MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Subject: **ARSON & CRIMINAL MISCHIEF SUSPECT**

The suspect who was wanted for setting fire to a Miami Police vehicle under I-95 outside Police Headquarters on May 30, 2020 has been identified and located. On June 4, 2020, Giovanni Franchesko Fernandez (DOB: 05/27/1982) was transported to a local hospital via Fire-Rescue, following an unrelated medical episode. A citizen contacted law enforcement after recognizing Mr. Fernandez, whose photograph had been broadcast through numerous media outlets, and provided law enforcement with Mr. Fernandez's whereabouts. Upon his release from the hospital, Mr. Fernandez will be facing state charges for arson, criminal mischief, and inciting a riot, along with other federal charges.

We would like to thank the members of the media for broadcasting Mr. Fernandez's photograph, the members of the public who recognized the seriousness of Mr. Fernandez's crimes and contacted law enforcement with whatever information they could provide, and our federal law enforcement partners who continue to support our efforts in this investigation. The Miami Police Department fully supports the rights of all persons to peacefully protest, but we will not tolerate acts of violence and destruction of property. We will, with the help of our community, identify the persons responsible for such acts and hold them accountable.

Anyone with information of suspects which vandalized business or vehicles is urged to contact the Miami Police Department at (305) 579-6111. Those with information that wish to remain anonymous can contact Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at (305) 471- TIPS (8477), visit www.crimestoppersmiami.com and select "Give a Tip" or Send a text message to 274637. Enter CSMD followed by the tip information and press send.

Prepared by: **Ofc. Michael Vega**
Reviewed by: **Cmdr. F. Cruz II**
Case: **N/A**
Transmittal Date: **June 9, 2020**

Jorge R. Colina, Chief of Police