



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
DISTRICT 8 (VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON) – DETECTIVE BUREAU

TO: Wellington Public Safety Committee
(Via Chain-of-Command)

DATE: 05-07-2025

FROM: Sergeant Michael Donovan

SUBJECT: Top Cop Nomination – Detective Michael Barbusio #29006

I am proud to nominate **Detective Michael Barbusio** for the **2025 Village of Wellington Top Cop award** in recognition of his exceptional service, professionalism, and investigative skill. He consistently exemplifies the highest standards of law enforcement and fully embodies what it means to be a “Top Cop.”

Detective Barbusio has over eight years of law enforcement experience, including the past six serving the Village of Wellington, where he also resides. Known for his tireless work ethic and investigative expertise, he is frequently called upon to assist local, state, and federal partners. His contributions and collaborative efforts are second to none.

In 2024, Detective Barbusio led or co-led 134 cases, including vehicle and residential burglaries, retail thefts, and fraud. His efforts resulted in a 31.3% clearance rate — more than double the national average of 13.9% for property crimes.

One particularly complex case highlights his investigative skill and tenacity. The case began with the theft of three luxury vehicles from a seasonal resident’s home. Despite the challenges posed by the victim residing in a different time zone, Detective Barbusio quickly recovered one vehicle in Lake Worth Beach and developed a suspect who was apprehended in Wellington driving a separate stolen vehicle. His subsequent investigation linked the suspect to multiple residential burglaries within the village. Consent to search the victim’s residence led to the discovery of the suspect’s personal vehicle hidden in the garage, and evidence showed the suspect had changed the home’s locks. Further investigation into the suspect’s social media revealed posts referring to the residence as her “new home” and listings of stolen property matching items from a third burglary. A residential search warrant resulted in the recovery of evidence from all three burglary scenes, including the altered door locks.

The suspect was ultimately charged with four residential burglaries, three stolen vehicles, and multiple theft-related offenses. Although offered a plea deal of seven years, the suspect declined and now faces up to 140 years in prison with all cases set for trial — a result made possible through Detective Barbusio’s exemplary work.

Detective Barbusio’s dedication to solving crime, serving his community, and supporting fellow law enforcement professionals makes him truly deserving of this recognition. I wholeheartedly recommend him for the **2025 Village of Wellington Top Cop award**.