



Vero Beach Police Department

Memorandum

To: Chief David E. Currey

From: Lieutenant Phil Huddy

Subject: Annual Administrative Fair and Impartial Policing Review

Date: 01/15/21

Cancellation Date:

In accordance with the Commission for Florida Accreditation Version 5.12 (Standard 2.06M) and Vero Beach Police Department General Order #79.26 (Traffic Stops and Biased Policing), an annual review concerning biased policing for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 has been conducted.

CFA V5.12, Standard 2.06M, requires that the agency have a written directive that prohibits biased policing in accordance with Florida Statute and includes the following provisions:

- A. Training agency enforcement personnel in fair and impartial policing including legal aspects; in accordance with Florida Statutes;
- B. Corrective measures if biased policing occurs;
- C. Definitions of biased policing;
- D. Community education and awareness efforts;
- E. A documented annual administrative review of traffic stop procedures related to fair and impartial policing; and
- F. Handling of complaints from the public.

The results of this assessment are as follows:

- A review of training records verified that (9) officers completed FDLE's Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops course in 2020, which covers legal aspects in accordance with CJSTC guidelines. This training is part of the mandatory retraining required every four years by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.
- A review of General Order 79 (Traffic Stops and Biased Policing) verified that it contains language prohibiting biased policing in accordance with F.S.S 166.0493 and language regarding corrective measures to be implemented if biased policing occurs. The review also confirmed that General Order 79 defines biased policing. The Vero Beach Police Department did not receive any complaints of biased policing during 2020.





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- A statement prohibiting biased policing, which models the Florida Police Chiefs Association Policy, is posted in the lobby of The Vero Beach Police Department and on the website to notify and educate members of the community. This statement includes an explanation on how to report concerns regarding biased policing. In addition, a copy of this administrative review will be posted on the department's website.

Statistical Data

Department Stats	N	White	Percent	Black	Percent	Other	Percent
Total Arrests	525	421	80.19%	99	18.85%	5	0.95%

Department Statistics	#	White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
Use of Force	11	9	81.81%	2	18.18%	0	0%	0	0%
Forfeiture & Seizures	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Subject of Search Warrants	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Traffic Citations	1992	1425	71.53%	346	17.36%	204	10.24%	17	.85%
Traffic Warnings	2578	2085	80.87%	390	15.12%	85	3.29%	18	.69%

*The data displayed above was gathered from multiple sources. Arrest and traffic data were gathered from Logisys, the department's RMS system. Use of Force and Forfeiture data were collected from the Detective Division and search warrant information was gathered from the Special Investigations Unit.

Comparison to Population Statistics

The statistics compiled above were compared to the population of Vero Beach, Indian River County and cities to the north and south of Vero Beach, since Vero Beach is the county seat. Due to the transient traffic that passes through Vero Beach, Ft. Pierce was also included in the





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population statistics due to its proximity to the city. Statistics were gathered from the 2010 U.S. Census using the following sites: (www.usacityfacts.com & www.factfinder.census.gov)

Population Statistic	White	Black	Hispanic
United States	72.4%	12.6%	16.3%
State of Florida	75.0%	16.0%	22.5%
Indian River County	84.3%	9.0%	11.2%
Vero Beach	87.5%	4.8%	10.7%
Sebastian	90.5%	5.3%	7%
Ft. Pierce	45.3%	40.9%	21.6%
Fellsmere	55.2%	5.4%	81.1%

The following information can be garnered through a comparison of the Vero Beach Police Department statistics and the population statistics. The percentage of white demographic in all categories except search warrants was similar to the percentage of the population. The percentage of Hispanic demographic in all categories was lower than their percentage of the population. The percentage of black demographic in all categories was moderately higher than their percentage of the population with exception to subject of search warrants. One forfeiture/seizure occurred during 2020; therefore, no conclusion can be made for this statistic as it relates to biased policing. There were no major changes from 2019 to 2020.

Conclusion:

While statistics for the black demographic are higher than their population statistics for Vero Beach in all categories, this disparity is minimized when compared to the population of Indian River County and surrounding cities. This is also the final year using the 2010 U.S. Census data, so it is unclear how the population demographics may have changed over the course of the last ten (10) years. Based on a review of the use of force, search warrants, forfeitures and traffic data, this analysis concluded that the Vero Beach Police Department is in compliance with accreditation standards and with state legislation prohibiting biased policing. This was accomplished by a review of specific use of force cases and search warrants, as well as the continued practice as outlined in General Order #79.24, which states: Commanders/Supervisors shall review biased policing complaints, periodically review a sampling of in-car video tapes of stops, reports filed on stops by officers, and respond, at random, to back up officers on vehicle stops, and shall take appropriate action whenever it appears that this policy is being violated, being particularly alert to any pattern or practice of possible discriminatory treatment by individual officers or squads.

