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Civilian Police Oversight is Valuable in Miami-Dade County:

When surveying police departments in Miami-Dade County, the ICP found that approximately half had publicly accessible information on how to file a complaint. Leaving citizens without clear direction or guidance on where or how to submit a complaint.

Civilian Police Oversight Strengthens Democracy:

- a. Traditionally, policing exists outside democracy. We don't get to vote on or even know their strategies, how they spend their money, how they discipline officers. Police oversight is a way for civilians to be part of the police decision-making structure.
 - Why doesn't this work anymore? Police need legitimacy. If a community and the police are not aligned about what we want the police to do and how we want them to do it, the police can't perform well. Police need community and community needs power.
 - Police Accountability is a long-term strategy of slowing shifting systems to share power and authority.
 - No agency starts off having all the power and access to information that a community might desire it to have. Over time, from careful observation and consistent accountability, people get more and more access and power.

There is no need to fear civilian police accountability:

- Two bills in the state legislature are proposing a ban on cities deciding to have their police accountability mechanism for their police department:
 - House Bill 601 was introduced by Florida House of Representative Wyman Duggan (District 12) on November 21, 2023. The bill seeks to prohibit municipalities or other political subdivisions of the state to pass or enforce any ordinance or rule relating to the receipt, processing, or investigation of complaints of misconduct by law enforcement officers and correctional officers.
 - Senate Bill 576 was introduced by Senator Blaise Ingoglia (District 11) on November 27, 2023. The proposal prohibits political subdivisions from adopting or attempting to enforce any ordinance relating to civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies' investigations of complaints of misconduct by law enforcement or correctional officers.
- There is no need for police officers to fear civilian oversight.
 - We spend most of our money on our police departments. Does it make sense to invest that much money and the power over life in death and then not check on our investment?
 - Many professions use independent oversight: medicine, construction, and governments.
 - Oversight is focused on solving systemic problems.



Miami-Dade County
Independent Civilian Panel

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Police Departments and Police Officers Benefit from Independent Police Accountability:

- Power structures inside police departments can harm officers. Patterns of sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender, and racial discrimination impact officers' working conditions and the public's experience of police services. Police Accountability organizations help detect and prevent those behaviors.
- Mediation programs and other police-community relations activities strengthen relationships and resource officers to solve crimes.
- Oversight agencies can help improve the quality of the department's internal investigations of alleged misconduct.
 - Helps agency management develop investigations that stand up to appeal, litigation, and public scrutiny.
 - Helps officers enjoy a more reliable, fair, and transparent accountability process.
- Complainants are given a place to voice concerns outside of the law enforcement agency.
- The community at large can be reassured that discipline is being imposed when appropriate, while also increasing the transparency of the disciplinary process.
- Oversight agencies can help increase the public's understanding of law enforcement policies and procedures.
- Oversight agencies can improve department policies and procedures, supporting the department in giving officers strong guidance.





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Civilian Police Oversight

Is	Is Not
A way to stop disrespectful police practices	A way to “get rid” of a disrespectful officer
A way to work with the police department to make it better	A way to attack the police department
A way to complaint about the police without going to the police	A way to avoid the police accountability system. Police MUST investigate their own.
A way to change police policy (the rules that govern police)	A way to get a different outcome in an individual situation
A way to weigh in on policing strategy	A way to control policing targets
A way to work with others to help yourself	A way to get help
A way to get information/create information about police	A way to have a special relationship with the police that gets you access that others can’t have

II. Our Priorities:

- To preserve the rights of communities to establish their own Police Accountability Agencies and preserve the police accountability mechanisms we’ve created.
- To educate the legislature, our families, friends, and neighbors on the benefits of police accountability and the risks of removing it.

