

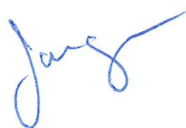
# BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 169-2019

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council  
From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager   
Date: November 15, 2019  
Subject: **Special Recognition Award for Bal Harbour Police Employees,  
Detective Hector Gonzalez, Officer Richard Duarte and Officer Jorge  
Waisman**

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to inform you that Detective Hector Gonzalez, Officer Richard Duarte and Officer Jorge Waisman are the recipients of the coveted Anti-Defamation League (ADL) 2019 Doris and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Award. Annually, this coveted award garners nominees from various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Florida.

The trio of officers were nominated for their relentless follow-up investigation and pursuit in identifying and apprehending the individual who assaulted two groups of Jewish worshippers returning from Sabbath services on March 22, 2019.

This was a very complex follow-up investigation with minimal leads. Hector, Ricky and Jorge collectively gathered evidence and reviewed numerous hours of surveillance cameras from multiple jurisdictions. Their instincts and perseverance resulted in the arrest of the person responsible for this heinous crime.

As you know, Bal Harbour Village made history after becoming the first municipality in the United States to pass an ordinance that adopted an internationally recognized definition of Anti-Semitism in order to ensure the well-being of its Jewish community, while underscoring our police department's commitment to protecting all of the community from hate crimes. This complex case was the first time the ordinance was used to guide a criminal investigation.

The officers will be honored on December 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the ADL's Palm Beach Jurisprudence Awards Dinner.

I commend Hector, Jorge and Ricky for their award and commitment to the safety of our Village, and we are extremely honored that their dedication has been recognized by the ADL.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chief Raleigh Flowers, Jr. directly

JMG/RMF/DM

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

**PAUL O'CONNELL, Chair**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Wilton Manors Police Department

**DAN ALEXANDER**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Boca Raton Police Department

**JOHN BUKATA**  
CHIEF (retired)  
Hillsboro Beach Police Department

**STEVE CASEY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Florida Sheriff's Association

**AL LAMBERTI**  
SHERIFF (retired)  
Broward County Sheriff's Office

**JOHN MINA**  
SHERIFF  
Orange County Sheriff's Office

**ROBERT HARDWICK**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
St. Augustine Beach Police Department

**JAMES T. HURLEY**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Fernandina Beach Police Department

**FRANK KITZEROW**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Palm Beach County School District

**AMY MERCER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Florida Police Chiefs Association

**DOUG MULDOON**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Palm Bay Police Department

**RACHEL ROJAS**  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
FBI, Jacksonville Field Office

**HON. KATHERINE F. RUNDLE**  
STATE ATTORNEY  
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

**ADL MEMBERS**

**BRAD MILHAUSER**  
Chair, ADL Community Security  
Committee

**MICHAEL FREELING**  
Chair, ADL Leadership

**TRACEY LABGOLD**  
ADL Florida Regional Chair

**SHERI ZVI**  
ADL Florida Regional Director

**Yael Hershfield**  
ADL Deputy Regional Director

November 12, 2019

Detective Hector Gonzalez  
Officer Richard Duarte  
Officer Jorge Waisman  
Bal Harbour Police Department  
655 Ninety-Six Street  
Bal Harbour, FL 33154

Dear Detective Gonzalez, Officer Duarte and Officer Waisman,

It is our honor to inform you that you have been selected as this year's recipient of the **ADL's 2019 Doris and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Award- Investigative**.

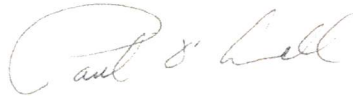
You were nominated for your collective efforts in apprehending and charging an individual who had assaulted members of the Jewish community just because of who they were. We wholeheartedly agree with Chief Raleigh when he wrote: "...their tenacity in pursuing the subject, their commitment to upholding a spirit of the Village's Anti-Semitism Ordinance, and their devotion to the safety of the community they serve." You are most deserving of our admiration and this award.

The Law Enforcement Award ceremony will take place during ADL's Palm Beach Jurisprudence Award Dinner to be held on **Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** at the Kravis Center located at 701 Okeechobee Blvd in West Palm Beach.

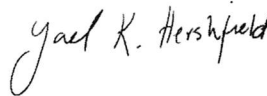
It would be ADL's pleasure to have you and a guest attend this dinner where we will present you with the award.

We celebrate the contributions that all the 2019 ADL's Doris & Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Award nominees have made in taking on the challenges of fighting to end prejudice and minimizing the prevalence and severity of hate-motivated behavior.

Sincerely,



Chief Paul O'Connell, Chair  
Law Enforcement Award Selection Committee



Yael Hershfield  
Deputy Regional Director

CC: Chief Raleigh Flowers, Jr.  
Captain Mauricio Escarra

