

## MARCH 2026 OFFICER OF THE MONTH

### OFFICER MATT BENNETT

It is an honor to recognize **Officer (Ofc.) Matt Bennett** as the Tampa Police Department's **Officer of the Month** for **March 2026**.

Ofc Bennett's recognition is a result of responding directly to residential concerns and quality-of-life complaints. He moved beyond standard patrol and spearheaded a comprehensive, multi-department, multi-agency initiative he titled "*Operation Clean Up 50th Street*" that improved the safety and spirit of the community.

Ofc Bennett personally engaged with approximately 20 local business owners, fostering the vital trust and partnership needed for effective community-oriented policing.

By securing eight new trespass authorizations, he empowered business owners with the legal tools necessary to pro-actively address loitering and criminal activity concerns on their properties.

The operation led to the trespassing of 90 individuals from private and FDOT properties, along with 38 arrests: *with 22 felony and 49 misdemeanor charges overall.*

Ofc Bennett's efforts also resulted in the seizure of a firearm and a significant amount of illegal narcotics, including cocaine, Fentanyl, and synthetic cannabinoids.

Through this initiative, criminals with active warrants were successfully apprehended and the local delivery of illegal narcotics was disrupted, creating a safer environment for our residents.

Demonstrating an all-hands-on-deck commitment to the area, he also coordinated with other City of Tampa departments to clear debris from roadways and public land, addressing some of the environmental concerns shared with him by the community.

Ofc Bennett's tireless work ethic, community policing, and proactive leadership serve as a benchmark for excellence in the Tampa Police Department. His dedication to his "Operation Clean Up 50th Street" initiative reflects the very best of our mission to protect and serve in partnership with our community.



LEE BERCAU  
CHIEF OF POLICE