



VILLAGE OF PINECREST  
Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Pinecrest Police Department is recognized for innovation by the  
Florida Police Chief's Association*

**Pinecrest, FL** – The Pinecrest Police Department won the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award for creating a digital solution for sharing Be On the Look Out (BOLO) fliers.

The Rocky Pomerance Award recognizes excellence in policing and encourages the sharing of best practices and programs developed to address community problems. A practitioner and visionary, Chief Rocky Pomerance, was the Chief of Police of Miami Beach, Florida, from early 1950's through 1977.

Projects were evaluated in several areas including project selection, analysis techniques, solutions and results. Consideration was given to how well the solution identified the problem the project addressed, how solutions were developed and implemented, and how the agency intended to institutionalize the project to ensure it will have enduring results.

The Pinecrest Police Department used technology to solve two problems that presently exist with BOLO sharing. The first was to find a way to share a BOLO over a broader spectrum, instantly reaching vastly greater numbers of officers, and the second involves doing so with speed.

A web-based BOLO solution was created in partnership with the Florida International University School of Computing and Information Sciences. Two teams of FIU senior

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students worked together to develop a Capstone Project, which is the culmination of all the courses and studies they've been exposed to during their time at FIU. The project is designed to test their knowledge, ingenuity, patience and imagination.

The new initiative, which was conceptualized by Pinecrest Police Chief Samuel Ceballos, Jr. will soon make it possible for police officers to create BOLO fliers in the field in real-time and instantly disseminate BOLOs to all sworn personnel in Miami-Dade County.

The Pinecrest Police Department has embraced technology and has been using it as a transformational tool. A significant number of the police department's routine functions have benefited from advancements in technology. In fact, almost every internal process was improved with the use of digital technology and software programs.

Chief Ceballos believes wireless technology and mobile devices hold the greatest promise for a 21st century paradigm shift - a shift from policing practices engrained in our police culture for over half a century.

BOLO fliers in Miami-Dade will soon be created, disseminated, and shared across jurisdictions in real-time from a desktop computer, mobile data terminal, computer tablet or smart phone. This web-based BOLO flier solution improves services, makes the most effective use of resources, and enhances communication within and cooperation among law enforcement partners. It is a creative and innovative approach that raises the quality and effectiveness of law enforcement and improves services to the community.

"I am thrilled that we successfully developed an innovative idea, which I believe will contribute, in a meaningful way, to the Miami-Dade Police Department's Real Time Crime Center," said Chief Ceballos in a Florida Police Chief's Association press release. "I look forward to collaborating with the leaders of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police to implement the web-based BOLO solution, and I am grateful to Florida International University for turning our vision into reality."

Chief Ceballos chairs an ad hoc committee of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police that was established by the association to move the project from the current development phase into production on a secure platform, which will allow full implementation in the near future.

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