



Vero Beach Police Department

Memorandum

To: Chief David E. Currey

From: Lieutenant Phil Huddy

Subject: Annual Administrative Fair and Impartial Policing Review

Date: 01/31/24

Cancellation Date:

N/A

In accordance with the Commission for Florida Accreditation Version 5.21 (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, 2023 through December 31, 2023 has been conducted.

CFA Version 5.21, 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 thirty-four (34) officers completed FDLE's Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops course in 2023, 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 2023.





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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	487	386	79.26%	96	19.71%	5	1.02%

Department Statistics	#	White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
Use of Force	26	14	53.85%	9	34.62%	3	11.54%	0	0%
Forfeiture & Seizures	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Subject of Search Warrants	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Traffic Citations	1526	1240	81.26%	268	17.56%	207	13.56%	18	1.18%
Traffic Warnings	2702	1912	70.76%	451	16.69%	284	10.51%	47	1.74%

*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 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 the white demographic in all categories was similar to the percentage of the population. The percentage of the Hispanic demographic was similar, or slightly lower, in all categories than their percentage of the population. The percentage of the black demographic in all categories was moderately higher than their percentage of the population. However, the percentage of black motorists being stopped for traffic infractions did decrease from the previous year. Due to there being a small sample size, as it relates to search warrants (One in 2023); 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 2023.

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 continue to monitor this disparity in the black 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 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





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appears that this policy is being violated, being particularly alert to any pattern or practice of possible discriminatory treatment by individual officers or squads.

h/EC
2/13/24

