



CITY OF  
**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
PRESS RELEASE

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**FLPD EMPLOYEES  
RECOGNIZED BY  
THE BROWARD CHIEFS  
OF POLICE ASSOCIATION**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department would like to congratulate two of their employees for being recognized by The Broward Chiefs of Police Association.

The Association has selected Detective Mark Shotwell to be their 2014 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Latent Fingerprint Unit Supervisor Alice Benitez as their 2014 Civilian of the Year.

The Broward Chiefs of Police Association will honor both recipients at their annual luncheon this afternoon. The luncheon is being held at Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale located at 2401 West Cypress Creek Road in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Detective Mark Shotwell was selected for his unwavering heroism shown during an off-duty encounter with an armed individual on July 3, 2014. Detective Shotwell was at Maquires Hill 16 Restaurant when he noticed an altercation between a female employee and her boyfriend. The female, who knew Detective Shotwell prior to this incident, ran to Detective Shotwell for protection and was pursued by her boyfriend. After a very brief verbal exchange, the male discharged his firearm and critically wounded Detective Shotwell. Fearing for his life and the lives of others, Detective Shotwell returned fire and fatally wounded the armed man. This incident clearly illustrates Detective Shotwell's unwavering commitment to serve this community.

Latent Fingerprint Unit Supervisor Alice Benitez was selected for her efforts in the development of a comprehensive plan to improve the efficiency of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Latent Fingerprint Unit. To effectively implement this plan, Alice first identified and acquired grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice. Over the course of approximately four years, more than 5,700 latent prints have been examined leading to the identification of over 500 criminal suspects. Additionally, in October of 2013 Alice's case preparation and testimony during a homicide trial from 2003, in which she recovered the suspect's footprint from the crime scene, contributed to the defendant's conviction and subsequent sentence to death. Alice is therefore recognized for her dedication to duty and commitment to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the community we serve.



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