



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RICHARD A. RAMSAY, SHERIFF

January 31, 2021

Marathon City Council

Ref: Monroe County Sheriff's Office
City of Marathon
Monthly Report: February 2021

Dear Council,

January was very busy with holidays and traffic. Deputies responded to over 3,900 calls for service this month. Even with COVID issues, Deputies still were able to make 71 arrest and Notice to Appear cases and 7 DUI investigations. Deputies spent a significant amount of time policing the boat ramps. While extremely busy, all were orderly with very little issues. Numerous accidents and pedestrian fatalities have been a huge issue throughout the Keys this month.

Marathon Deputies continue to make an impact in our community with local clean ups and community projects. Most noticeably is 15thst. It has been plagued with non-homeless people who simply want to congregate and drink throughout the day. Numerous complaints have been made about these people and the trash, bodily waste, and loitering in the neighborhood. We have met with these subjects and explained this will no longer be tolerated and they have decided to move on.

No significant crimes or crime trends to report. Marathon has produced over a 50% clearance rate on crimes making this one of the safest places to live in the Keys.

Planning has begun for the 40th Annual 7 mile bridge run scheduled for April 17, 2021.



Crime/Arrest Report:

MCSO21OFF000078: Weapon Offense/BUI

Reported: January 3rd, 2021

Occurred: Ave I Coco Plum

Deputies responded to shots fired at the marina, where they encountered a witness who stated that the suspect, Jimmy Brock, held a firearm up in the air and fired 5 shots. The witness asked Jimmy if he had lost his mind to which Jimmy responded I am not done yet. Jimmy then reloaded his firearm firing 3 more rounds into the air. Jimmy then shut off the lights of his vessel and drove up the channel firing two more rounds into the air. Deputies also observed Jimmy captioning his vessel. Jimmy was safely arrested. He was charged with DUI, discharging a firearm, and resisting arrest.

MCSO21OFF000060: Vessel Burglary

Reported: January 3rd, 2021

Occurred: Isla Bella

The victim stated that (19) fishing rods and reels with a total value of \$8,262 were stolen from his charter vessel overnight. The vessel was open and there was no forced entry. There are no known suspect(s), witnesses, physical evidence, or video evidence. Detective Blanton is investigating this case.

MCSO21OFF000035: Vessel Burglary

Reported: January 2nd, 2021

Occurred: 35 Sombrero Blvd.

The victim reported (3) fishing rods and reels with a total value of \$2850, stolen from his live aboard vessel overnight. There was no forced entry. Detective Bragg is investigating this case and is in the process of interviewing employees of the boat owner.

MCSO21OFF000260: Indecent Exposure

Reported: January 11th, 2021

Occurred: Sombrero Beach Rd.

Deputies responded to a report of a male in a red Dodge Caravan masturbating to young girls on the beach. The suspect was identified as Sekiel Castro Vergel, who admitted to having exposed himself. A witness identified Vergel as who he saw pull his shorts down and masturbating towards girls on the beach. Vergel was arrested on scene and charged with indecent exposure.

MCSO21OFF00228: Identity Theft

Reported: January 9th, 2021

Occurred: 4590 O/S Hwy

The victim reported that his credit/debit cards were used earlier today at Publix and Banana Bay Resort without his knowledge/consent.

Detective O'Neill and Bragg responded to Banana Bay, along with patrol deputies, where they located the suspect, John Lawrence. During a post Miranda interview, Lawrence stated he found the credit cards and gave them to another man to use at Publix in exchange for drugs. Lawrence then proceeded to use the cards to pay for a room at the Banana Bay Resort. Lawrence turned all cards over to Detective O'Neill. The victim declined to press charges. Case closed, exceptional.

MCSO21OFF000235: Criminal Mischief

Reported: January 10th, 2021

Occurred: 65924 O/S Hwy

The victim awoke, to find a swastika spray painted on US1 with an arrow toward her house and another swastika spray painted on her gate. The victim's FLIR security camera on the fence was also painted over, but a Ring camera recorded the incident. Several similar incidents have occurred in the Lower Keys and in Key Largo where the suspect is targeting Trump supporters. A BOLO and a press release has been published based on the suspect image provided by the victim in this case. Detective O'Neill is investigating and continues to gather evidence, but a suspect has not yet been identified.

MCSO21OFF00372: Weapon Offense

Reported: January 17th, 2021

Occurred: Channel 5 Bridge

Deputies responded to a report of shots fired, whereupon they encountered witnesses and the suspect, identified as Eduardo Maqueira, who all stated that the victim hid and then charged at Maqueira in an attempt to prank him. Maqueira, being armed, discharged his weapon in fear. The victim was struck by a single shot in his abdomen. The victim was flown to Jackson South where he is said to be in critical, but stable condition. Major Crimes detectives responded to the scene and are investigating this case. No arrest has been made.

MCSO21OFF00354: Child Abuse

Reported: January 16th, 2021

Occurred: 53rd Street Ocean

Deputies responded to a report of a two YOA child alone in the street. Deputies located the child's parents, identified as Matis Vilkis and Laura Lubiane, who stated that they left their child home alone while they went to their office because they did not think the child could get out of the house by herself. Vilkis and Lubiane were arrested on scene, charged with child neglect.

Marine Unit



Search and rescue of 3 overdue kayakers found off Marathon



On January 21 2021 I responded to 13155 overseas Hwy in Marathon Florida to assist Deputy Wales 5213 on a traffic stop. Upon my arrival, I inspected the cooler and observed 15 spiny lobster tails inside. An inspection of the lobster tails revealed that 10 Ten of the 15 Fifteen spiny lobster tails were under sized measuring under 5 1/2 inches. In a post Miranda statement interview with vehicle owner Juan Avila, he stated that the lobster where given to him by a friend and that he was going to give them away in Miami. Subject Avila was issued a resource NTA for possession of 10 undersized spiny lobster. The 10 Ten undersized spiny lobster tails were returned back to the ocean (see my BWC), the remaining 5 spiny lobster tails were returned back to Subject Juan Avilia

Community involvement



15th Street easement before and after.



Deputies Diaz and Douthirt presented a Commendation letter to the Winn Dixie manager for their contributions during the holidays.



Sgt. Elmore, Deputy Onsgard and Dep. Moreno picked up appx. 12 signs illegally posted on US-1 right-of-way in Dist. 4 and 5. Most were for an event happening in Homestead.

Personnel and Budget:

Currently 2 deputies down with one in training. No budget concerns at this time.

Respectfully,

Capt. Don Hiller