



Vero Beach Police Department

Memorandum

To: Chief David E. Currey

From: Lieutenant Phil Huddy

Subject: Annual Administrative Fair and Impartial Policing Review

Date: 01/31/23

Cancellation Date:

N/A

In accordance with the Commission for Florida Accreditation Version 5.17 (Standard 2.06M) and Vero Beach Police Department General Order #79.26 (Traffic Stops and Fair and Impartial Policing), an annual review concerning biased policing for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 has been conducted.

CFA Version 5.17, 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 nine (9) officers completed FDLE's Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops course in 2022, 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 2022.





Vero Beach Police Department Memorandum

- 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 | 570 | 389 | 68.77% | 113 | 19.82% | 65 | 11.40% |

| Department Statistics | # | White | % | Black | % | Hispanic | % | Other | % |
|----------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------|
| Use of Force | 8 | 6 | 75% | 1 | 12.50% | 1 | 12.50% | 0 | 0% |
| Forfeiture & Seizures | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Subject of Search Warrants | 2 | 1 | 50% | 1 | 50% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Traffic Citations | 1840 | 1280 | 69.57% | 321 | 17.44% | 207 | 11.25% | 32 | 1.73% |
| Traffic Warnings | 1956 | 1384 | 70.76% | 378 | 19.33% | 180 | 9.20% | 14 | 0.72% |

*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





Vero Beach Police Department

Memorandum

population statistics due to its proximity to the city. Statistics were gathered from the 2020 U.S. Census using the following sites: (www.census.gov/quickfacts/ & www.datausa.io)

| Population Statistic | White | Black | Hispanic |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| United States | 76.3% | 13.4% | 18.5% |
| State of Florida | 77.3% | 16.9% | 26.4% |
| Indian River County | 86.7% | 9.6% | 12.7% |
| Vero Beach | 85.0% | 8.5% | 9.1% |
| Sebastian | 92.0% | 4.8% | 5.8% |
| Ft. Pierce | 53.1% | 41.4% | 22.8% |
| Fellsmere | 12.7% | 11.6% | 68.1% |

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 was similar to the percentage of the population. The percentage of Hispanic demographic in three (3) categories was slightly higher than their percentage of the population. The percentage of black demographic in all categories was moderately higher than their percentage of the population. Due to there being a small sample size, as it relates to search warrants (Two in 2022); no conclusion can be made for this statistic as it relates to biased policing. The Vero Beach Police Department did not have any forfeitures/seizures during 2022.

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. The Vero Beach Police Department will monitor this disparity in the black and Hispanic demographic in 2024 to see if the percentages continue to increase and determine if corrective action needs to be taken in the future. 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 and body camera footage 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.

