Together We Are One...

Miami-Dade Police Department

...in partnership with our community

2018 EDITION
Mission Statement

THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Will commit its resources in partnership with the community to:

• Promote a safe and secure environment, free from crime and the fear of crime,
• Maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic,
• Practice our core values of integrity, respect, service, and fairness.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is the hallmark of the Miami-Dade Police Department and we are committed to the highest performance standards, ethical conduct, and truthfulness in all relationships.

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions and take pride in a professional level of service and fairness to all.

RESPECT

We treat all persons in a dignified and courteous manner, and exhibit understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity, both in our professional and personal endeavors.

We guarantee to uphold the principles and values embodied in the constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida.

SERVICE

We provide quality service in a courteous, efficient, and accessible manner.

We foster community and employee involvement through problem-solving partnerships.

FAIRNESS

We treat all people impartially, with consideration and compassion.

We are equally responsive to our employees and the community we serve.
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As the largest police organization within the Southeastern United States, serving over 2.7 million residents, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) continues to be recognized as one of the finest law enforcement organizations due to our professionalism, dedication, and commitment to the safety of the citizens of Miami-Dade County (MDC). Because of our geographic location, MDC is one of the world’s most frequented tourist destinations. Its cruising industry, world famous beaches, international airport, and numerous sporting venues attract more than 14 million visitors each year.

Keeping our community safe remains our top priority. Community involvement is critical in order to actively address crime trends and quality of life issues. The MDPD participates in community presentations and outreach events, providing an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction, which allows its officers and staff to engage in relationship building, thus maintaining public confidence.

The MDPD is expanding its police resources and programs by forging new community partnerships regarding important local issues; crime, mental health and addiction, and public safety. The Threat Management Team has been established within the Special Victims Bureau and is tasked with monitoring and providing services to high-risk individuals with mental illness and following up on threats that have potential to escalate.

Due to the requirements of the School Safety Act, signed into law in early 2018, the MDPD will provide staffing to more than 100 public schools, enhancing the security of school campuses throughout the community. This will provide us an opportunity to collaborate with students and staff to provide a safe learning environment and establish relationships between officers, students, and school personnel.

MDPD maintains the distinction of being innovative in its crime fighting strategies, high-level of training, and youth-oriented initiatives. Technology advances have been significant. The “See Something, Say Something” anonymous online citizen reporting system encourages citizens to report suspicious activities. With our effective use of Intelligence led policing, we are able to rapidly extract information from multiple crime databases, to include License Plate Reader, ShotSpotter, and social media, enabling us to keep our crime rates at a low level.

This report will highlight many of the successful programs and innovations within the agency. Most importantly, it will feature the work product of the outstanding men and women of our Department who “change lives for the better, making a difference.”

None of the successes would be possible without the personal sacrifices of many. Behind the tradition and greatness of the Department, many made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the community. We take pride in their courage, and vow that they shall never be forgotten. We now invite you to enjoy our proud accomplishments and efforts that uphold the core values of Integrity, Respect, Service, and Fairness.
Command Staff

Miami-Dade Police Department
The Director is responsible for ensuring the citizens of MDC receive professional and efficient police services. He formulates plans and policies, coordinates departmental operations, and provides managerial leadership.

The Deputy Director; the Police Legal Bureau; the Professional Compliance Bureau; and the Public Information and Education Bureau report directly to the Director’s office.

(Top, left) Director Juan J. Perez supports the fight against breast cancer during the “Real Men Wear Pink” fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. He also leads the MDPD Police Power in Pink Team, which raises thousands of dollars each year for this most worthwhile cause.

(Top, right) Director Juan J. Perez delivers a statement on behalf of the Department during a press conference.

(Bottom, left) Director Juan J. Perez offers condolences during a press conference on behalf of MDPD regarding a tragedy at a local university.
The Police Legal Bureau (PLB) provides in-house legal counsel to the Director and the Department. The Bureau ensures that the Department is advised of current legal issues, statutory changes and case law of particular significance to law enforcement; prosecutes state civil forfeiture actions, and administers the federal asset forfeiture program; reviews discipline documents and internal investigations; assists in the drafting, lobbying and passage of new laws and legislative amendments that promote law enforcement objectives; provides legal review, and legislatively administers via the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Memoranda of Understanding, Mutual Aid Agreements, and other contracts with its law enforcement partner agencies and jurisdictions, as well as, with private entities; provides training to the Department; issues written and oral legal opinions; publishes Legal Notes and Legal Bulletins regarding important statutory revisions and court decisions; publishes Legal Tips of the Day for dissemination to all Department staff through e-mail distribution; coordinates discovery and other civil litigation matters with the County Attorney’s Office; manages the Department’s Diversion and Community Service Program; prosecutes all of the Department’s civil citations; manages the Nuisance Abatement Unit; and edits the Florida Law Enforcement Handbook.

Recently, the National Association of Counties (NACo) granted MDC a 2018 Achievement Award in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety for the “MDPD Legal Tip of the Day.” The Legal Tip of the Day Program, created by the PLB in January 2016 as a refresher training program for police personnel, continues to serve as a popular training method, and is embraced by both rookie and veteran officers, as well as, civilian personnel. The tips, sent to all staff via e-mail distribution, address issues relevant to law enforcement and policing in a concise, easy-to-understand format. The MDPD Legal Tip of the Day has expanded by popular demand and is currently shared with officers and command personnel of other police agencies.

In the past year, MDPD seized, and the PLB successfully litigated, more than $100,000 in forfeited assets that were awarded to the MDPD Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

The PLB’s role in the expansion of the County’s Civil Citation Program, to include misdemeanor marijuana possession, has impacted the criminal justice system dramatically, and specifically the MDPD. Issuing a civil citation instead of processing an arrest significantly reduces the number of...
police officer hours needed to enforce this law violation, allowing officers to return to our neighborhoods more expeditiously. During the past year, MDPD officers issued 4,284 civil citations for misdemeanor marijuana possession in lieu of arrest. Many violators were first-time offenders; therefore, spared from having a criminal arrest record.

**Professional Compliance Bureau**

The Professional Compliance Bureau (PCB) receives, processes, and investigates all complaints against members of the Department. To ensure public trust and maintain the Department’s integrity, Bureau investigators conduct immediate, objective, and thorough investigations of all complaints. PCB maintains and coordinates the Employee Profile and Early Identification Systems. The latter provides a systematic review of employee complaints and use of force incidents, and generates monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.

To ensure standardization of procedures and quality improvements of departmental services, the Bureau’s Staff Inspections Section conducts inspections of all MDPD elements every three years and reports all findings to the Department Director for review. The Section is also responsible for departmental compliance with standards from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Numerous reports and mock assessments are conducted annually to ensure compliance with these strict standards.

The Staff Inspections Section also maintains the Departmental Manual and the Department’s Directive System; and responds to inquiries from outside agencies regarding departmental procedures, policies, and operations.

The Public Corruption Investigations Section is responsible for investigating allegations of corruption involving public officials, MDC employees, lobbyists, and private vendors and contractors conducting business with County government. The mission of the Section is to ensure a high level
of integrity in governmental fiscal affairs and promote public confidence and trust in local government.

Comprised of investigative, analytical, and data entry personnel, the Section works cooperatively to expose and root out public corruption at all levels of County government. The Section works in conjunction with other local, state, and federal agencies when multi-agency cooperation is necessary in accomplishing shared goals.

Since the Section was created in 1998, investigators have concluded many complex, long-term investigations, culminating in the arrests of hundreds of individuals responsible for defrauding millions of dollars from MDC. As a result of these investigations, the Section worked cooperatively with other County departments to incorporate procedural and policy changes to avoid recurrence of such crimes.

The PCB’s Records Unit maintains copies of closed internal affairs investigations and Supervisor’s Reports of Responses to Resistance, and is responsible for fulfilling public records requests pertaining to the aforementioned cases.

Public Information and Education Bureau

The Public Information and Education Bureau (PIEB) is comprised of the Media Relations and Community and Youth Outreach Sections, the Special Projects Unit (SPU), and School Crossing Guard Program that manage a wide variety of assignments.

The Media Relations Section (MRS) detectives are public information officers who coordinate MDPD’s response to media inquiries, especially regarding high-profile incidents which have attracted local, regional, and sometimes national and/or international media attention. They respond to scenes, provide interviews (in English and Spanish), and issue news releases. They also liaise with the media on lesser profile crimes and incidents, often providing video footage of MDPD events and crimes such as burglaries, robberies, and assaults. At the same time, these MRS detectives often take a proactive approach to media liaison, alerting the media to developments in certain investigations, with a view to soliciting the public’s help in pursuing those cases. One example is the increasing use of “family pleas” in which MRS detectives arrange for survivors of violent crimes, or family members of the victims, to use the media to appeal to the public to provide information to investigators.

MRS detectives also accompany visiting television and motion picture
producers in an effort to ensure that their finished productions comply with departmental regulations and portray accurate information.

This range of media liaison activities, as well as their participation in formal training courses hosted by regional, federal, professional, and government organizations, has produced within the MRS a cadre of highly skilled public information specialists. They are well regarded, both in the law enforcement community and throughout the media. The more experienced MRS detectives have, in turn, shared their skills with other law enforcement public information officers through formal training programs and informal contacts.

The Social Media Team comprises extensive electronic media experience and is charged with sensitizing MRS personnel to the use of information technology, especially concentrating in social media. MDPD messages are now transmitted on all the major social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

The Bureau’s Community and Youth Outreach Section (CYOS) coordinates a variety of programs designed to foster cooperation between the Department and the community. With youth programs at the forefront, CYOS coordinates the activities for the highly successful Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program, which annually reaches about 10,000 students in MDC. Students are taught the dangers of substance abuse, peer pressure, gang affiliation, and bullying. Officers promote self-esteem building principles and positive extra-curricular activities as viable alternatives to truancy, drug abuse, and gang involvement.

The Miami-Dade Police Athletic League is also coordinated through the CYOS. This afterschool program reaches 20,000 children each year, while involving the youth in athletic activities, educational initiatives, and an introduction to arts and crafts. The program has gained momentum and is committed to reducing juvenile delinquency by helping children recognize their self-worth and abilities as they interact with law enforcement officers. The “Join A Team, Not A Gang” initiative discourages gang affiliation and encourages constructive social and educational activities. Students are able to attend University of Miami and Florida International University athletic events and then meet athletes who encourage them to join teams and social clubs.

The CYOS coordinates the Students Together Against Negative Decisions Program, which is directed at high school youths. This initiative reaches more than 90,000 students annually in an effort to eliminate drug and alcohol use associated traffic fatalities. Student activities presented throughout the school year include the Youth Summit, Ghost Out, Mock Crash, and the driving simulator, along with visits to the Driving Under the Influence Mobile Education Center. These impacting experiences are educational tools used to make students recognize the dangers of alcohol use and the consequences of drinking and driving. Additionally,
the CYOS manages the Gun Bounty Program and the Crime Stoppers Squad. The Gun Bounty Program is an initiative aimed at deterring the illegal possession and use of guns. Since its inception, the Gun Bounty Program has recovered 954 illegal guns which resulted in 625 arrests.

The CYOS is also responsible for community relations and crime prevention efforts on a Countywide basis. The Crime Stoppers of Miami-Dade and The Florida Keys’ TIPS line (305-471-TIPS) is a nationally recognized community action program that encourages citizens to support law enforcement by providing information about criminal activity. This partnership offers monetary rewards to tipsters, while protecting their anonymity. The Section is also involved in a myriad of departmental, state, and federal programs including the Citizen’s Police Academy, Police Explorer Program, the College Internship Program, and Park Watch. Members of the CYOS have obtained their Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner’s certification and are tasked with conducting security surveys of both residential and commercial locations. Additionally, the CYOS coordinates community presentations of the Gun Bounty Program, Crime Prevention Display Vehicles, the Static Display Helicopter, and the DARE Mustang. These initiatives are geared toward the overall education, safety, and well-being of our residents and visitors.

As an in-house community relations center, the SPU coordinates logistical support and promotional assistance for a wide range of MDPD and County charitable events. The SPU is also responsible for various publications such as brochures, pamphlets, and other printed material in support of various County initiatives and campaigns. SPU staff also provide campaign management, creative design, publicity and publishing support, and photographic assistance to departmental entities.
The School Crossing Guard Program serves more than 100 public elementary schools throughout MDC, and facilitates the safe crossing of children at more than 500 busy crosswalks throughout the community to ensure safety in their commute to and from school.

Raising more than $35,000 annually, the Special Projects Unit coordinates the MDPD/Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Campaign, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.
In the absence of the Director, the Deputy Director executes departmental operations as prescribed by the Director, assumes command, and exercises authority commensurate with the responsibility. The Deputy Director directly supervises Departmental, Investigative, and Police Services, in addition to the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, and the Psychological Services and Strategic Planning and Development Sections.

Strategic Planning and Development Section

The Strategic Planning and Development Section has wide-ranging responsibilities in strategic planning and implementation of initiatives for the Department. The Section conducts special projects of departmental interest and impact, and provides comprehensive and quality assistance to municipal governments, other MDC departments, and MDPD elements.

The Section serves as a departmental research body and resource to assist with the development and implementation of best practices. The Section strives to improve the Department’s management of police contract services with municipalities and provides a variety of support activities such as the Department’s Active Strategy Enterprise and Scoreboard.

The newly implemented Priority Response Team (PRT) is a specially trained, equipped, and readily available Team designed to provide a rapid and systematic response to mass casualty attacks and critical incidents. The Strategic Planning and Development Section personnel discuss the impact of future developments in South Florida on MDPD’s resources.
deployment strategies further serve as a deterrence factor, through high visibility vehicular and foot patrols of densely populated areas and critical infrastructures throughout MDC to include public, private, and charter schools, shopping malls, and hospitals.

PRT Squads will be pre-deployed through their respective districts of assignment focusing their patrols around public, private, and charter schools, shopping malls, and hospitals. During their tour of duty, the PRT Squads will respond to all active shooter calls, violent incidents or threats of violence at schools, and will act as backup to in progress high-risk calls within their assigned district. Additionally, the PRT will establish incident command during mass casualty attacks and critical incidents, or will provide assistance to already established incident commanders.

The Section also provides strategic support for incorporation and annexation efforts, Developmental Impact Committee and zoning issues, maintenance and coordination of the Employee Suggestion/Idea Machine, the Employee Leave of Absence and Military Deployment Reintegration, and Departmental Civilian Observer Programs. Additionally, the Section seeks and explores significant grant opportunities to enhance police services to the community.

**Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute**

The mission of the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute (MDPSTI) is to maintain the highest standards in professional law enforcement and to meet the training needs of local, state, and federal public safety employees. Based on unified training initiatives, the Institute houses staff from three partner agencies: MDPD, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MDPSTI training includes the basic education required for new police officers, correctional officers, and public service aides; highly-specialized courses for the many advanced skills necessary in major law enforcement agencies; scientific and technical training to augment critical support functions; and professional development training to enhance the growth and effectiveness of all law enforcement personnel.

MDPSTI serves as the primary training facility for this region and provides specialized training of such high quality that attendees travel from all over the world to attend courses presented by the Department’s expert instructors.
MDPSTI is a Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission regional training center. It provides quality training for local, state, and federal law enforcement officers in addition to other law enforcement and criminal justice professionals worldwide.

The Institute is also the certifying agency for both MDPD and Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department academies. MDPSTI maintains the maximum professional training criteria to meet all the requirements of local, state, and federal public safety employees.

**Psychological Services Section**

The Psychological Services Section (PSS) offers a full spectrum of clinical, educational, consultation services for all departmental employees and their immediate family members. The PSS provides a 24-hour on-call response status for all emergencies such as officer-involved shootings, suicide interventions, and other critical incidents. The PSS provides assessment, treatment, and referral within its Substance Abuse Intervention Program.

The Section has achieved several accomplishments which have greatly impacted the Department. The PSS administers a nationally recognized program (American Psychological Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police) for the prevention of suicide for law enforcement officers and civilian staff. The Hostage Negotiation Team supervisor continues to facilitate the specialized in-house 40-hour training class which is required to join the Hostage Negotiation Team.

A unique bereavement program was developed for family members and friends of deceased police officers from the Department. This ongoing support group meets on a monthly basis. PSS is also responsible for the administration and supervision of the Police Chaplains Program, which provides spiritual and support services to the Department.
Police Services has the responsibility of providing traditional police services while establishing meaningful partnerships that meet the needs of a changing community. Keeping pace with MDC’s diversity and expansion places additional demands on these multifaceted police services.

The Police Services Assistant Director oversees the North and South Operations Divisions, which are comprised of eight district stations along with the Special Patrol and the Seaport Operations Bureaus, and the Agricultural Patrol Section. Additionally, contracted police services are provided to incorporated cities to provide law enforcement and community-oriented service particular to each locality.

**Intracoastal District**

In an effort to effectively address the needs of the community, the Intracoastal District works jointly with all available resources within MDC. The Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU) employs a variety of programs and initiatives to build trust and develop partnerships between the police and the community. Youth safety and outreach activities are also a priority for the NRU.

The District’s unique environment and terrain characteristics require a tailored policing response. Haulover Park, a 99-acre urban park bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Intracoastal Waterway on the west, is located within the boundaries of the District. Traditionally, from Easter to Labor Day, large crowds of people visit the park on weekends and summer holidays. Each year, an operational plan is developed where additional officers and equipment such as 4X4 trucks, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, and personal watercraft are deployed to provide a safe environment for the community to enjoy.

The District established a Crime Prevention Team to provide immediate investigative information to road patrol units, in addition to neighboring jurisdictions requiring assistance for ongoing crimes and investigations occurring within the District. Additionally, the Crime Prevention Team provides General Investigations Unit (GIU) investigators with a platform to expand long-term, complex investigations such as drug violations, gang investigations, fraud investigations, auto theft rings, and others. The Squad was developed to eradicate criminal enterprise cells that prey on residents. Through collaborative efforts between road officers, investigators, and specialized units, the District has seen a notable reduction in targeted crimes throughout recent years.

Intracoastal District’s NRU officers participate in career day at a local school. Students learn about police equipment and what it takes to be a police officer.
**Northside District**

The Northside District continues to foster a positive partnership with the community through crime prevention and awareness programs to improve the quality of life for its residents. Furthermore, the District strategically targets crimes utilizing enhanced enforcement initiatives and directed uniformed patrols, along with specialized elements such as the Youth Outreach Unit (YOU), Gang Unit, and the Auto Theft Squad. The District continually updates and enhances its enforcement and protection capabilities to meet today’s challenges.

The District’s Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Unit provides a forum for residents to address crime concerns and learn about crime prevention through monthly events such as the Major’s Community Outreach Day, the Citizens’ Crime Watch Program, YOU initiatives, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and Homeowners Association meetings. Citizens may also gain invaluable information concerning the many services provided by MDC during the District’s Open House and Hurricane Awareness Fair.

The District also hosts a three-week summer camp program which establishes positive relationships with community youth, provides educational components, and conducts enjoyable activities in a safe environment. During the camp and throughout the year, NRU officers furnish parents with Child Identification Program materials that could provide crucial information to law enforcement in missing child cases.

In partnership with Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson’s Project Peace, monthly “Farm Share” events are conducted that bring together volunteers and law enforcement personnel, who provide food distribution to approximately 800 needy households.

**Northwest District**

The Northwest District maintains positive public interactions within the community that it diligently serves, focusing on community engagement through crime prevention, education, and awareness programs to improve the quality of life for its residents. The District continues to analyze and establish innovative solutions that target current crime trends to keep the community safe. Additionally, the District strategically targets crimes utilizing enhanced enforcement initiatives and directed uniform patrols, along with specialized elements such as the Crime Suppression and Burglary Response Teams, the Auto Theft Squad, and the GIU.

The District’s NRU regularly engages with citizens through monthly events...
including the Major’s Community Outreach Day, the Citizens’ Crime Watch Program, the Citizen Advisory Committee, and Homeowners Association meetings. During the District’s Open House and Hurricane Awareness Fair, residents have an opportunity to obtain invaluable information regarding the services that are provided to them by MDC.

The Police Explorer Program welcomes local youth to participate in MDPD events such as law enforcement commemorative ceremonies and charitable fundraising activities. Officers act as advisors and mentor youth, encouraging positive civic involvement throughout the community while cultivating everlasting partnerships.

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Airport District

The Miami International Airport (MIA) is one of the busiest airports in the world. More than 44.6 million travelers, 21.4 million of which are international passengers, travel through MIA yearly. The MIA also has 2.22 million tons of cargo move through the airport annually. This ranks the MIA third in the nation for cargo shipped, and first in the nation for international cargo shipped. MIA is a major destination and departure point. It is also one of the busiest gateways between the global air transportation system and the United States domestic system. Each year, new airlines are added to the MIA family. The District’s top priority is the protection of travelers, employees, and stakeholders at MIA.

The District continually updates and enhances its enforcement and protection capabilities to meet today’s challenges. Enhancements to patrol include bicycles, Segways, and golf carts that provide better response times and higher visibility. The District’s Motorcycle Squad provides the airport locality with traffic enforcement and a faster and easier way to maneuver through areas not easily accessible by marked and unmarked vehicles.

Additionally, the District houses two distinct Canine Units that provide
explosive ordinance detection canine services to the MIA. Both the traditional Canine Unit and the Explosive Detection and Interdiction Canine (EDIC) Unit respond to all unattended vehicles and luggage to perform sweeps that determine if the items are safe to impound. Additionally, the EDIC Units are trained to alert their handlers to the presence of explosive odors that originate from human sources. EDIC Unit canines are trained to track the source of the odor to a person as well as detect explosives in the conventional method.

District personnel work with all federal agencies assigned to the MIA to ensure the utmost security preparation and tactics plan. Monthly security meetings are held to pass on important information with all concerned stakeholders at MIA. One example of this outstanding partnership is through the use of the multi-agency operations involving the Airport District, the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and federal law enforcement personnel. During these operations, personnel from the different agencies show unity by conducting high visibility patrols in an effort to deter any criminal activity.

The Airport District’s patrol responsibilities also include the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC). The MIC is comprised of two areas, the Rental Car Center (RCC) and the Miami Central Station (MCS). The RCC has an elevated train system that transports passengers and workers directly to and from the MIA. The MCS is a ground transportation hub for MDC and the south Florida region. The MCS houses a Greyhound Bus Terminal, a Tri-Rail Station, a Metromover platform, and a Metrobus station.

Airport District personnel participate in the Toys for Tots Campaign which provides holiday gifts to disadvantaged children.

Airport District officers utilize bicycles to easily traverse through the crowds at MIA and provide increased police presence and security.
The Special Patrol Bureau augments traditional police functions and is comprised of the Specialized Patrol and Events, and the Tactical Operations Sections. The Specialized Patrol and Events Section manages large-scale public events and provides support services for uniformed elements. The Section is comprised of the Special Events, Aviation, Marine Patrol, and Motorcycle Units, the Underwater Recovery Team, and the Breath Alcohol Testing, and Impaired Driving Enforcement Squads.

The Special Events Unit is responsible for the planning, coordinating, and management of police services during large-scale major events throughout MDC. Each year, the Unit coordinates more than 500 events including major league sports team games, international tennis tournaments, fairs, parades, and festivals.

School safety is top priority in MDC. On March 9, 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 7026, The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The components of this law that impact MDPD include firearm and school safety, and community mental health resources. The law is intended to improve school safety by requiring each school district’s superintendent to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies and assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility. Coordinated by the Special Events Unit, MDPD is tasked with providing security at 103 schools within unincorporated MDC.

The Aviation Unit (AU) is responsible for providing aerial support to Department personnel, as well as, the myriad of federal, state, and municipal first responder agencies and local governmental entities. The AU’s aircraft fleet encompasses four helicopters and two airplanes, utilized to proactively patrol MDC. In addition to providing aerial response to police calls for service, the AU provides support during tactical and investigative functions. The AU augments police response at perimeter searches for missing, wanted, and/or fleeing individuals, and deters criminal activity through daily proactive patrol flights. Moreover, the AU performs multiple other duties in support of policing in maritime and

The Marine Patrol and Special Response Team ensure passenger and waterway safety.

The Special Patrol Bureau’s Aviation Unit provides aerial coverage of local major sports events.
The Seaport Operations Bureau’s Harbor Patrol Unit enforces maritime laws in the inland waterways and shipping channels surrounding PortMiami.
The Seaport Operations Bureau serves as the command and control authority for police services provided to PortMiami. The Bureau provides 24-hour directed uniformed patrol functions, security, and traffic crash and criminal investigations. In addition to traditional police services, the Seaport Operations Bureau maintains a number of specialized enhancements and equipment to further the law enforcement mission at PortMiami. All Seaport officers are continually trained in critical incident response tactics to immediately respond to any threat, terrorist activity, or criminal event that may occur at PortMiami. Seaport officers maintain highly visible proactive patrols in all areas of PortMiami including terminals, curbside, parking garages, bridges, tunnel, cargo yard, and surrounding areas. These operations deter potential terror groups or criminals, thus providing a hardened target image.

The Harbor Patrol Unit often renders assistance and works closely with other agencies including the United States Coast Guard, United States Customs and Border Protection, and local municipalities.

In addition to a GIU and a Training Unit, the Auto Theft Task Force has a full-time detective assigned at the Port to investigate all auto thefts and vehicle burglaries within PortMiami, as well as investigating all cases related to the exportation of stolen vehicles through the Port and the Miami River. The Bureau recently added the Incident Containment Team (ICT) and the EDIC Units. The ICT consists of Special Operations Bureau personnel and United States Customs and Border Protection ICT certified officers. This interagency team provides a highly trained group of officers who quickly respond to immediate threats and emergency situations that could arise at PortMiami.

The EDIC Unit had been systematically trained to detect and pursue airborne odors and locate an explosive at its origin. EDIC Unit canines excel in the detection of explosives situated on individuals or multiple human beings who are in motion. It is a standard that the EDIC Unit possesses the capability to likewise detect and present explosives situated in a static environment. These specially trained canines are deployed to the terminals along with an ICT officer to increase preparedness and awareness throughout PortMiami.

**Hammocks District**

Hammocks District personnel take a proactive approach to the most current crime and traffic concerns to accomplish the following goals: reduce crime by suppressing criminal activity and arresting violators; decrease traffic offenses and crashes through education and enforcement; enforce truancy and curfew laws to address juvenile offenders; and enhance police/community relations by providing high-levels of service in response to community concerns.

District personnel consistently strive to reduce crime and provide enhanced service through innovative programs such as the CAC,
Neighborhood Crime Watch, Police Explorer Program, and the COPS Unit. The Priority Services Squad conducts zero-tolerance enforcement in high-crime areas, while responding to service calls regarding burglaries, robberies, suspicious persons, and unknown vehicles, many of which are indicators of criminal activity. In addition to high visibility enforcement efforts, the District also yields a plainclothes enforcement and investigative operation. The Gang Squad, within the GIU, identifies and monitors gang members. Simultaneously, the Burglary Squad monitors habitual burglars and individuals on probation and parole to eliminate reoffending within the District.

In order to develop greater accessibility and communication between police and citizens, the COPS Unit participates in numerous community events such as the Publix Supermarket “DNA Kit and Coloring Book Events,” the South Miami Heights Community Winn Dixie Supermarket’s “Meet and Greet,” and the South Miami Heights Community Outreach “Halloween Fest” for kids, where District personnel conduct child fingerprinting as a public service to the community.

The Hammocks District’s Agricultural Patrol Section provides specialized police services to the south MDC agricultural community which contributes more than $1 billion to the local economy each year. Section personnel investigate crimes involving commercial burglaries in farms, nurseries, and packing houses; thefts of livestock and exotic animals; and animal cruelty. The Section employs a combination of community-based policing, investigative techniques, high-profile patrol methods, and specialized vehicles to fulfill the law enforcement needs of the community.

**Kendall District**

The Kendall District’s NRU is a community-oriented policing unit which serves the residents of the Kendall community by providing a wide array of services. The NRU is comprised of three Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving squads and one Traffic Enforcement squad. The NRU currently employs a wide variety of educational programs and initiatives designed to build trust and create partnerships between the MDPD and the community. In order to develop positive interaction between police and citizens, the NRU coordinates numerous community outreach events such as the Kendall District Open House, Sports Day, Halloween Pumpkin Patrol, The Falls Holiday Parade, Turkey Giveaway, Coffee with a Cop, and Shop with a Hero Christmas Initiative at Target. Additionally,
NRU participates in career days, crime prevention initiatives, and traffic education.

NRU officers facilitate quarterly meetings for more than 30 local crime watch groups. The District’s Mobile Operations Command Center is deployed to address crimes at specific areas of concern, and to educate the public by distributing crime prevention pamphlets and addressing their concerns. NRU officers work collaboratively with Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory Economic Resources and other governmental agencies to address quality of life issues such as unsafe structures, nuisance abatement, exterior property maintenance, and illegal dumping matters. Twice a month, NRU personnel conduct the Major’s Night Out event, which promotes community partnerships and improves quality of life for local residents. Once a year, the NRU coordinates Sports Day at Tropical Park, where approximately 200 local students participate in several activities including basketball, kickball, and track and field. The day is filled with activities that promote positive interactions between the District’s police officers and the youth.

The GIU addresses the growing task of providing a wide variety of investigative services within the Kendall District. GIU detectives routinely respond to crime scenes to process and collect evidence including video surveillance. Additionally, detectives conduct proactive patrol duties and undercover operations in response to current crime trends. These initiatives have a positive impact in critical areas by apprehending wanted felons and preventing crimes. Ultimately, collaboration between patrol officers, NRU officers, and GIU detectives is key to keeping a low crime rate throughout the Kendall District.
**Midwest District**

Midwest District emphasizes service to the community by implementing programs and strategies that focus on combating crime. Through effective proactive enforcement activities, and a zero tolerance approach toward criminals, the District realized a significant reduction in targeted crimes. Furthermore, District personnel positively reduced the number of residential and commercial burglaries with the implementation of new technologies along with the combined efforts of the Residential Burglary Investigations and the Commercial and Theft Squads.

District personnel conduct several public awareness and crime prevention conferences throughout the year. The meetings are conducted in an effort to strengthen relationships between the community and the Department, educate the local citizens, and raise overall awareness. The meetings are free of charge and include crime prevention demonstrations, security surveys, and safety presentations. Additionally, informative brochures are provided on a variety of topics such as elderly and domestic violence abuse and identity theft. District Crime Watch groups and the Citizen Advisory Committee provide further citizen education and awareness, which promotes greater interaction between the community and the Department.

Community partnerships with activities hosted by the Midwest District, such as donation drives, have provided food and goods to citizens in need throughout the community. Through the combined efforts of local businesses, schools, and citizens, more than 800 food baskets, toys, and other goods are provided to numerous families during the holiday season each year.

During the holiday season, Midwest District personnel participated in the Heroes and Helpers event sponsored by Target. Officers guided underprivileged youth in purchasing items that made their holidays a little brighter.
South District

South District personnel are committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens by addressing crime issues and implementing initiatives that strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community. Annually, more than 50 such initiatives are conducted in various high-crime areas and schools throughout the District. Officers serve as mentors for at-risk teens and conduct door-to-door interaction with resident families to build positive relationships between the citizens and police.

The District’s innovations also include Project RENEW (Resident Empowering Neighborhood Enforcement Walks) which disseminates community service information directly to the neighborhoods most in need. It also empowers a cooperative effort between District personnel and the Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency that serves as a community-oriented police and problem solving initiative, and provides specialized proactive enforcement to the service area. Additionally, NRU officers conduct and participate in parades, festivals, holiday food and toy drives, and an open house, which supplies more than 1,600 children and families with school supplies and child identification materials.

South District officers participate in MDPD’s YOU initiative, which is a community enhancement program where officers enrich the lives of “at risk” youth.
Departmental Services

Departmental Services is responsible for the Department’s fiscal administration, and the operation of personnel management, records organization and dispensation, communications, and technology services. The Departmental Services Assistant Director oversees the MDPD’s Fiscal Administration Bureau and the Support Services Division, which provides management of personnel and human resources administration; comprehensive records management; radio and emergency communications services; and technological provisions.

Fiscal Administration Bureau

The Fiscal Administration Bureau (FAB) serves as the central administrative office for all fiscal related activities for MDPD. FAB has purview over the Budget and Grant Services, Resource Management Services, Fleet Management Section, Facilities Maintenance Section, and the Travel Unit.

The FAB Budget Section prepares and monitors the Department’s operating and capital budgets. It identifies optimal uses of existing revenue, potential new revenue sources, and viable streamlining and service delivery alternatives. The Section also prepares monthly operating and overtime budget projections, and reviews expenditure and travel requests for approval. The Section prepares financial and management-related analyses, including fiscal impact reviews for County ordinances impacting the Department. The Section is also responsible for financial matters related to incorporations and participates in Federal Emergency Management Agency cost analysis issues impacting the Department.

The Grant and Trust Fund Section is responsible for accounting, reporting, and financial supervision for compliance of all departmental grants including 911 Grants and Law Enforcement Trust Funds awarded within the Department, in addition to other County departments and outside entities. The Section is also responsible for the management and financial reporting for several community-based organizations (i.e., The Alternative Program Inc., Citizens’ Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, Inc., and the Trauma Resolution Center, Inc.).

Grant and Law Enforcement Trust Fund assets were utilized for the redesign of the operations and administrative areas, as well as the acquisition of equipment and technology needed for effective operation of the Real-Time Crime Center, including the software upgrade for enhanced video management.

The Travel Unit reviews all departmental business, extradition, and educational travel for compliance with County policy to ensure accuracy; creates and monitors reports on all outstanding travel; and provides liaison with the Office of Management and Budget, and Finance Department.
The Finance Section is responsible for petty cash, accounts payables, account receivables, off-regular duty operations, and the financial transactions associated with civil process. This Section provides guidance to departmental elements regarding payables and expenditures; and reviews and processes invoices resulting from pre-approved expenditures, direct payments, purchasing card reconciliation, and transferring expenditures through journal entry procedures. The Section also monitors expenditure allocations for resolution contracts, release of purchase orders and small purchase orders; and provides technical assistance to departmental elements and vendors. Additionally, the General Accounting Unit prepares and performs all billing and reconciliation functions for the contracted municipal police services, and vehicle billing, which includes Airport and Seaport police services.

The Procurement and Inventory Section is responsible for processing, facilitating, and monitoring purchasing activities for the Department. The Section reviews all departmental requisitions for one-time purchases or annual contracts, including small purchase orders and change orders; maintains a database for all contracts; and coordinates with the Internal Services Department and Procurement Management for bids and contracts including sole sources, bid waivers, and other government contracts. Additionally, the Section administers all departmental contracts and coordinates the notifications to departmental elements for bid reviews, bid evaluation requests, and contract awards. The Section conducts training sessions on general County purchasing policy and familiarization on the Advanced Purchase Inventory Control System mainframe program, and any changes to governmental procurement practices. The Section assists user elements to monitor and report on vendor performance and oversees the Department’s capital property. As such, personnel are responsible for identifying, labeling, and recording existing capital assets. The Section also serves as the quartermaster, which maintains and supplies all uniforms and standard equipment issued to sworn and civilian personnel.

The Fleet Management Section is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, accountability, financial management, and eventual replacement of the Department’s over 3,300 vehicle fleet (inclusive of rental vehicles). The Section continually researches and reviews innovative technology regarding safety features, lighting, graphics, and state-of-the-art police vehicle equipment for possible implementation. The Section also oversees departmental investigative rental contracts, graphic services, window tinting services, confidential tags, and Florida SunPass issuance. Section personnel are also responsible for the auditing of all marked and unmarked vehicle assets. This entails evaluating the vehicle age, equipment, and

Fiscal Administration Bureau personnel coordinate accounting responsibilities for departmental revenues and expenditures.
how these assets pair with the receiving entities’ job functions.

The Department is continuing its multi-year vehicle replacement plan to update the MDPD aging fleet. In FY 2018-19, the Department will replace approximately an additional 582 frontline vehicles (including marked and unmarked vehicles); by the end of FY2018-19 the Department is projecting to have replaced 2,638 vehicles in five years.

The Facilities Maintenance Section is responsible for the management and maintenance of the MDPD Headquarters Complex, all district stations, and other MDPD buildings. This Section also oversees all contracted janitorial, landscaping, and repair services throughout the aforementioned facilities; handles all facility hurricane preparation and resulting repairs; oversees large construction projects; and directly handles in-house renovations, including work-space reconfiguration and reassignment of telephone and data lines.

**Personnel Management Bureau**

The Personnel Management Bureau administers personnel related policies and procedures for the Department. The Bureau is comprised of the Employee Relations, Recruitment and Selection, Administrative, and Departmental Discipline Coordination Sections. The Employee Relations Section is comprised of the Payroll, Records, Employment, Group Insurance, and Benefits Units. Together, these entities manage the auditing and submission of the payroll; oversee employee personnel records retention, destruction, and release of information; administer County and state benefits, and ensure that proper hiring and employment processing procedures are followed. Additionally, the Employee Relations Section administers Equal Opportunity programs; Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Medical Leave Act policies; and the promotional process for more than 4,600 sworn and civilian employees.

The Recruitment and Selection Section is responsible for coordinating background investigations on all prospective personnel and managing applicants to fill departmental position vacancies. Additionally, the Section is charged with the Bureau’s administrative support functions and for the dissemination of information regarding law enforcement positions throughout MDC. Employment opportunities are publicized through printed media and advertisements, distribution of brochures and pamphlets, and personal contact with various community groups. Furthermore, the Section processes hundreds of police officer and civilian applicants’ background investigations each year.

The Administrative Section maintains the Department’s identification cards system, which helps to ensure the accountability and integrity for employee access to County and departmental facilities. The Departmental Discipline Coordination Section is responsible for providing Personnel Management Bureau personnel conduct recruitment initiatives for prospective police officers.
liaison with other County and departmental entities involved in the disciplinary and grievance process, including but not limited to, the MDC Attorney’s Office, Internal Services Department, and the collective bargaining unions. The Section coordinates all Department discipline by consulting with command level personnel to discuss appropriate levels of discipline to be imposed on employees and providing guidance regarding rules, orders, directives, and procedures involving the disciplinary and grievance process. This Section also oversees the Discipline, Appeals, and Grievance System, which is utilized to manage all discipline and grievances processed by the Department.

Central Records Bureau

The Central Records Bureau (CRB) serves as the official repository for all MDPD case reports; maintains County arrest affidavits; provides criminal history and background information; and processes judicial requests. It is also responsible for data entry of stolen property and warrant information into the local and national criminal justice computer databases. Bureau operations include liaison with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Additionally, CRB is responsible for departmental records management liaison with the MDC Clerk’s Office regarding public document retention and disposition schedules. Through a mutual agreement between the Miami-Dade Police and the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Departments, all subjects arrested are booked and fingerprinted in the MDC Jail. Following positive identification, CRB personnel process all subject affidavits and documentation. This procedure ensures that all subjects are positively identified before they are released.

CRB utilizes the Electronic Document Management System that delivers greater efficiency in record maintenance, storage, retrieval, and distribution of documents. The Electronic Document Management System also provides instant document sharing and transmission capabilities through the Internet and other methods of electronic communication. Encryption and security measures are featured to control use of various system functions, user maintenance, storage, retrieval, and distribution of documents. The

Departmental Review

Central Records Bureau personnel serve the public by providing public records reports.
authentication, and access control. This state-of-the-art system improves the quality of service provided to the general public, departmental entities, and law enforcement agencies. Implementation of the System also represents a tremendous savings of personnel resources, administrative expenses, and storage media.

Communications Bureau

The MDPD’s 911 Call Center is the busiest in the southeastern United States, and functions with state-of-the-art telecommunications systems. Each year, the MDPD’s Communications Bureau’s (CB) police complaint officers receive more than 2.4 million calls for assistance from citizens, and police dispatchers handle in excess of 54 million radio transmissions.

The CB serves as the main Public Safety Answering Point for MDC, including 33 municipalities. The CB is comprised of personnel who are dedicated to the safety and quality of life of all citizens and visitors.

CB personnel respond to both emergency and non-emergency calls, handling each incident with accuracy, professionalism, and empathy to provide the vital link between citizens who require assistance and public safety personnel. Police dispatchers are able to handle a multitude of calls and transmissions simultaneously. They assist road officers with a variety of requests including subject checks, perimeters, and “Be On The Look Out” (BOLO) alerts.

CB police complaint officers conduct medical screening to assess the needs of sick and/or injured persons, utilizing standardized questioning within the parameters of the Medical Priority Dispatch System. They provide pre-arrival instructions to callers while emergency services personnel are en route.

Additionally, the CB oversees radio system logistics for both the MDPD and MDC municipalities, completes non-emergency police reports by telephone, and provides public records requests pertaining to 911 calls and data. The Quality Assurance Unit ensures that emergency medical dispatch procedures are stringently followed.

A Communications Bureau police dispatcher directs patrol units responding to a crime in progress.
Information Technology Services Bureau

The Information Technology Services Bureau (ITSB) is recognized nationally as an innovative leader in delivering law enforcement technology solutions. ITSB works in conjunction with the MDC’s Information Technology Department to deliver modern, innovative, and secure information technology solutions to support policing services and business operations for more than 4,300 MDPD employees, other law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, and ultimately the residents of the community we serve. Together, ITSB and MDC’s Information Technology Department accommodate an annual average of 10,000 service calls for information technology hardware and Customer-Off-The-Shelf software support, and have received several awards for pioneering Smart Policing applications.

ITSB enhances and sustains mission-critical production systems which support ongoing operations of MDPD to include: Human Resources, Employee Profile, Event Scheduling, Quartermaster, Department Inventory, Invoice Tracking, Travel Request, Overtime Tracking, Mugshot, Rapid Identification, Discipline/Appeals/Grievance, Court Cost Recovery System, Property and Evidence Tracking, Laboratory Information Management, Vehicle Tracking, Equipment Tracking, Warrants Tracking & Validation, CopLogic, e-Crash, Medical Examiner, and Subpoena Tracking Systems; and the Department’s Directive System.

ITSB manages the provision and maintenance of the enterprise technology infrastructure, which consolidated more than 80 percent of MDPD’s independent servers to a virtual server platform. The virtual server platform is a private cloud environment designed to holistically aggregate, manage, and provision pools of infrastructure resources including processors, servers, storage, and networks into flexible and dynamic computing environments.

ITSB, in cooperation with MDC’s Information Technology Department implemented several key applications that have contributed to streamlined operations and rapid access to view, analyze, trend, and report on crime activity. These applications are enabling improved predictive policing and...
more effective deployment of police services. Among the most notable applications is the CrimeView Community webpage: the webpage, www.crimemapping.com, enables the residents and visitors of MDC to view crime incidents, generate reports, and maps of crime locations quickly and easily using the Internet.

“Rapid-Identification” programing was implemented in collaboration with FDLE. This application enhances and expedites the positive identification process of a person suspected of a crime or traffic violation. The identity and any associated crime record are discovered through a rapid search of various state and national systems.

“Electronic Offense/Incident Report” application is the deliverable, resulting from the action taken by an officer in response to a request for police services. All incident data is stored in a Crime Data Warehouse repository to document the action taken, to provide crime statistics, and to aid in crime prevention by more effectively planning officer deployments where they are most needed.

“Regional Law Enforcement Exchange” is a law enforcement information sharing system that is designed to assist agencies in solving crime and fighting terrorism through improved data sharing. This system is being created with FDLE and will allow participating agencies to contribute and query data, principally records management, and jail management systems.

Real-Time Crime Center

The Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) is housed within the ITSB and provides a centralized hub in which to consolidate the Department’s intelligence resources and data. The RTCC originated as a grant-funded initiative and was established to support field officers, investigators, and outside agencies with “real-time” information by combining innovative technology with common policing strategies.

The main function of the RTCC is to rapidly extract information from multiple crime databases, video feeds, and public sources for all calls for service involving robberies, thefts, pursuits, shootings, kidnappings, abductions, fleeing subjects, critical incidents or any event in which prompt support from the RTCC would be beneficial to responding officers. The intelligence gathered can include “wanted” or felony information; arrest history; gang association; sovereign citizen information; resident and tax roll information; number of prior calls for service; additional similar incidents, known criminals in a specified area; and any available video feeds which will provide enhanced situational awareness. The information is then closely analyzed and disseminated to officers in the field as real-time information in order to enhance officer safety, identify patterns, and stop emerging crime. Since January 2016 to date, the RTCC has vetted more than 185,670 calls for service, and sent approximately 16,394 responses.
to officers in the field, greatly contributing to the MDPD’s crime fighting mission.

The RTCC monitors available video feeds in real-time, and as situations dictate, initiates appropriate responses to major events. To date, there are approximately 400 monitored cameras in MDC. However, this number is expected to expand to about 1,500 monitored cameras within a year’s time.

With the use of License Plate Reader (LPR) software, the RTCC receives alerts for felony vehicles entered on FDLE’s Hot List. The vehicle information is verified accurate and “Be On the Look Out” (BOLO) information is distributed to officers through radio transmissions. Additionally, RTCC proactively enters felony and wanted vehicle information from calls for service into the LPR System. This triggers a notification to RTCC if the vehicle passes LPR cameras. The RTCC, in conjunction with Northside and South Districts, are working on a pilot project to expand the number of stationary LPR cameras in the County and situate them to work in concert with acoustic gunshot detection devices.

The RTCC also monitors and receives alerts for the Community on Patrol mobile application. This is a recently released collaboration tool designed for crime reduction and prevention. The application allows citizens to report crime or suspicious activity and contains helpful information. Additional features include live video streaming, group media sharing, and the ability to allow police to send interested citizens alerts, announcements, and solicitations for tips in current cases. Alerts received through the Community on Patrol application are vetted and either forwarded to the appropriate entity or dispatched by radio transmission for immediate response.

Although it is relatively new, the RTCC is the foundation of a visionary plan which currently has several ongoing projects designed to implement the latest in advanced technology in order to combat crime and meet the challenges of modern policing.
Investigative Services performs centralized investigations for specific crimes that require highly specialized investigative skills, training, and equipment. Investigative Services is responsible for major investigations and the investigative support functions for the Department.

The Investigative Services Assistant Director oversees the Criminal Investigations Division, which is comprised of the Forensic Services, Homicide, Robbery, and Special Victims Bureaus, and the Property and Evidence and Crime Scene Investigative Support Sections; and the Special Investigations Division, which consists of the Economic Crimes, Narcotics, Governmental Services, Warrants, and Homeland Security Bureaus.

**Forensic Services Bureau**

The criminal justice system has entrusted forensic laboratories to examine evidence, perform analyses, and give expert testimony in courts of law. The forensic community must be certain that the analyses performed are valid and correct within accepted scientific limitations.

The Forensic Services Bureau (FSB) serves MDC’s 2.7 million citizens and all 34 municipalities, and houses the only public crime laboratory in MDC. The FSB is comprised of the Analytical, Forensic Identification, Fingerprint Identification, and Forensic Biology Sections.

The Analytical Section evaluates drugs of various types and trace evidence. The primary objective of the analyst is to conclusively identify any drug substance in a sample submitted as evidence. The Drug Analysis Unit analyzed more than 6,000 cases in the most recent year with many of those analyses containing multiple pieces of evidence. Additionally, this Unit is responsible for identifying opioids and its analogs, such as fentanyl and carfentanil, and developing methods to identify emerging drugs.

The Trace Evidence Unit is responsible for the examination, analysis, and comparison of evidence that occurs when different objects come into contact with one another and cause a transfer of material during the commission of a crime. Examples of typical trace evidence in criminal cases include hair, cosmetics, fibers, glass, paint chips, gunshot residue, and ignitable liquids present in fire debris. Scientific analysis of trace evidence from a crime scene, or directly from a suspect, can show a recent association between the individual and the crime scene or victim. The Forensic Identification Section is comprised of three elements. The Central Evidence Reception Facility is responsible for the intake, tracking, and safekeeping of evidence received by the FSB. The Firearms Testing Unit is responsible for the test...
firing and computer entry of all routine auto-loading firearms impounded by MDPD and other municipalities, into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). The Firearm and Toolmark Unit analyzes various firearms and ballistic evidence in order to identify which firearms were involved in a shooting. Additionally, the Unit performs serial number restorations, shooting distance determinations, toolmark analysis, and shoe and tire track impression analysis. The Unit also houses a reference collection with more than 3,000 weapons.

The Forensic Identification Section also participates in NIBIN, a computer imaging database which allows the firearm and toolmark examiner to link cases. Every auto-loading firearm confiscated in MDC is test fired and searched against all of the images in the NIBIN system. In a typical year, more than 800 cases are linked as a result of NIBIN matches. To date, over 5,300 hits have been made in NIBIN, linking same gun evidence across cases and jurisdictions.

The Forensic Biology Section (FBS) is primarily responsible for analyzing evidence for the presence of biological material that is associated with crimes committed in MDC. Criminalists assigned to the FBS routinely examine evidence associated with homicide, sexual battery, robbery, and property crimes. Additionally, the FBS also analyzes cold case violent crimes. Not including cold cases, the FBS processes more than 2,200 cases each year. FBS criminalists utilize conventional techniques and state-of-the-art robotics to screen biological evidence and conduct Short Tandem Repeat (STR) DNA analysis. Also, FBS criminalists frequently utilize Y-STR DNA analysis in order to generate male DNA profiles from samples that are mixtures with a large ratio of female to male DNA.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) combines forensic DNA profiles and computer networking technology. CODIS provides FBS criminalists with the ability to search DNA profiles at the local, state, and national levels to determine if a DNA profile has been associated with an individual and/or linked to another crime. To date, the FBS has entered more than 32,000 DNA profiles into CODIS and subsequent hits have provided more than 8,100 investigative leads. Notable success has been obtained from property crime testing that has led to perpetrator identification in approximately 30 percent of the unsolved cases searched in CODIS.

The Fingerprint Identification Section is responsible for the criminal and civil identification of individuals through fingerprint and palm print identification services. The Section maintains and manages fingerprint records for all subjects arrested in MDC, County applicants, known and unknown deceased persons, and criminal registrants. In addition, the Section also stores, examines, and processes fingerprint and palm print evidence collected from crime scenes.

During the most recent 12-month period, the Master File Unit processed 59,423 adults and 3,614 juvenile local jail bookings. The fingerprint database currently consists of 1,969,629 ten-print incident records, 1,161,462 palm print incident records, and 314,366 unsolved latent ten-print and palm print records.

Concurrently, the Latent Unit received a total of 3,050 criminal cases. Identifications were made in 741 criminal cases and a total of 999 subjects were identified by the Unit. This includes 39 homicides, 8 sexual batteries, 127 robberies, 408 burglaries, 58 auto thefts, 11 assaults, 13 narcotics cases, and 77 general investigation cases.
Property and Evidence Section

In addition to unincorporated MDC, the Property and Evidence Section (PES) provides services to the Town of Cutler Bay, the Village of Palmetto Bay, the Town of Miami Lakes, Sweetwater Police Department, the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. PES is committed to the safe and accurate care, custody, and control of all property and evidence. The PES routinely conducts disposal details in order to create needed space for storage of newly impounded property and evidence.

The Disposition Unit is responsible for researching and facilitating the return of found property to the rightful owner(s); retention of property for investigations or forfeitures; and the destruction, donation, or conversion of property to various entities.

The Vehicle Research Unit is responsible for the storage of towed or impounded vehicles, boats, trailers, and aircrafts. The PES maintains an indoor storage area and an outdoor storage facility for these large items. The Vehicle Research Unit enforces the Police Towing Contract, which governs police towing and ensures required provisions are met and maintained by each contractor.

The PES received and processed 343,830 items during a 12-month period, which included 4,471 firearms, and 33,021 narcotic substances and paraphernalia. During the same time period, 1,354 firearms and 14,860 pounds of narcotics were destroyed. Additionally, the Vehicle Research Unit impounded and examined 14,496 vehicles.
**Crime Scene Investigative Support Section**

The Crime Scene Investigative Support Section is comprised of four units: Body-Worn Camera (BWC), Crime Scene Investigations, Digital Forensics, and Forensic Imaging.

The BWC Unit is responsible for the management, deployment, assignment, and maintenance of the Department’s BWC Project. The BWC Unit generates reports for appropriate Command Staff to ensure compliance with established procedures and to maintain the integrity of the project. Additionally, the BWC Unit complies with public records requests received from the general public, State Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, and private attorneys according to established state of Florida records retention laws. BWC Unit personnel are also available to assist detectives with their requests for videos of evidentiary value.

The five squads in the Crime Scene Investigations Unit are responsible for the detection, collection, preservation, and transportation of potential evidence from crime scenes. One example of diligent crime scene processing was the documentation of a homicide case that received national attention where the subject posted a photograph of his victim on Facebook. The subject was ultimately convicted and sentenced to life in prison due to the methodical crime scene documentation and effective courtroom testimony provided by Section personnel.

The Digital Forensics Unit provides a variety of digital forensic laboratory and crime scene support services to the MDPD, and greater municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies of MDC.

The Forensic Imaging Unit provides a full array of photographic services, including mugshot retrieval, photo finishing, digital imaging and enhancement, and forensic art services. The Unit’s forensic artist assists in the identification of unknown subjects, witnesses, and victims involved in criminal investigations. The Forensic Artist also makes submissions to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a national centralized repository and resource center for unidentified remains and missing person’s records.
Homicide Bureau

The Homicide Bureau is responsible for conducting thorough and objective investigations of all deaths that occur in unincorporated MDC and 34 municipalities. The FDLE is responsible for investigating in-custody deaths involving MDPD personnel. A team approach is used in all homicide investigations. Each squad is led by a sergeant, and consists of a lead investigator and additional investigators who are assigned to one specific aspect of the investigation. This team approach ensures meticulous attention to detail and rapid development and investigation of leads during the critical first hours of the investigation. Witnesses, potential suspects, and evidence are quickly identified and categorized, which enables the investigation to proceed on several fronts simultaneously.

The Bureau also includes three specialized squads: The Traffic Homicide Unit investigates all fatal and critical-injury motor vehicle crashes and hit and run crashes involving life threatening injuries and fatalities. The Cold Case Squad probes into unsolved murder cases regardless of how long ago the murder occurred. The Homicide Street Violence Task Force’s (HSVTF) mission is to reduce violent crimes by employing a comprehensive strategic approach to identifying, arresting, and prosecuting violent criminals. The HSVTF has forged communication links between various MDPD units and all local, state, and federal agencies. As a result of the Community Outreach component of the HSVTF, trust and cooperation has been improved within our diverse community. As a direct conduit to the community, HSVTF detectives have been successful in locating homicide and shooting witnesses to come forward and assist with the investigation and prosecution of the case.

The Homicide Bureau’s Traffic Homicide Unit works with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department personnel to photograph and document a traffic crash scene.
Robbery Bureau

The Robbery Bureau investigates robbery offenses in unincorporated MDC and contracted municipal jurisdictions. Aside from the robbery investigators, the Bureau is composed of three additional proactive entities: The Robbery Intervention Detail, the Robbery Clearinghouse, and the Street Terror Offender Program.

The Robbery Intervention Detail is an analytically-driven, comprehensive suppression unit that conducts proactive and covert operations in areas identified as “hot spots” for robberies and other violent crimes. The Street Terror Offender Program is a multi-agency task force focusing on violent home invasion robbery groups with ties to firearms and narcotics. The task force is staffed by MDPD, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and FDLE. The Robbery Clearinghouse feeds analytical information to the proactive units so that the appropriate crime fighting measures are implemented. The Clearinghouse is also the hub for robbery analysis in MDC and disseminates wanted subject bulletins, crime information, and other analytical data. As a result of these proactive measures, MDC has benefited from a steady decrease in robbery cases.

During the last year, robbery cases have fallen by seven percent, and the closure rate for follow-up investigations has been consistent with the national average. The Robbery Bureau made a total of 1,614 arrests, and seized 209 firearms, making our community a safer place to live.
Special Victims Bureau

The Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is divided into two major units: the Domestic Crimes Investigations Unit and the Sexual Crimes Investigations Unit. Domestic Crimes Investigations Unit investigators conduct follow-up criminal investigations involving crimes of domestic violence. The SVB uses victim advocates to work with domestic violence victims on each case to provide much needed social services, intervention, and treatment, and offer preventative alternatives for these crimes.

The Domestic Crimes Investigations Unit is comprised of Domestic Crimes, Vulnerable Victims, Missing Persons Squads, and the Threat Management Team. Vulnerable Victims Squad investigators work collaboratively with protective agencies and investigate crimes involving children and the elderly. Vulnerable Victims investigators immediately respond and investigate serious allegations of child abuse or child neglect. This ensures that all allegations of criminal misconduct of this type are addressed in a proper and timely manner to protect children and the elderly from further abuse.

The Missing Persons Squad investigates all cases of adult and juvenile missing persons. Investigators utilize the LoJack/SafetyNet system, which allows them to implement an electronic search and rescue system to locate missing persons. This system reduces the time expended in recovering individuals missing due to dementia and other cognitive conditions, and increases the likelihood that missing persons are safely recovered.

The Threat Management Team recently established within the SVB is tasked with the responsibility of monitoring and providing services to consumers with mental illness detained under Florida’s Baker Act Statue who have shown or have the potential to be violent. Furthermore,
Investigative Services

the Threat Management Team provides support to MDPD entities seeking a Risk Protection Order on individuals who suffer from mental illness.

The Sexual Crimes Investigations Unit investigates all sexual battery, lewd and lascivious assaults involving juvenile victims, Internet child pornography, sexual crime-related cases, sexual predator enforcement, and Human Trafficking.

The SVB Clearinghouse serves as the central repository for information regarding sexual crimes. Clearinghouse databases and intelligence information are utilized by multiple agencies throughout MDC and are extremely valuable tools for SVB investigators. Additionally, the SVB Clearinghouse, Sexual Predator Research and Registration performs many functions mandated by local, state, and federal laws. These functions include the registration of sexual predators and offenders; initiating community notifications when a sexual predator moves within a one-mile radius of any school or daycare facility in MDC, conducting address verifications designated by the FDLE; and the enforcement of laws regarding sexual predator and offender registration and residency requirements.

Investigators utilize proactive approaches to deter sexual assaults. These initiatives include disclosing the presence of sexual predators on Internet networking sites frequented by children and teens, educating the community through public presentations, partnering with local community-based organizations that provide services to victims of sexual crimes, and proactively reviewing cold cases for additional clues.

Economic Crimes Bureau

The Economic Crimes Bureau investigates crimes that inflict serious financial loss on the community through sophisticated theft or major destruction of property. One of today’s most pervasive crimes is Identity Theft. Because of Miami’s position as an important international gateway, this area is a particularly attractive target for international fraud groups. The Bureau is divided into two major sections in order to combat the growing number of these fraudulent crimes.

The Special Investigations Section investigates various large-scale financial crimes including bank fraud, credit card fraud, embezzlement, medical/pharmaceutical frauds, identity theft, money laundering, mortgage fraud, squatters, condo/homeowner’s association fraud, title fraud, and the unlicensed practice of a profession. Detectives in this Section have formed collaborative relationships with private sector financial institutions and work jointly with the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and many other federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. This Section also includes the Arson Squad, which is responsible for the investigations of suspicious fires for the purpose of insurance fraud. This Squad also
Investigative Services

The Organized Crime Section investigates and prosecutes a wide variety of cases which involve investigating the traditional organized crime activities such as racketeering, illegal lotteries, bookmaking, money laundering, illegal bingo, organized prostitution, human trafficking, and juvenile prostitution. This Section is charged with enforcing state laws relating to a wide range of organized criminal activity, and to gather, analyze, maintain, disseminate, and monitor investigative information on organized crime groups for local law enforcement agencies.

The Narcotics Bureau conducts criminal investigations relating to the sales and/or distribution of illicit narcotics, kidnapping for ransom, and money laundering throughout MDC. The Bureau also partners with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies during large-scale investigations and drug prevention campaigns.

The Narcotics Bureau houses the Canine Detection Unit, which provides support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies by sniffing out concealed drugs, firearms, and currency. During the recent year, the Unit responded to 2,043 calls for service and detected 181 firearms, 10,780 kilos of cocaine, 134 kilos of marijuana, 418 grams of heroin, and $1,508,485 in U.S. currency. The Unit also conducted 115 drug awareness and prevention presentations for local schools and during community events.

Currently, the Narcotics Bureau is involved in collaborative efforts, through the MDC Opioid Addiction Task Force, to curtail the recent opioid epidemic negatively affecting our community. Specifically, the Bureau has developed an action plan that addresses opioid-related overdoses, which oftentimes result in death or serious injury. The Bureau has

A Narcotics Bureau canine locates hidden currency during a drug operation.
tasked investigators with responding to opioid-related investigations, where there is a possibility of obtaining real-time intelligence or evidence to further develop investigative leads. The emphasis is on providing victims with addiction services, preventing future overdoses, and identifying and arresting suppliers.

In furtherance of the MDC Opioid Addiction Task Force’s mission, the Narcotics Bureau participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s “National Prescription Drug Take Back Day” events. This initiative provided citizens with a method to properly and safely dispose of unwanted medications from their households. The Bureau, with the assistance of MDPD district stations, deployed drop boxes throughout MDC, and collected approximately 490 pounds of unwanted pills.

**Governmental Services Bureau**

The Governmental Services Bureau (GSB) provides police services and safeguards critical infrastructures throughout MDC, to include ten courthouses located within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami-Dade Transit Authority Metrorail/Metromover System, and local parks and attractions that draw numerous visitors to MDC. The GSB is comprised of the Court Services Section (CSS) and the Police Operations Section (POS).

The court security function of the CSS consists of the Central Court Security, Satellite Court Security, Enforceable Writs, and Non-Enforceable Writs Units. The CSS is responsible for e-Notify, the Court Notification System which streamlines the notification and delivery of subpoenas, and effectively enhances communication with the criminal justice system.
The Cost Recovery Program, which nets more than $209,000, is utilized to reimburse incurred overtime and investigative expenses.

The CSS is responsible for the safety of judicial personnel and courthouse visitors, as well as, providing security for judicial proceedings at the courthouses. The Section also functions as a liaison with other government entities tasked with court-related responsibilities, and is mandated by state statute to serve civil process and perform associated activities within the County. Additionally, the Section is responsible for the processing of subpoenas and other court-related documents for all police agencies in MDC.

The Enforceable Writs Unit is responsible for the service and execution of enforceable civil processes issued by MDC courts, the state of Florida, and courts from other state jurisdictions. Typically, the Enforceable Writs Unit serves in excess of 14,000 Writs of Possession, 751 Writs of Execution, and 14,000 Domestic Violence Injunctions annually.

The Non-Enforceable Writs Unit receives, processes, and posts 24-hour notices regarding Writs of Possession, serves non-enforceable civil and criminal writ processes, and locates respondents for various court-related purposes. Annually, the Non-Enforceable Writs Unit processes and serves more than 35,000 civil and 328,000 criminal processes.

The Police Operations Section provides police coverage for many of MDC’s critical infrastructures, to include the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the Miami-Dade Transit Authority Metrorail/Metromover System. Additionally, uniform patrol and general investigative services are provided to many recreational, natural habitats, and cultural venues, such as the Main Library and HistoryMiami Museum, Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne’s unincorporated beaches and roadways, Miami Seaquarium, Crandon Park, Bill Baggs State Park, Fisher Island, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, and Marlins Park.
Warrants Bureau

The Warrants Bureau is comprised of four Felony Apprehension Squads, the Career Criminal Squad, Headquarters Security, and the Extradition/Administrative Unit. The Warrants Bureau is responsible for serving felony warrants issued by the local criminal justice system and all jurisdictions nationwide. Annually, Bureau personnel receive an average of 12,000 warrants, make more than 1,850 arrests, and close more than 4,100 warrants.

The Felony Apprehension Squads’ primary responsibilities are to locate and apprehend individuals with outstanding felony warrants. Additional duties include the service of writs of bodily attachment, ex-parte orders, juvenile pickup orders, grand jury indictments, and bench warrants. Warrants Bureau investigators also assist in returning wanted subjects from other jurisdictions to Miami for judicial proceedings.

The Career Criminal Unit is responsible for serving felony warrants on all career criminals and for enforcing Florida’s Career Offender Verification Act. The Unit ensures that career offenders are registered and annually verify their address. Currently, there are 1,641 career offenders registered in our County.

The Headquarters Security Unit is responsible for the security of the MDPD Headquarters Complex. These duties include the control of all visitors to the Complex, monitoring security cameras, security barrier gates, and all entry accesses.

The Extradition/Administrative Unit tracks and coordinates the arrest and return of felony subjects from around the world who are wanted in MDC. This Unit makes approximately 200 extradition trips per year, and assists with returning fugitives with felony warrants to other jurisdictions.
Homeland Security Bureau

The Homeland Security Bureau (HSB) works with regional partners and national agencies to keep our community safe from international and domestic terrorism. The Bureau is housed in a state-of-the-art facility, which creates a secure environment necessary to exchange and access critical classified information with federal agencies without delay, and conduct specialized operations concerning national security. This efficiency enables the Department to respond to threat information in an expeditious manner while enhancing its investigations and vulnerability assessments.

The HSB is also recognized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as one of 79 national fusion centers, known as the Southeast Florida Fusion Center. The Center ensures the effective dissemination of criminal intelligence and information across the region to a multijurisdictional and multidiscipline environment. It continues to build trusted relationships with federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners to enhance the ability to secure the homeland, while protecting the privacy of the public.

To create safer and more secure communities, the HSB has placed a strong emphasis on educating public and private sector partners about the DHS' nationwide initiative, “See Something, Say Something,” also known as i-Watch. The campaign encourages citizens to report suspicious activities and unusual behavior to law enforcement. HSB personnel have proactively conducted awareness campaigns at numerous critical infrastructures within MDC, to include: County-owned facilities, schools, major malls, Metrorail stations, and sporting facilities and events. Additionally, the MDPD mobile application, “Community on Patrol,” contains the “See Something, Say Something” anonymous online citizen reporting system, where anyone can report information using the internet site www.iwatchsouthflorida.com. HSB continues to vigorously investigate Suspicious Activity Reports in its efforts to detect criminal activity and potential terrorist threats.

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force works cooperatively with state and local partners to strengthen regional preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience. In a recent year, the Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force conducted eight multidisciplinary full-scale exercises. Gaps identified in previous regional exercises and assessments were used in the Complex Coordinated Departmental Review

Homeland Security Bureau personnel engage in an exercise to test new equipment and fortify capabilities, which demonstrates complete proficiency.
Terrorist Attack grant application, which was the only application awarded in the state of Florida.

The HSB also encompasses the Department’s Technical Operations/Forensic Video Units. The Units consist of investigators and two sergeants that not only serve the investigative technical needs of the MDPD, but on a routine basis, assist other municipal, state, and federal agencies by applying technical assistance and utilizing available tools during criminal investigations. The assistance provided includes video recovery, video processing, routine surveillance, court authorized surreptitious entries, the covert installation of microphones and cameras that enhance the capabilities to covertly collect audio and video evidence, installation of vehicle tracking devices, neutralization of locks, safes, and alarm systems, Wi-Fi analytics, as well as covert cameras during special events for public safety and countermeasures.

The HSB has recently formulated the Cyber Crimes Unit, which serves as part of the United States Secret Service Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force. The goal of the Cyber Crimes Unit is to prevent and/or respond to cyber incidents that threaten national security or critical infrastructures, as delineated by the DHS. Additionally, the HSB also provides personnel to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Computer Crimes Task Force.
In Remembrance

Each year, during the first week of May, the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony is held to honor all law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in Miami-Dade County. Since 1989, the Police Officer Assistance Trust has embraced the responsibility of constructing and maintaining a most dignified monument and surrounding garden which honors our fallen heroes.

The following words of a south Florida police officer best express the sentiment embodied by this police memorial:

Four silent sentinels, rising from the earth to meet three arches signifying the esteemed position of law enforcement officers in a free society governed by its people through local, state, and federal jurisdictions…a constant reminder that those in authority are also under authority. Four granite monoliths rising from the earth shouting in deafening silence the names inscribed upon their shiny, smooth faces. Flanked by their predecessors who have stood bearing silent testimony to the honor and integrity of the law enforcement officers both living and dead who have hallowed this ground.

Two lions, passive yet ever vigilant, signify the law enforcement officers authority to preserve the peace and to bring justice to those who break the law. These lions represent the four character qualities in law enforcement officers: Courage, Vigilance, Justice, and Mercy.

The Miami-Dade County law enforcement community shares the pain and sorrow of the families and friends of the officers who have died in the line of duty. We gather each year to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We take pride in their courage and devotion, and we vow that they shall never be forgotten.

Director Juan J. Perez presents the law enforcement flag during the annual Miami-Dade Police Memorial Ceremony.
Rhett McGregor 1895
Gustav Kaiser 1895
Wilbur Hendrickson 1915
Allen Henderson 1916
William Z. Henderson 1916
Charles Williams 1916
Edward E. Fritz, Jr. 1953
Jerome R. Christman 1960
Earl Lee Johnson 1962
Carlos S. Stuteville 1964
Paul G. Anderson 1967
Johnny E. Mitchell 1971
Harrison Crenshaw 1974
Simmons Arrington 1974
Frank Searcy 1974
Clark H. Curlette 1976
Frank K. D’Azevedo 1976

Thomas A. Hodges, Jr. 1976
William C. Cook 1979
William F. Askew 1979
Edward R. Young 1981
Cheryl Weiner Seiden 1982
Stephen Corbett 1983
Robert L. Zore 1983
Richard A. Boles 1988

David Strzalkowski 1988
Jose T. Gonzalez 1989
Joseph P. Martin 1990
Thomas Leis 1990
Evelyn Gort 1993
Carmen Gonzalez 1993
Robert Vargas 1997
Richard Wentlandt 1997
Rueben I. Jones 1998
Roberto L. Calderon 1999
Randy Kugler 2000
Nirza Rodriguez 2003
Jose L. Somohano 2007
Giovanni Gonzalez 2009
Amanda Haworth 2011
Roger Castillo 2011
Henry M. AcAleenan, Jr. 2016

Miami-Dade Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty
The Hall of Honor is a dramatic and compelling remembrance of the sacrifices made by MDPD officers killed in the line of duty. It is also a celebration of the important contributions they made to our community.

Each fallen officer is recognized with a photograph and a narrative explanation of the circumstances of their death. A massive statue of Saint Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of first responders, watches over this sacred place reminding visitors of its importance. In the midst of an active Headquarters building, the Hall of Honor provides employees and families a quiet refuge for reflection and appreciation.

Purposefully, the Hall of Honor is located adjacent to the Personnel Management Bureau, so that every new employee passes through the display as part of the hiring process — not only respecting the history and traditions of the Department, but also carrying those values forward into the future.
History of the Miami-Dade Police Department

Dade County was established in 1836 and encompassed an area which now comprises Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties. In the early years, the area was policed by as few as three deputies on horseback.

Dade’s county seat was moved from Juno to Miami in 1899 when the population of Miami was approximately 5,000. Prior to this time, Dade’s sheriffs were appointed by the Governor. From the turn of the century through 1966, the office of sheriff was an elected position.

By 1950, Dade County’s population had grown to 495,000, and the jurisdiction area had been reduced to approximately its present 2,139 square miles. The metropolitan form of government was approved in 1957, and the Dade County Sheriff’s Office was subsequently renamed the Public Safety Department (PSD).

In 1960, in addition to providing Countywide police services, responsibility was assumed for police operations at the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport. The Department had a complement of 623 sworn personnel that year. In 1966, with a Department comprised of approximately 850 sworn officers, a longstanding controversy over the selection/election procedure for choosing a county sheriff was resolved by voter mandate. Subsequently, sheriffs were appointed by the County Manager as “Director of the Public Safety Department and Sheriff of Metropolitan Dade County.”

PSD’s organizational structure as determined by the Metropolitan Charter included responsibility for fire protection, the jail and stockade, civil defense, animal control, and motor vehicle inspection, in addition to police functions. By 1973, however, the Department had been divested of ancillary responsibilities in order to concentrate entirely on police services. The Department’s sworn force consisted of approximately 1,200 employees.

During the 1970s, great strides were made toward professionalizing the Department through development of innovative community programs, standard operating procedures, rules and regulations, and departmental training programs. By July 1981, the Department was reorganized and renamed the Metro-Dade Police Department (MDPD). As the complexity of its challenges grew, the Department expanded its size and skills accordingly. This expansion was characterized by acquisition of the latest equipment, and by training and educational programs offered to its officers. Examples include Survival City, where officers are trained in physical surroundings that replicate an urban setting, and a master’s degree program in management presented by the University of Miami.

Keeping pace with the increase in population and subsequent service demands, construction of a new police headquarters complex began in 1986 and was completed in 1990. In its commitment to law enforcement excellence, the Department became fully accredited in 1993 by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Reassessment occurs every three years to ensure continued compliance.

In 1997, citizens voted to rename our county Miami-Dade County. Currently, 2,819 sworn officers and 1,511 civilians are employed by the Miami-Dade Police Department. As we enter the 21st century, the Department will continue to build partnerships and expand its resources to meet the needs of our ever changing community.
SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY and MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Hector Llevat
Chief of Communications

Allison Bishop-Cooner
Editor

Juan A. Perez
Graphic Designer

Rick Bravo, Gaston De Cardenas, Orlando Mendez
Contributing Photographers
Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. “It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act.”

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