



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Casey Liening | Office of the Chief | 954-828-5593 | cliening@fortlauderdale.gov

November 18, 2021

FLPD ANNOUNCING FALL 2021 PROMOTIONS

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is proud to announce our most recent promotions of sworn and professional staff.

A promotional ceremony will be held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club, located 1725 Southeast 12th Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. We invite our community and media partners to join us in congratulating the following employees on their promotions.



Assistant Chief Dana Swisher

Dana Swisher started his law enforcement career with Florida Marine Patrol in 1996 and was hired by the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in 1998. During his tenure with FLPD, he has worked in every district as a patrol officer, as a Special Investigations Division narcotics detective, as a motor officer, and as a member of the Tactical Impact Unit. He became a member of the SWAT team in 2000 and left the team in 2016 as Commander. While moving through the ranks at FLPD, Dana served in Patrol, Special Investigations, Internal Affairs and most recently, the Support Services Bureau. Dana has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of South Florida and a master's degree in conflict resolution and management from Nova Southeastern University. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute and the FBI National Academy. Dana is the recipient of five departmental commendations, 20 public commendations and one Professional Service Award.



Major William Schultz

William Schultz has been with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2001. He was most recently assigned as the District Three Patrol Commander. During his tenure with the department, he has held various assignments to include Operations, Special Operations, Operations Support, field training officer, public information officer, and internal affairs investigator. William currently serves as a board member for the Fraternal Order of Police's Health Trust and previously served as a member of the department's Awards Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration with a minor in psychology as well as a master's degree with a tri-concentration in technology, communications and police staff and command from Eastern Michigan University. He is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police. William is the recipient of a State of Florida Governor's Commendation, 20 departmental commendations and 55 public commendations.

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Major Lynette Falzone

Lynette Falzone has served with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2000. During her rise through the ranks at the department, she has served in the Support Services Bureau, Special Investigations Division and Operations Support. She is currently the supervisor of the Peer Support/Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team. Lynette attended Lynn University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, a master's degree in criminal justice administration and a graduate certificate in emergency management and planning. Lynette has attended several leadership programs to include the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Leadership Academy. She is currently serving on the executive board for the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE). Lynette was awarded the 40 under 40 award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). She is the recipient of 10 departmental commendations and 25 public commendations.



Captain Charlie Studders

Charlie Studders has served the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2001, with six years of previous service as a police officer in Michigan. He began his career serving in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer. During his rise through the ranks at the department, he served in all three bureaus including Patrol, the Recruiting Unit, Special Investigations, and as a supervisor of the Community and Traffic Safety Division. His most recent assignment was in the Operations Bureau as a shift lieutenant. Charlie has also served on the department's Crisis Negotiation Team, the Awards Committee, Honor Guard, and the Special Events Team. Charlie has a master's degree in business administration from Liberty University. He is the recipient of six departmental commendations and 37 public commendations.



Captain Edgar Cruz

Edgar Cruz has served the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2002. He began his career serving in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer. During his tenure, he served in the Special Investigations Division's Major Narcotics Unit and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force. Edgar also served in the Office of Internal Affairs and in the Office of the Chief as the Accreditation Manager. He was a member of the department's Honor Guard for 15 years. His most recent assignment was in the Operations Bureau as a patrol lieutenant. Edgar holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from Barry University. He is the recipient of five Officer of Month awards, 31 departmental commendations and 16 public commendations.

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Lieutenant Jeffrey Newman

Jeffrey Newman has been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since January 2002. He served the department in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer and as an officer in the Motor Unit. During his time as a sergeant, he served in the Patrol Division, the Office of the Chief as the Accreditation Manager, in the Operations Support Bureau as the Special Events and Emergency Management supervisor, and the Office of Internal Affairs. He has been a member of the SWAT team since 2003 and currently serves as a team leader, operator, and sniper. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University. He is the recipient of 13 departmental commendations, 21 public commendations, one Professional Service Award, three Unit Citations, a Life Saving Award and an Officer of the Month Award.



Lieutenant Wilgienson Auguste

Wilgienson Auguste has been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2006. He has served in the department's Operations Bureau as a patrol officer and the Special Investigations Division as a narcotics detective assigned to the Street Crimes Division and the South Florida Money Laundering Task Force. Wilgienson was additionally assigned to the Office of Internal Affairs and was previously a member of the department's Crisis Negotiation Team. His most recent assignment was in the Operations Bureau as a road patrol sergeant. Wilgienson currently serves as a reservist in the United States Navy. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from Florida International University. He is the recipient of six departmental commendations and eight public commendations.



Sergeant Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson has served as a member of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2008. He began his career serving in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer. He has since served as a detective in the Special Investigations Division spending time in the Street Crimes Division, Vice Intelligence & Narcotics, and the Tactical Impact Unit. Steve was one of the original members of the Rapid Offender Control Unit in the Street Crimes Division. His most recent assignment was in the Investigations Bureau as a detective in the Drug Enforcement & Vice Unit. Steve has been an active member of the department's SWAT team as an entry team operator since 2014. Steve is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Miami Dade College. He is the recipient of 12 departmental commendations,

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nine public commendations and one Unit Citation. In addition, Steve has received the Officer of the Month award two times during his tenure.



Sergeant Zach Baro

Zach Baro has served as a member of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2004. He initially served in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer and as a field training officer. During his time with the department, Zach worked as a detective in the Special Investigations Division and an officer on the Neighborhood Action Team. His most recent assignment was in the Support Services Bureau as a full-time instructor for the department's Training Unit. Zach has served on the department's SWAT team since 2008 and currently serves as a team leader. Zach has a bachelor's degree in history education from Dana

College in Nebraska. He is the recipient of 12 departmental commendations and 12 public commendations.



Sergeant David Soika

David Soika has served the Fort Lauderdale Police Department since 2003. He began his career serving in the Operations Bureau as a patrol officer. During his tenure, he also served as a member of the Tactical Impact Unit and a narcotics detective in the Street Crimes Division. David has also served as an officer on the Neighborhood Action Team, Marine Unit and as a field training officer. David's most recent assignment was in the Support Services Bureau as a full-time instructor for the department's Training Unit. He has also been a member of the department's SWAT Team since 2005. David has a bachelor's degree in

criminal justice management from Union Institute and University. He is the recipient of 16 departmental commendations, 18 public commendations and a Life Saving Award. Prior to joining the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, David served as a police officer in Ohio for seven years.



Senior Management Analyst Wesley Acosta

Wesley Acosta joined the FLPD team in 2016 as a Crime Analyst I. He was subsequently promoted to Crime Analyst II and later moved to the Office of the Chief, taking the Management Analyst position. In April of 2021, he was promoted to Senior Management Analyst. Wesley serves as the Chairman for the Civilian Professionals Awards Committee and is a graduate of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice with a concentration in forensic behavioral science from Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

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Financial Administrator Maria Herrera

Maria Herrera began her career with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in 2006 as a Clerk Typist. She was promoted to Secretary I and later to Administrative Assistant where she's continued working in Police Finance Unit for three years. In February of 2021, she was promoted to Financial Administrator within the unit. Maria has a Bachelor's of Science in Business from the University of Phoenix and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Barry University. She is the recipient of two departmental commendations and was awarded Civilian of the Month in 2018.



Police Records Supervisor Samantha Reynolds

Samantha started with FLPD in 2014 as a Teletype Operator. She was promoted to Senior Teletype Operator and, most recently, to Police Records Supervisor. Samantha serves as the department's dispatcher for the SWAT team and for special events within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Prior to joining FLPD, Samantha spent 14 years as a City of Fort Lauderdale dispatcher working at the Broward Sheriff's Office Communications Bureau. Samantha has served on the Civilian Professional Awards Committee, and currently serves on the Peer Support Team as well as one of the department's FCIC Agency Coordinators. She has a bachelors in psychology and has completed the academic requirements for a masters in mental health counseling with a concentration in criminal justice. Samantha is the recipient of one departmental commendation.



Senior Records Teletype Operator Razier Mohammed

Razier Mohammed started with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in 2015 as a Teletype operator. Prior to joining FLPD, she worked for six years in the Records Unit at the Gwinnett County Police Department in Georgia. In October 2021, after hard work and dedication to our department, she was promoted to Senior Records Teletype Operator. Razier is a graduate of Dynell's School in Trinidad where she studied accounting. She is a skilled seamstress and is happily married to her husband, Shameel, who she has two children with and a cat named Stinky.



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Evidence Technician Maria Rivera

Maria Rivera joined the FLPD team in 2015 as a Records Clerk. After excelling in her position, Maria was promoted to Evidence Technician. She is responsible for receiving, sorting and securing all property and evidence delivered for handling among other duties. She graduated from American Senior High School. She is certified with the International Property and Evidence, Inc. and is currently in the process of being certified by the Property and Evidence Association of Florida. When she is not working, she is at home with her family and dog, Pebbles.



Digital Evidence Specialist Raphael Bain

Raphael Bain joined the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in September of 2006 as a Public Safety Aide. He attended the Service Aide Academy class of 31 at Broward College. Raphael was assigned to the patrol division and worked in District's Two and Three as well as serving on the department's traffic response team. He then transitioned to the Teletype Unit as a Police Teletype Operator in 2017 and participated in training new police teletype operators. Raphael was promoted to his current role as a Digital Evidence Specialist in the Digital Evidence Unit. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton with a bachelor's degree of public safety administration with a concentration in emergency management. Raphael is currently attending Broward College to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

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