

Broward Sheriff's Office  
2601 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312  
(954) 831-8900 • www.sheriff.org



January 31, 2007

**Colonel Christopher Knight, Director  
Florida Highway Patrol Headquarters  
Neil Kirkman Building  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

**Dear Colonel Knight:**

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the excellent work of the Florida Highway Patrol S.W.A.T. Team under the command of Captain Sammie Thomas. During a recent multi-agency Auto Theft Task Force operation, they were instrumental in the securing and maintaining of a perimeter while the Task Force effectively dismantled an organized motorcycle theft ring.

The Broward County Sheriff's Office, Strategic Investigations Division, Auto Theft Task Force and Task Force members from the Florida Highway Patrol identified an organized group that was operating in South Florida and the Caribbean. This group was responsible for the theft of hundreds of motorcycles, generally consisting of the 2005/2006 models. The motorcycles ranged in price between eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) and twenty three thousand dollars (\$23,000). These motorcycles were dismantled and brokered at a far less than fair market value. Many of these motorcycles were exported to the Caribbean and reassembled for illegal profit. The Task Force infiltrated this organization and identified the active members operating within South Florida and the Caribbean.

On August 12, 2006, the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Highway Patrol S.W.A.T. Teams, as well as the Miami-Dade Police Department, City of Miami Police Department, National Insurance Crime Bureau, and the Hollywood Police Department successfully dismantled this illegal operation. The success of this operation, code name "Fish Net," resulted in seven (7) Arrest Warrants, four (4) Search Warrants and two (2) Consent Searches.

Colonel Christopher Knight, Director

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Operation "Fish Net" targets were charged in State Court with Racketeering, Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering, Dealing in Stolen Property, Possession of Motor Vehicle with Altered V.I.N., Possession of Burglary Tools, Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, Operating a Chop Shop and the seizure and confiscation of motorcycles and property valued over one hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$110,000).

This investigation would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication. There is no doubt that the successful outcome of this case was a direct result of their persevering efforts, professionalism and outstanding dedication to duty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector M. Pesquera", followed by a horizontal line.

LT. Colonel Hector M. Pesquera, Director  
Regional Support and Investigations Bureau

HP/KB/mm