

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

District 8 – Wellington

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

DATE: April 14, 2026

FROM: Sergeant Michael Donovan

SUBJECT: Top Cop Nomination - Detective Michael Barbusio #29006

I am submitting this memorandum to formally recognize the exemplary service and performance of Detective Michael Barbusio, who has demonstrated exceptional investigative skill, professionalism, dedication and qualities that embody the very essence of the “Top Cop” distinction.

Detective Barbusio brings over nine years of law enforcement experience, including the past seven years serving the Village of Wellington, where his family calls home. Throughout his career, his relentless work ethic and superior investigative abilities have distinguished him among his peers. He consistently provides valuable guidance and assistance to numerous local, and state law enforcement agencies.

In Detective Barbusio’s first two years as a detective, he was been the lead or co-lead investigator on over 250 cases, covering vehicle burglaries, residential burglaries, business burglaries, retail theft, arsons and fraud.

One notable investigation involved a residential burglary in which three high-end vehicles were stolen from a garage. The case presented unique challenges, as the victim was a seasonal resident, located several time zones away. One of the stolen vehicles was quickly recovered after being abandoned in the City of Lake Worth Beach. A suspect was subsequently identified and arrested while operating another stolen vehicle in the Village of Wellington.

As the investigation progressed, the suspect was linked to multiple additional residential burglaries within Wellington. Detectives obtained consent to search one victim’s residence, where they discovered the suspect’s personal vehicle concealed in the garage. Further examination revealed that several interior and exterior door locks had been changed. A review of the suspect’s social media accounts uncovered posts referring to a second victim’s residence as her “new home.” Additional posts depicted items for sale that matched property reported stolen in a third residential burglary.

Based on this evidence, detectives obtained a residential search warrant for the suspect’s home. The search resulted in the recovery of stolen property from all three burglaries, including the replaced locks from the Aero Club residence. The suspect was ultimately charged with four residential burglaries, three counts of grand theft auto, and multiple additional theft-related offenses. A plea offer of seven years’ imprisonment

was extended and declined; the suspect now faces a potential sentence of up to 97 years as the cases proceed to the court process.

Detective Barbusio's passion for investigative excellence, commitment to crime suppression, and dedication to serving the community are evident in every aspect of his work. The totality of these outstanding attributes makes me proud to nominate him, without reservation, for the prestigious "Top Cop" award.