

Memorandum



Date: May 2, 2013

To: Honorable Vice-Chair Lynda Bell
Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Agricultural Patrol Section – Miami-Dade Police Department

The following information is being provided in response to your recent memorandum concerning the staffing levels at the Miami-Dade Police Department's Agricultural Patrol Section (APS).

In April 2012, the staffing of APS was reduced due to budget constraints. A total of one sergeant and eight officer positions were eliminated; the remaining patrol staff consisted of two sergeants and 11 officers. With this reduction of staff, changes in staff duty hours between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. were made to maximize the amount of time personnel were available for calls. APS personnel hours between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. were transferred to the uniform districts with agricultural areas. These districts were tasked with responding to agricultural related calls during these time periods. During the period from April 2012 to November 2012, uniform units responded to six calls during the hours when APS units were not available.

The decision to adjust the staffing of APS was not made lightly and we recognize what an important industry and economic engine agriculture is, especially in the southern part of the County. At this time, the amount of calls-for-service requested between the non-covered hours do not justify allocating additional personnel to APS and it has been determined that it is more cost effective having on-duty personnel responding when needed. Should these conditions change, MDPD will be ready to review the calls-for-service and frequency of agricultural related crimes and reassign officers as needed.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact J.D. Patterson, Jr., Director, Miami-Dade Police Department, at 305-471-3272.

C: Genaro "Chip" Iglesias, Deputy Mayor
J.D. Patterson, Jr., Director, Miami-Dade Police Department