



Hollywood Fire Rescue and Beach Safety Department PERSONAL RECOGNITION



On:4/27/2024

Employee: Kenneth Soto

Was noted to have demonstrated a professional or selfless act while:

Dealing with the public

During a class or drill

During routine drills

Other

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Re: On Saturday April 27th, Marine Safety Officer Kenny Soto saved the lives of five people under extraordinary conditions and circumstances. On that Saturday, Hollywood Beach Safety had already rescued several people from the ocean due to worsening ocean conditions and heavy crowds. At 1800, all units were instructed to close their towers and return to headquarters. While in route from his assigned tower to headquarters, MSO Soto noticed five young men struggling in a rip current at Tyler St. He radioed to his Lieutenant and then entered the ocean knowing his backup was going to be significantly delayed. Armed with minimum equipment, a buoy and swim fins, he managed to secure all five victims in the water. He directed the two strongest swimmers to swim back to shore while he towed the other three victims with one buoy. By the time MSO Soto's backup arrived, all five victims were back on shore needing no medical attention. MSO Soto is one of our most knowledgeable and physically fit Marine safety officers. On Saturday, his skills were put to the ultimate lifeguarding test, and he succeeded in spectacular fashion. It is without a doubt he changed the lives of five people; young victims that would have drowned in the ocean now can live the remainder of their lives with only a bad memory.

Officer: Marine Safety Chief, Joyce Fuhrman

Date:5/2/2024

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