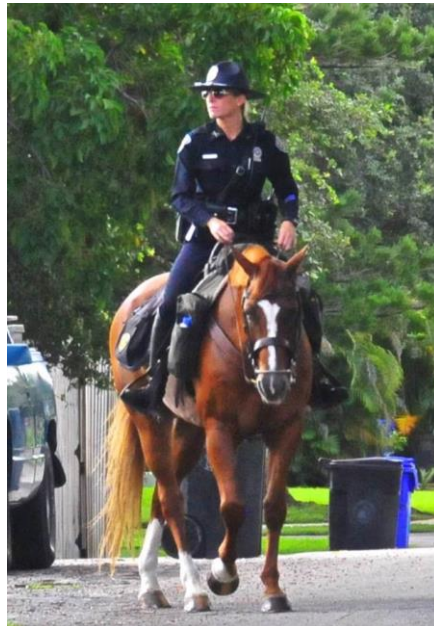


Photo Courtesy of Cal Deal

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P.R.# 2014-088
OR# N/A

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