

Miami-Dade Police Department

**Community Policing,
Crime Prevention,
& Juvenile Programs
Annual Evaluation**

2022



C.A.L.E.A. s t a n d a r d s

2023 Edition

2022

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Policing, Crime Prevention, & Juvenile Programs

Annual Evaluation

The attached report is prepared every year in accordance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standard 45.1.1c.

To adhere to CALEA standards 11.4.1 and 45.1.1c, this report will be published annually to standardize the report and ensure a yearly evaluation of the programs.

The attached report evaluates all community policing, crime prevention, and juvenile programs that were conducted by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) during 2022.

The MDPD establishes crime prevention programs with specific policies, goals, and objectives by which their commitment can be realized. Some of these programs are developed based on data indicating the types of crimes that pose the greatest threat to the community and where (geographically) criminal activity is most prevalent. Programs are evaluated to determine whether they have been effective in achieving present goals.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Airport Operations Bureau Enforcement Initiative	6
Autism Vehicle	7
Behavioral Detection Training	8
Career Day/Officer Friendly Presentation	9
Celebrating Safer Communities	10
Christmas at 94th Aero Squadron	11
Christmas Toy Drives	12
Citizen Advisory Committee	13
Citizens' Crime Watch	14
Citizen's Police Academy	15
Citizens' Volunteer Program	16
Coffee With A Cop	17
Community-Oriented Support Dog Program	18
Community Safety Education Program	19
Community Service Squad	20
Crime Prevention Display Vehicle	21
Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)	22
DARE Vehicle	23
District Open House	24
Driving Under the Influence Mobile Education Unit	25
Emergency Commercial Identification Program (E-CIP)	26
Enhanced Security Initiative	27
Gang Detectives	28
Grinchbusters Holiday Crime Detail	29
Gun Bounty Program	30
Gun Buy-Back Program	31
Haulover Park Summer Safety Initiative	32
Heroes and Helpers at Target Program	33
Homicide Street Violence Task Force	34

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Juvenile Curfew Enforcement	35
Lock It or Lose It Campaign	36
Major's Community Outreach Program	37
MDPD Fit2Lead Student Internship Program	38
MDPD Youth Athletic Mentoring Initiative (YAMI)	39
Military Appreciation Vehicle	40
National Night Out	41
Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU)	42
NextDoor Social Media Application	43
Nuisance Abatement Program	44
Officer Friendly/Career Day	45
“Operation Lookout”	46
Operation Pill Drop	47
Operation Safeport	48
Police Athletic League (PAL)	49
Police Athletic League Summer Camp	50
Police Chaplain Program	51
Police Explorer Program	52
Police Reserve Officer Program	53
Pride Vehicle	54
Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)	55
Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC)	56
Resisting Aggression Defensively	57
Robbery Intervention Detail	58
School Crossing Guard Program	59
Security Survey Program	60
Shop With A Cop Program	61

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Victims Bureau Clearinghouse	62
Sports Day	63
Spring Break Enforcement Detail	64
Static Display Helicopter	65
Stranger Danger Danger/Anti-Drug/Gun Safety Presentations	66
Street Terror Offender Program	67
Students Together Against Negative Decisions (STAND)	68
Summer Enforcement Detail	69
Summer Youth Experience Camp	70
Thanksgiving Food and Turkey Drive	71
The Multi-Agency Marine Theft Task Force	72
The Science Behind Use of Force	73
Town of Miami Lakes Special Needs Registry	74
Truancy Enforcement Program	75
Turn Around Police (TAP) Academy	76
Village of Palmetto Bay Policing Unit/Community Outreach	77
Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County	78
Youth Outreach Unit	79
Youth Safety Initiative	80
2022 Acronyms Index	81
District Stations	82

AIRPORT OPERATIONS BUREAU ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION:

The Airport Operations Bureau maintains a dedicated staff to handle issues that occur within the 3,200 acres of the Miami International Airport (MIA) and the Miami Intermodal Center. The Miami Intermodal Center includes the Miami Central Station (Metrorail, Tri-Rail, bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft, Amtrak, and private vehicles) and the Rental Car Center. MIA is the busiest international airport in the United States, and one of the busiest in the world:

- Fastest growth of all large airports in the USA
- #1 international passenger airport in the USA
- #1 international cargo airport in the USA
- #9 international cargo airport in the world
- #9 airport in the world: total aircraft operations

In 2022, MIA hosted a record-setting 50 million travelers and employed over 35,000 people. The growth in passenger and cargo volume is increasing. The Airport Operations Bureau Enforcement Initiative is comprised of high-visibility vehicles, cart, bicycle, and foot patrol, in addition to undercover operations. The Initiative addresses concerns related to general security, traffic control, checkpoints, and Security Escort Details.

EVALUATION:

The Airport Operations Bureau Enforcement Initiative has ensured constant police presence and availability, thereby ensuring that travelers and stakeholders feel secure. This serves as a superior public relations and crime suppression method. During holiday travel seasons, which see increases in MIA activity, the Initiative is flexible enough to reallocate resources based upon fluctuating demand.

USER:

Airport Operations Bureau

AUTISM VEHICLE

DESCRIPTION:

The Autism vehicle was added in April 2021, during Autism Awareness month. It enhances community awareness of autism spectrum disorder. The vehicle includes handprints of 28 autistic children of Department employees. The Autism vehicle is taken to career days at schools as well as many other community events throughout Miami-Dade County.

EVALUATION:

The Autism vehicle provides awareness to the community and has participated in career days as well as caravans and community events.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

BEHAVIORAL DETECTION TRAINING

DESCRIPTION:

Trained Airport Operations Bureau officers provide Behavioral Detection Training to all civilian personnel who are obtaining their Security Identification Display Area (SIDA) card status within the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. These training classes are conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays of each week prior to any civilian obtaining their SIDA cards. Classes are provided in English and Spanish within a four-hour block and approximately 60 people are trained on a weekly basis. The curriculum was developed by New Age Security Solutions, an Israeli company, and was based on experiences in Israel. The training provides the tools to recognize suspicious behavior in an airport environment. The result of this training is to help the civilian population, who labor at MIA, to potentially deter terrorist and criminal activities.

EVALUATION:

The MDAD is a strong supporter of this training, and it has proven to be a positive tool in combating criminal activities within MIA property.

USER:

Airport Operations Bureau

CAREER DAY/OFFICER FRIENDLY PRESENTATION

DESCRIPTION:

The Intracoastal, Northwest, Midwest, Northside, Kendall, Hammocks, and South Districts, Community Affairs Bureau, Town of Cutler Bay, and Village of Palmetto Bay conduct Career Day and Officer Friendly Presentations at elementary and middle schools within their jurisdictions. These presentations give children an opportunity to ask questions regarding police calls and procedures. They also demonstrate various police equipment for the children. These activities serve as an excellent way of building a positive interaction with law enforcement.

EVALUATION:

This program provides positive interaction between children and the police. It gives the children a greater understanding of how and why police officers take certain action(s) and answer any questions they might have regarding rules, regulations, and procedures.

USER:

District stations; Community Affairs Bureau; Town of Cutler Bay and Village of Palmetto Bay

CELEBRATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

DESCRIPTION:

Celebrating Safer Communities is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood morale and police/community relations; and send a message to criminals everywhere, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back. Events are held in October for Crime Prevention month as well as other outreach efforts throughout the year.

EVALUATION:

This is a popular and effective program. It is a valuable public relations tool for the Department. It should be held during evening hours in order to better accommodate targeted communities and improve attendance.

USER:

District stations and Town of Cutler Bay

CHRISTMAS at 94th AERO SQUADRON

DESCRIPTION:

The Midwest District's Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU), its Explorer Post, and the 94th Aero Squadron coordinate this annual Christmas luncheon. The objective is to provide toys for underprivileged children and reward them for academic or behavioral improvement. Generally, 80 children from three local elementary schools are chosen to participate in this event. The children eat lunch with Santa, are given a toy of their choice, and enjoy a fun-filled Christmas program.

EVALUATION:

Christmas at the 94th Aero Squadron continues to be a successful program and is well received by school administrators, faculty, parents, and students. The program forms partnerships with area schools and promotes a positive rapport with children in the community. The goal is to include more participants for the next school year.

USER:

Midwest District

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVES

DESCRIPTION:

MDPD district stations partner with various community agencies annually to provide toys to disadvantaged children during the holiday season. They target needy children with the aim of adding a little “cheer” to their Christmas holidays. This spirit of giving is further extended as police officers and community groups have a means to “give back” to the communities they serve. Most of the children targeted are a result of police officer interactions throughout MDC while on patrol, as well as requests from teachers, clergy, and social workers. Mentees who are enrolled in the Youth Outreach Unit (YOU) Program, as well as police explorers, volunteer their time to help carry out the toy drives. This not only benefits the recipients of the toys, but it also benefits the mentees and police explorers who experience the spirit of giving.

In the eyes of the children and their families, police officers are now seen as more than just law enforcement officers. The program fosters immediate police/community relations and gives police officers an opportunity to initiate constructive dialogues between youth, parents, and community volunteers, which serves as a foundation for future growth and development.

EVALUATION:

This widespread program was well received by community members as it affords children holiday gifts and some fun which may not normally be received by the children. It also encourages a unique bond with law enforcement personnel.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay, Miami Lakes, the Village of Palmetto Bay; and the Community Affairs Bureau

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DESCRIPTION:

Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) were formed in each district after the 1980 civil disorders. Its specific purpose, then and now, is to facilitate police/citizen communication and enhance police/community relations.

Each district CAC will elect members in good standing to serve as Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. They meet monthly at each district with MDPD command staff to discuss areas of community interest. Committee members represent all segments of the community and share information and concerns on a variety of community-related issues. They also provide feedback on the level of police services provided in their locality. Concerns discussed range from criminal offenses to zoning matters. Each area of concern is evaluated, acted upon, and the appropriate district personnel then take follow-up action.

EVALUATION:

The CACs continue to serve as an important communication link between the police and the various communities within each district. Many of MDPD's Citizen's Police Academy graduates are members of the CACs. This has increased citizens' awareness of the Department's function throughout the districts. There are no recommendations for changes at this time.

USER:

District stations

CITIZENS' CRIME WATCH

DESCRIPTION:

This program has been in place for more than 40 years and it is sponsored by Citizens' Crime Watch (CCW) of MDC in cooperation with MDPD. The program creates an alliance between citizens and the police to address crime in the community. Through CCW, community members are educated in areas such as personal protection, home security, and crime reporting.

EVALUATION:

The CCW continues to create alliances between citizens and the police to address crime in the community. During these meetings, the participants have been taught techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles, and in public places. It also teaches residents the importance of recognizing suspicious activities; evaluating them; and properly reporting them. This program empowers citizens to work together with law enforcement to fight crime in their community.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau coordinates this program with participation from district stations; and Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes, and the Village of Palmetto Bay.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

DESCRIPTION:

The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) was created in 1993 to offer civilians with civic interests an exposure to the "police experience." Movies and television shows over the years have created an impossible image for professional police officers to live up to, resulting in citizens with unrealistic expectations. The CPA hopes to combat that type of perception. The 16-week evening program enables participants to better understand police training, procedures, and philosophy.

The CPA is held at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center one night per-week, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The students are taught classes on topics such as law; firearms and use of force; stress management; domestic violence; and patrol procedures, to name a few. Each student is required to participate in an eight-hour riding assignment during the course. Upon completion, the student experiences a Basic Law Enforcement style graduation, and receives a diploma/plaque.

EVALUATION:

The CPA has been extremely successful in educating citizens and, in most cases, transforms negative attitudes into ones of appreciation and understanding. Graduates continue to dispel negative or false perceptions by speaking out at civic meetings within their own neighborhoods about the true nature of law enforcement. The key to its success is the non-patronizing approach that the program coordinators and instructors take in addressing each class. By showing real life ups and downs of police work, participants realize and appreciate they are getting the "real thing." To date, more than 2,900 people have completed the program. The program is offered at least once a year.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Citizens' Volunteer Program (CVP) was designed to give interested citizens an opportunity to perform volunteer duties for different entities within the Department. These duties may include filing, answering phones, distributing mail, and other duties of a non-classified nature at the discretion of the individual entity. The number of volunteers varies each month, as people enter or leave the program.

Through exposure of daily police activities, the volunteer develops a realistic perspective of the law enforcement system and a positive regard for the police agency and its personnel.

EVALUATION:

The CVP has been of great value in that it permits area residents to work in a police environment, exposing them to the daily activities of the profession while performing a service to the Department and the community. The program provides added assistance to departmental entities with a multitude of clerical administrative functions.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

COFFEE WITH A COP

DESCRIPTION:

MDPD district stations have implemented a monthly community meet and greet, formerly named “Coffee with a Cop,” where district majors meet with residents and/or business representatives in an informal setting, providing meeting participants with coffee and snacks. The objective is to speak with residents regarding concerns within their neighborhoods, and to enlist their support and cooperation in the problem-solving process. This initiative has been overwhelmingly embraced by the community and has resulted in strengthening the bond between officers and citizens.

EVALUATION:

“Coffee with a Cop” is a permanent event for all districts. This disarming communicative approach has enhanced police/community relations and has expanded intergroup discussions. Additionally, it develops positive relationships between law enforcement personnel and the community.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Town of Miami Lakes, and Village of Palmetto Bay

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED SUPPORT DOG PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Community-Oriented Support Dog Program was established in 2019. The program serves the citizens of Miami-Dade County as an outreach tool, to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community. Moreover, the program provides comfort during critical incidents or high conflict situations and/or events. The trained support dog is a valuable supplement to the resources of the Department.

EVALUATION:

The primary function of the comfort dog is to provide a calming presence and welcome distraction to people who have been affected by traumatic incidents. The comfort dog will function as a community relations resource by interacting with citizens at public outreach events. Additionally, the support dog is utilized within the Department to help departmental personnel alleviate stress, as approved on a case-by-case basis, by the District's Commander.

USER:

Kendall, Hammocks, and Midwest Districts; and Community Affairs Bureau

COMMUNITY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Community Safety Education Program was instituted to provide education presentations and instruction for citizen groups concerning various aspects of pedestrian, traffic, bicycle, bullying, substance abuse, stranger danger, seatbelt, and internet safety. Currently, there are presentations covering the above topics for pre-kindergarten children through senior citizens. Materials used are continually evaluated and are updated as the need arises.

The Buckle Bear, Puppet Show, McGruff the Crime Dog, McGruff Cruiser, Bicycle Rodeo, and Easter Bunny are programs and educational visual aids used by the Educational Unit.

The character educational/self-esteem component entitled "8 Keys to a Better Me," continues to be successfully presented at schools. This presentation is a character development program designed by the MDPD to help build positive traits in our youth, such as honesty, respect, patriotism, kindness, courage, responsibility, feelings, and self-worth.

MDPD staff members have completed the Standardized Child Passenger Safety Program offered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and have participated in various checkpoints throughout MDC. Educational Unit personnel provide a child restraint "Fitting Station" as a designated place where parents or drivers can receive educational assistance with child restraint installation. The MDPD's Fred Taylor Headquarters Building fitting station is community accessible and operates as a public service.

EVALUATION:

Feedback from schools and involved groups is positive and indicates that the program has been well received by the public. Approximately 384,840 contacts were made during the 2022 fiscal year.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

COMMUNITY SERVICE SQUAD

DESCRIPTION:

Community Service Squads (CSS) have been created in certain police districts to address community issues. Duties of the CSS include traffic enforcement, high-visibility patrols in specific areas of concern, and crowd control. The CSS officers conduct police officer familiarization and crime prevention presentations for citizen groups and schools; serve as co-advisors for the district's Police Explorer Post; and support programs such as Drug Abuse and Resistance Education, "Students Together Against Negative Decisions (STAND)," Stranger Danger, Anti-bullying, Driver Safety, and Gun Security presentations.

CSS officers' partner with residents, business owners, and school personnel to develop effective methods of crime prevention. Crime Watch programs create a forum for citizens and law enforcement to exchange information for the betterment of the community. Quality of life issues such as litter and abandoned vehicles; building condition, structural damage, and pollution are addressed with the assistance of the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department.

EVALUATION:

The implementation of the CSS is well-received throughout the communities they serve. CSS officers seek to reduce fear of crime, solve community issues, and increase citizens' sense of personal safety. The success of the CSS program is in part due to the partnerships that have evolved among residents, local businesses, and law enforcement. As a result, residents continue to benefit from the improved quality of life they experience in their community.

USER:

Northside, Northwest, Midwest, and Hammocks Districts

CRIME PREVENTION DISPLAY VEHICLE

DESCRIPTION:

The Community Affairs Bureau utilizes a Crime Prevention Display Vehicle (CPDV) to enhance community education concerning police services. This 40-foot bus/coach type vehicle houses interactive crime prevention displays that deliver pertinent information to citizens. Two touch screen kiosks, along with four 19" televisions with DVD/VCR units, feature facts and descriptions of departmental programs, and various topics related to crime prevention and safety practices. The display vehicle also contains specific information on homeland security, alarm systems, security locks, and lighting tips.

EVALUATION:

The objective of the CPDV is to provide citizens with information on the consequences of drinking and driving, drug awareness, crime prevention tools, and community-based programs offered by the Department.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION:

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program has been taught by police officers since 1988 and reached 6,492 students during the 2022/2023 school year. This substance abuse and violence prevention program gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence.

MDPD DARE officers teach this program that gives children the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle pressures that cause them to experiment with drugs or become involved in gangs or violent activities. DARE officers facilitate discussion groups, role-playing sessions, and work assignments. The group dynamic concept encourages kids to work together on projects and to think for themselves to make good life choices.

The 5th grade curriculum, wherein the officer teaches anti-drug, gang, and violence techniques, as well as peer pressure awareness, bullying, and self-worth, is the foundation of the DARE program. This provides students with the skills they will need as young adults to avoid gang violence and resist the temptations of drug abuse.

EVALUATION:

The DARE program is a promising strategy that helps teachers and administrators cope with changing federal substance abuse prevention program requirements and school violence issues. It is proving to be a great tool in establishing positive relationships between students and law enforcement, teachers, parents, and other community leaders. Most importantly, it provides the students with an opportunity to learn skills needed to succeed in life. The curriculum has been updated to address the most current trends in drug use and bullying.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau and Village of Palmetto Bay

DARE VEHICLE

DESCRIPTION:

The DARE vehicle is a 2006 Ford Mustang that has been customized to augment the DARE program. The objective of this positive public relations vehicle is to emphasize the mission of the program, which is to "Say No to Drugs."

The program reaches many groups, but specifically targets 5th grade students. The DARE vehicle is most attractive in its presentation of logo decals and the DARE lion graphic, which is recognized by all DARE program graduates.

EVALUATION:

The DARE vehicle promotes the DARE program and provides students a visual reminder of how fun learning skills needed to succeed in life can be.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

DESCRIPTION:

District Open House events are hosted to bring the community, local vendors, and MDPD together to learn about MDPD's various programs and other services that are available to citizens. Vendors are invited to attend and showcase their businesses, which are located within the community. Personnel from County programs and other services available to the public, such as the Miami-Dade County Mobile Pet Hope Adoption, Florida Licensing on Wheels, and the State Attorney's Office also attend.

EVALUATION:

This event provides community residents with a chance to meet the district command staff, police officers, and local vendors in the districts.

USER:

District stations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE MOBILE EDUCATION UNIT

DESCRIPTION:

The Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Mobile Education Unit (MEU) was developed in MDC by the MDPD. The focus was aimed at creating an educational program that would make the public aware that drinking and driving is not safe behavior. The education unit involves hands-on participation with state-of-the-art instruments. Targeted areas include high and middle schools, along with community and civic events.

The MDPD's DUI MEU is a 60-foot tractor-trailer that transforms into a state-of-the-art interactive, mini-museum which features DUI prevention information. A powerful sound system draws viewers inside. Visitors can see an exhibit of alcohol-testing instruments. Three TV monitors show videotaped accounts of DUI crashes from the MDC area, or special messages that schools or businesses supply. There are three touch screen monitors that depict crash statistics, the effects and hazards of both drugs and alcohol, and interactive knowledge assessments regarding alcohol use. To simulate the physical impairment resulting from excessive alcohol use, viewers can "walk the line" wearing the Fatal Vision Goggles. This virtual-reality exercise mimics the kinds of spastic movement and lack of physical coordination experienced when impaired.

EVALUATION:

This program began on February 10, 1998. Since that date, more than 900,000 people have toured the custom-built trailer and gained important knowledge that drinking and driving is not a safe behavior.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Emergency Commercial Identification Program (E-CIP) was developed and has been active in the Village of Palmetto Bay for more than ten years. The program consists of contacting all of the commercial businesses located within the Village and obtaining and verifying the entire business' emergency contact information. This information is then maintained in a secure database, available to the officers on the road, in order to contact the owners in case of an emergency that might occur after business hours. The participating businesses are identified by an E-CIP decal placed at a predetermined spot at a location which allows officers to recognize the business information. The program also provides a bridge between the local business and the officers that patrol the areas.

EVALUATION:

In 2022, more than 400 businesses participated in the program. Grant funds for this program came from the Village of Palmetto Bay and the Department of Justice.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay

ENHANCED SECURITY INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION:

The Airport Operations Bureau's mission is to provide police services to the citizens of MDC. However, District responsibilities also include the protection and security of the many tourists visiting south Florida and traveling through the MIA, Miami Intermodal Center, and the Airport Link Metrorail Station.

The Enhanced Security Initiative provides increased staffing which allows for intensified police presence in the form of traffic enforcement, security checkpoints, high-visibility vehicle patrol, foot patrol, and the use of undercover personnel. As a result, tourists and citizens traveling through MIA have a heightened sense of security and always have direct access to a police officer, should they need assistance. In cooperation with MDPD, this unique Initiative is funded by the MDAD.

EVALUATION:

This Initiative has had a significant impact on crime during the holiday season and has created a safer environment for visitors and citizens alike. The increased presence of police personnel has also allowed for more citizen contacts. This is an excellent public relations initiative and a crime suppression plan.

USER:

Airport Operations Bureau

GANG DETECTIVES

DESCRIPTION:

District gang detectives are responsible for maintaining intelligence files on criminal street gangs, their members, and associates within district boundaries. The Gang Squad is assigned to the General Investigations Unit (GIU) and their activities are coordinated through the GIU Commander. The gang detectives act as liaisons between rival gangs in an attempt to curtail any violence that may occur over disputes or differences of opinion. The gang detectives maintain a professional rapport with gang members, which allows him/her to frequently quell problems before they occur and to extract needed information. The gang detectives maintain close contact with other departmental entities, as well as outside agencies. The gang detectives are also liaisons with the Homicide Street Violence Task Force (HSVTF), which coordinate large-scale violent crimes and gang investigations utilizing local, state, and federal agencies. Members of the HSVTF have weekly meetings and also participate in these investigations and disseminate gang intelligence throughout the law enforcement community.

The Intracoastal, Northside, and South Districts Gang Units, partake in the mission of the MDC Gun Violence Reduction Initiative. The mission is to efficiently investigate and prosecute perpetrators of gun violence while also improving the quality of life in the affected communities by reducing gun related crimes.

EVALUATION:

District gang detectives' knowledge of and rapport with these gang members have proven to be a valuable intelligence asset to the Department. Potential problems and gang-related crimes have been thwarted before they could materialize due to the intelligence gathered by the detectives. There are no recommended changes to this position at this time.

USER:

Hammocks, Intracoastal, Northside, Northwest, Midwest, and South Districts

GRINCHBUSTERS HOLIDAY CRIME DETAIL

DESCRIPTION:

Grinchbusters Holiday Crime Detail is designed to address criminal activity in shopping areas during the holiday season. Crimes of opportunity such as robberies, thefts, and auto thefts are the primary focus of the operation. A combination of specialized units including NRU, GIU, and uniform officers are utilized for surveillance, high-visibility patrols throughout the shopping centers, and roving patrols in areas surrounding the shopping areas. The visual presence of marked police vehicles creates a deterrent to crime. The program usually runs five weeks each year, but is extended if necessary.

EVALUATION:

The high-visibility patrols and plain-clothes covert operations in each district and town's commercial establishments greatly enhances the safety and well-being of local residents who patronize those businesses.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes, and Village of Palmetto Bay

GUN BOUNTY PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The program was instituted on May 24, 2007, in partnership with local law enforcement and Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers. It is aimed at deterring the illegal possession and use of guns in MDC. Anyone who reports a person who is illegally possessing or illegally using a firearm is eligible for a \$1,000 reward if the subject is arrested and a gun is seized. On a weekly basis, brochures are distributed throughout MDC to increase community awareness.

EVALUATION:

From June 1, 2007, through December 31, 2022, a total of 1,146 guns were removed from the streets of MDC and 747 arrests were made. A total of \$746,000 has been paid in rewards. Other items recovered as a result of the Gun Bounty program include narcotics valued at \$9,377,000, U.S. currency amounting to \$920,323, 180 stolen firearms, 15 stolen vehicles valued at \$185,000; in addition, 13 bullet resistant vests, 1 live hand grenade, 1 pipe bomb, 3 police badges, 1 Taser, and 1 radar gun.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

GUN BUY-BACK PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Gun Buy-Back Program is an event that is held by individual districts within the Miami-Dade Police Department that provides a method in which citizens can drop off any unwanted or illegal firearms that they may possess with complete anonymity and freedom from prosecution. During previous Gun Buy-Back events, the citizens receive gifts cards between \$25.00 to \$200.00 or a laptop. Sworn personnel from the sponsoring district, as well as sworn personnel from the Property & Evidence Section work the event to ensure the safe retrieval, handling, and impounding of all firearms seized. Districts periodically hold the Gun Buy-Back events when they are able to find sponsors that are willing to support the event or through other internal resources.

EVALUATION:

During calendar year 2022, the Intracoastal District hosted one Gun Buy-Back event at the 7-Eleven, located at 1505 Ives Dairy Road. Nine people surrendered a total of 11 guns, the majority of which were functional, including 1 rifle, 2 shotguns, 5 revolvers, and 3 semi-automatic handguns. A total of 15 gift cards were distributed.

USER:

Intracoastal, Northside, and South Districts

HAULOVER PARK SUMMER SAFETY INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION:

During late spring and summer, large crowds descend on Haulover Park for boating, picnicking, sports recreation, swimming, and sunbathing. Crowds swell even larger for the summer holidays of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Haulover Park has a large nude beach area which creates additional challenges for law enforcement.

EVALUATION:

The Intracoastal District deploys a contingent of personnel from specialized units from within the District to meet this demand for police services. Specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, and personal watercrafts are utilized for patrol. Plainclothes officers are also utilized for criminal activity, such as vehicle burglaries and lewd and lascivious activities.

USER:

Intracoastal District

HEROES AND HELPERS AT TARGET PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Heroes and Helpers at Target Program was implemented to provide holiday gifts for children of low-income families. MDPD partners with Target retailers to foster positive relationships in the community and make holidays a little brighter for underprivileged children.

The young participants are selected by teachers, clergy members, and community leaders who have personal knowledge of these families' economic situations. Each child receives a gift card generously donated by Target retailers. Next, families are paired up with a Kendall District police officer to begin the "Heroes and Helpers" experience. As children select their toys and gifts, officers tally up the items and assist with the checkout procedures. The children are overwhelmed with excitement and the families are most grateful for this outpouring of generosity.

EVALUATION:

The program is well received by the community members. It develops positive relationships between children, their families, and MDPD officers. The retailers are also satisfied for the publicity their businesses receive and welcome the opportunity to assist MDPD in "giving back" to the community.

USER:

Kendall and Midwest Districts

HOMICIDE STREET VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

DESCRIPTION:

The Homicide Street Violence Task Force (HSVTF) was conceived as an effort to share intelligence and strategically address escalating levels of street violence, particularly murders, occurring in MDC. This multi-pronged approach raises homicide clearance rates by utilizing the most effective means of gathering intelligence, including the use of confidential informants and sources, and cultivates the cooperation of reluctant witnesses and enhances community participation.

The HSVTF has dedicated teams in the northern and southern communities within MDC to address specific areas, which have traditionally been impacted by violent crimes such as: murder, shooting incident, narcotics trafficking, and aggravated battery.

The HSVTF also has a Community Outreach Section (COS), which is dedicated to building community relationships with the local clergy, community stakeholders, and school districts. The COS has demonstrated a unique ability to forge real-time intelligence with the aforementioned community tiers in order to enhance and further criminal investigations. The COS works hand-in-hand with homicide investigators and the victim/witness coordinator, which has resulted in investigators being intricately involved in working with residents, business owners, and apartment complex managers in areas that have been plagued by violent crime.

EVALUATION:

The HSVTF bridges communication gaps between various MDPD units and outside law enforcement agencies in an effort to thwart a continuing cycle of violence. The HSVTF model gains the trust and cooperation of members of the community through results and community outreach efforts. Since its inception, the HSVTF has been successful, which is evidenced by the following statistical data:

- The clearance rate for murders occurring in MDC was 66% in 2022.
- The HSVTF has arrested a total of 114 individuals with violent criminal pasts and recovered 121 firearms.
- HSVTF detectives have authored 51 search warrants and seized 2,730 grams of marijuana, 2,136 grams of cocaine, 4,500 grams of heroin, and 78,139 in U.S. currency.

USER:

Homicide and Robbery Bureaus; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States Marshals Service; Miami Police Department; Miami Gardens Police Department; Miami Beach Police Department; North Miami Beach Police Department; North Miami Police Department; Aventura Police Department; and MDPD policing districts.

JUVENILE CURFEW ENFORCEMENT

DESCRIPTION:

Enacted in 1996, Juvenile Curfew Enforcement is aimed at protecting juveniles from crime as well as reducing juvenile crime. The ordinance makes it unlawful for any person under the age of 17 to linger, stay, congregate, move about, wander, or stroll in any public or semi-public place in MDC, either on foot or in or upon any conveyance or vehicle being driven or parked thereon, during curfew hours. The curfew hours are Sunday through Thursday evenings from 11:00 p.m., until 6:00 a.m., the following morning; and Friday and Saturday evenings from 12:00 midnight, until 6:00 a.m., the following morning.

Throughout the program, a record is kept of juveniles who do not comply with the ordinance. When juveniles are stopped during curfew hours, they must be released to a parent or adult guardian, or they may be transported to their residence or other appropriate location. If a juvenile is cited three or more times for not complying with the ordinance, a petition for dependency may be filed in juvenile court. The parent or legal guardian of the juvenile will receive a notice to appear and may be punished by a fine of up to \$500.

EVALUATION:

The ordinance is beneficial and has had a positive impact on reducing juvenile crime. Informational brochures and posters have been printed in English, Spanish, and Creole and distributed to keep the community informed about the ordinance.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes, and Village of Palmetto Bay

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION:

In response to a local trend of vehicle burglaries involving unlocked vehicles; the Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes and the Villages of Palmetto Bay initiated the “Lock It or Lose It” campaign in February 2016. The campaign was developed in collaboration with the Town of Miami Lakes Public Safety committee. The campaign consists of “Lock it or Lose It” flyers being passed out in the community by NRU officers assigned to the Town of Miami Lakes Policing Unit. The flyers illustrate ways that citizens can prevent themselves from becoming victims of vehicle burglaries. Additionally, the Community Affairs Bureau has also utilized the Department’s social media platforms to remind residents of the importance in securing their vehicles. The MDPD adopted and implemented the campaign Countywide in an effort to effectively reduce the number of vehicle burglaries in MDC.

EVALUATION:

Since the campaign’s inception, there has been a significant reduction in vehicle burglaries within the Town of Miami Lakes as well as an enhanced sense of partnership from the community that are locking their vehicles and not leaving valuable items inside.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes, and the Village of Palmetto Bay

MAJOR'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

MDPD district stations have implemented a Major's Community Outreach Program, where MDPD command staff, accompanied by NRU officers and staff from associated governmental agencies, Florida Department of Children and Families, and the State Attorney's Office walk the neighborhoods. Personnel are divided into teams of three to four officers and representatives from governmental agencies. These teams go door-to-door, introducing command staff to the citizens in hopes of establishing lines of communication and addressing community concerns. The concerns are referred immediately to the appropriate agency and/or departmental entity.

This initiative has been overwhelmingly embraced by the community and has resulted in considerable intelligence gathering regarding criminal activity. The addressing of safety and quality of life issues also provides valuable feedback. Two outreaches are conducted each month which encompass a residential community and a commercial complex.

EVALUATION:

The Major's Community Outreach Program is a permanent monthly event for all districts. During each Community Outreach event, district personnel make personal contact with an average of 300 residents within their locality. As the program continues to progress, district personnel have implemented additional components to include the distribution of flyers concerning crime prevention tips, Gun Bounty Program information, Halloween safety, holiday shopping safety, and Crime Stoppers tips. The staff will continue to distribute important and useful information as it applies to the community.

USER:

District stations; Town of Cutler Bay, and Village of Palmetto Bay

MDPD FIT2LEAD STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The MDPD Fit2Lead Student Internship Program under MDC Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Peace and Prosperity Plan, creates an opportunity between at-risk youth and law enforcement to work side-by-side identifying residential quality of life issues throughout specific MDC neighborhoods. The program currently operates out of three MDPD police districts: Northside, Intracoastal, and South Districts. The paid interns work approximately 19 hours per-week identifying and resolving residential quality of life issues throughout the geographical areas from the MDPD police districts along with the assistance of MDC's 311 Contact Center. The weekly experience is shared along an MDPD police officer which helps in bridging the gaps between youth and law enforcement. Additionally, this crime prevention program seeks to keep youth busy during the weekend and helps beautify neighborhoods.

EVALUATION:

The MDPD Fit2Lead Student Internship Program fosters a positive bond between at-risk youth and police officers. Additionally, the interns' work duties build self-confidence, understanding of local government, build a sense of community, and create attainable goals for success.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau; Intracoastal, Northside, and South Districts

MDPD YOUTH ATHLETIC MENTORING INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION:

The MDPD Youth Athletic Mentoring Initiative (YAMI) under MDC Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Peace and Prosperity Plan, creates opportunities between law enforcement and adolescents to interact and share positive experiences while attending local sporting venues. YAMI finds unique engagement activities at professional, collegiate, and other athletic outings throughout MDC to create dialogue based on a common interest of sports. Youth interactions with law enforcement commonly presents unique challenges. YAMI adopts fun experiences to pivot the challenges into genuine and organic interactions to build significant and long-lasting positive impressions on a young person. YAMI outings occur on a monthly basis and include meals and venue gifts.

EVALUATION:

The MDPD Youth Athletic Mentoring Initiative brings together the opportunity for law enforcement to interact with young people while subtly promoting the reduction of delinquency, crime, and victimization. Additionally, the shared experiences are geared towards building a foundation of trust and healthy relationships.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau; Northside and South Districts

MILITARY APPRECIATION VEHICLE

DESCRIPTION:

In November 2021, the Military Appreciation vehicle was added in an effort to promote public awareness to the men and women who serve our country. The Military Appreciation vehicle shows that MDPD is committed to continuing to build positive relationships and trust with all segments of the community, while never forgetting those that sacrificed their lives to protect this country. The vehicle is also a constant display of appreciation to all branches of the military. It promotes hope, equality, inclusion, and builds a better unified community.

EVALUATION:

The Military Appreciation vehicle will provide awareness to men and women who served and continue to serve the community.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

DESCRIPTION:

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a significant opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

EVALUATION:

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August. Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, and various other community events including safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency services personnel, exhibits, and much more.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes, and Village of Palmetto Bay

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE UNIT

DESCRIPTION:

Each district has an NRU to address specific community needs and requirements. Communication is the key between police and the community to obtain valuable information regarding crime trends and particular community concerns. The NRU works to increase community cooperation with law enforcement, address community concerns more efficiently, and create visible police presence to deter crime and resolve quality of life issues that affect the community. Numerous initiatives are in place which allows NRU officers to establish community partnerships that improve the quality of life for local residents. Officers blend traditional policing methods with problem solving techniques to address community concerns and provide crime prevention initiatives. Examples include proactive patrol measures in targeted problem areas which are identified by citizens and MDPD command staff; enforcement measures that address violent crimes, drug trafficking, burglary, and theft issues in high-crime neighborhoods; and security concerns for all community members.

Unique crime fighting measures utilizing all-terrain vehicles, Segway transporters, personal watercraft, and specialized motor vehicles are implemented according to the geographic location of the operation. During the holiday season, officers provide high-visibility patrol and enforcement procedures to deter crimes of opportunity in areas such as malls, shopping centers, and parking lots.

District NRU officers implement and participate in numerous ventures according to specific community needs. These include: holiday food/toy drives and special donations; security surveys and crime prevention demonstrations; truancy enforcement and youth crime deterrent measures; participation in CCW and civic groups; youth and elderly safety programs; nuisance abatement programs; and actions which improve the quality of life for residents.

EVALUATION:

The district NRUs are essential operational components that provide invaluable services and resources to the community. Through directed patrols, traffic details, crime fighting and prevention initiatives, special events and activities, NRU specialized operations help reduce crime and improve the quality of life throughout the community.

USER:

District stations; and Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes

NEXTDOOR SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATION

DESCRIPTION:

The MDPD continues its partnership with the NextDoor social media platform. Through this technology, MDC residents can connect online with members of the MDPD. The mission of Nextdoor is to:

- Get to know local police officers and command staff
- Stay informed about crime and safety issues
- Be invited to upcoming events, such as CAC meetings and “Coffee with a Cop”
- Organize disaster plans as a community
- Allow citizens to voice their concerns to MDPD personnel

EVALUATION:

MDC neighborhoods are using NextDoor, with more than 285,371 members. The MDPD has adopted the platform to connect with residents to improve safety and strengthen virtual neighborhood crime watch efforts.

USER:

District stations; Community Affairs Bureau; and Village of Palmetto Bay

NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Nuisance Abatement Program (the Program) mitigates nuisances occurring at properties located in unincorporated MDC. It does so by encouraging property and business owners (stakeholders) to take responsibility for, and improve, their properties to minimize or prevent criminal activities. The process begins when three or more incidents of criminal activity are reported to the Nuisance Abatement Unit (NAU). To qualify for the Program, these crimes must occur within a recent, 12-month period and relate to the: unlawful sale, delivery, or possession of controlled substances; gang activity; prostitution; gambling; lewd or lascivious activity; illegal sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages; and other related crimes that are a danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

This program enhances community policing through an informal process where neighbors, police officers, and stakeholders collaborate to reduce crime in the community. However, the Program also employs a formal, quasi-judicial process to force stakeholders to take reasonable measures to abate nuisance-related crime if the informal process fails. In such cases, NAU staff will provide notice to stakeholders to appear before the Nuisance Abatement Board (the Board) where they will have an opportunity to be heard. Following the hearing from the stakeholders, Police Legal Bureau attorneys present the Department's case, utilizing witnesses, testimonies, and other evidence. After hearing all of the evidence, the Board may order reasonable measures to abate the nuisance-related activity at the property. This process reduces or eliminates repeated calls to these locations and promotes community safety and security.

EVALUATION:

The NAU and MDPD officers investigated 85 sites. The NAU provided written, legal notice to the stakeholders of ten sites to appear before the Board, obtained the cooperation of three of these stakeholders, and continued to monitor these sites while under the jurisdiction of the Board.

NAU staff provided training to all Basic Law Enforcement and Community Oriented Policing Services classes about this Program. The NAU also assisted with crime prevention initiatives at public housing sites through the Regional Community Collaboration Against Violence project.

The Program successfully reduces nuisance-related activity and related calls for police services. It also fosters positive relationships between police officers, community members, and stakeholders.

USER:

Police Legal Bureau coordinates this program with participation from the Nuisance Abatement Board members, police staff, and other County agencies, as needed.

OFFICER FRIENDLY/CAREER DAY

DESCRIPTION:

The Officer Friendly/Career Day Program has been active in the Village of Palmetto Bay, Northwest, and Intracoastal District's for several years. The Program is currently offered at local schools within the districts and is administered by officers assigned to the Community Outreach and NRUs. The officers visit each grade level, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, various times during the school year. Topics include; stranger danger, bullying, internet safety, and conflict resolution.

EVALUATION:

In summary, the Program is highly successful and is an integral part of MDPD's educational and youth outreach efforts.

USER:

Intracoastal and Northwest Districts; and Village of Palmetto Bay

“OPERATION LOOKOUT”

DESCRIPTION:

“Operation Lookout” is an ongoing proactive community outreach program that has been active in the Village of Palmetto Bay for over six years. The program educates the public on how to report suspicious activities. This program is a cornerstone of the National Neighborhood Watch, which has been in existence for over three decades. The program is part of the National Sheriffs’ Association, under a cooperative agreement awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, and Department of Justice, and instructs businesses and the community to report crime to improve community safety. Every resident in the Village received a laminated “Operation Lookout” card that provided them with information and crime reporting tips. In addition, confidential commercial and residential security surveys were offered to the community.

EVALUATION:

The program continues to be a success and is presented at crime watch, homeowner’s association, and business meetings. A total of three residential security and one commercial security survey were conducted during the year. Grant funding for this program came from the Village of Palmetto Bay and the Department of Justice.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay

OPERATION PILL DROP

DESCRIPTION:

Prescription pills are the most commonly used and abused drugs. In an effort to proactively combat this danger, the MDPD has joined the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force in conducting a program called "Operation Pill Drop". This program encourages citizens to properly and safely dispose of unwanted medications from their households that could otherwise be potentially dangerous if acquired by children or adults, while also providing an environmentally safe alternative to medication disposal.

Pill drop boxes provide protection for the environment through incineration, as opposed to disposing of medications in the trash or pouring these chemicals down the drain. The goals of this program are to provide awareness about prescription drug abuse, protect children from accidentally ingesting medications, educate the public on how to safely store medications, and preventive measures regarding the theft of medications.

EVALUATION:

The prescription drug drop off boxes have been a huge success in MDC. The MDPD is doing everything possible to make neighborhoods, schools, and communities drug-free, and to provide citizens with a convenient solution.

USER:

District stations; Organized Crimes Bureau; and Crime Scene & Evidence Bureau's Property & Evidence Section

OPERATION SAFEPORT

DESCRIPTION:

The Seaport Operations Bureau's mission is to provide police services to citizens and the traveling public. However, Bureau responsibilities also include the protection and security of PortMiami tenants and the many tourists visiting South Florida and traveling through PortMiami.

During the cruising peak season (November – March), police personnel provide increased staffing, which allows for an intensified police presence in the form of traffic enforcement, security checkpoints, high-visibility vehicle patrol, waterside law enforcement presence through the deployment of the Harbor Patrol unit, cruise terminal sweeps performed by explosive detection canine units, foot patrol, bike patrol, and the use of undercover personnel. Additionally, on May 1, 2022, through an established agreement with the Department of Homeland Security, Seaport K9 personnel were awarded Transportation Security (TSA) certified explosive detection canines for deployment at PortMiami. As a result, tourists and citizens traveling through PortMiami have a heightened sense of security, and always have direct access to a police officer, should they need assistance.

EVALUATION:

This high-visibility approach comprises enhanced police/tourist relations and safety. The increase in police presence continues to show a sense of security to the traveling public at PortMiami.

USER:

Seaport Operations Bureau

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

DESCRIPTION:

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a national organization offering youth an opportunity to positively interact with police officers. Miami-Dade PAL is committed to reducing juvenile delinquency by supporting a comprehensive program of prevention, early identification, and intervention. PAL programs provide a wholesome environment with structured recreational and educational activities, positive peer influence, and constructive interaction with police. The goal of the PAL program is to provide an environment that fosters development and a positive attitude in its participants, ultimately making them productive, law-abiding members of the community.

Currently, Miami-Dade PAL is operating as an afterschool initiative, providing tutoring, athletic programs, and recreational projects. Over the summer, PAL partners with Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. This partnership allows officers to maintain positive working relationships with children through summer break.

EVALUATION:

In 2022, more than 2,412 children were impacted by police sponsored activities offered by PAL. In addition to promoting self-esteem and good citizenship, the effectiveness of the PAL program can be seen in the positive attitudes displayed by participating children.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau coordinates this program with participation from Northside and South Districts.

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE SUMMER CAMP

DESCRIPTION:

The MDPD Police Athletic League Summer Camp is a proactive initiative offering no-cost, safe, and supervised summer camp activities for youth residing in MDC. The eight-week summer camp introduces young minds to traditional summer fun activities and field trips alongside law enforcement officials. The positive, non-law enforcement activities create an environment focused on youth development that strives to foster personal growth for youth by providing them with fun, safe, educational, and recreational programs, outdoor experiences, and group activities while away from home during the summer months.

EVALUATION:

The MDPD Police Athletic League Summer Camp unifies law enforcement and young people through educational, nutritional, and positive social experiences. The long-term bonds and community focused efforts will resonate throughout the course of the youth's life as they grow within MDC.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau and Northside District

POLICE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Police Chaplain Program is comprised of clergy members of various religious denominations who have volunteered to help meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of MDPD employees and their families. The chaplains are available to provide spiritual guidance and pastoral counseling to departmental employees and their families, as requested. The chaplains also participate in religious and departmental ceremonies.

While the primary focus of the program is to meet the spiritual needs of departmental personnel, police chaplains are often requested to accompany officers in operational situations involving public contact where a chaplain's training, background, and experience may be of assistance. This may include instances of civil unrest, mass casualty incidents, natural disasters, targeted violence toward religious groups, or other critical incidents or tragedies.

EVALUATION:

The Police Chaplain Program provides an invaluable service to the community by establishing calm and fostering mutual understanding during times of civil unrest. The police chaplains also provide spiritual comfort and support to residents of MDC following tragic and unexpected incidents. The program continues to have a positive impact on the spiritual and emotional health of both departmental personnel and the community at large.

NOTE: The Police Chaplain Program technically does not fall under community policing, crime prevention, or juvenile programs. However, the volunteer Police Chaplains, who are also active members in their religious communities, do assist with community relations in incidents of civil unrest, mass casualty incidents, natural disasters, targeted violence towards religious groups, or other critical incidents or tragedies. Recent examples include their response to the recent mass shooting to defuse confrontation between the police and the families of the victims as well as their response to the Surfside tragedy, where they served as liaisons between the Jewish community and the Department and government officials.

USER:

MDPD personnel and MDC residents

POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The MDPD's Police Explorer Program was established in 1981 for the dual purpose of introducing youth, ages 14 through 17, to law enforcement and in turn involving them with members of the MDPD. The program provides training and guidance to police explorers and helps to mold them into good citizens. Program activities are designed to build character, promote fitness, and provide citizenship training for the youth of America. The districts' explorer advisors recruit from local middle and high schools in their areas.

The Police Explorer Program emphasizes community spirit through participation and cooperation. The explorers volunteer their time to assist the elderly and disadvantaged in MDC by conducting graffiti paint-outs, cleaning yards, and collecting food and toys for the underprivileged each Thanksgiving and Christmas. Explorers also assist with events such as the Police Memorial Ceremony, March of Dimes Walk, Special Olympics Torch Run, American Cancer Society, Explorer Competitions, community events, and parades. These events stress community service, promote character development, and good citizenship.

EVALUATION:

The MDPD's Police Explorer Program presently consists of more than 120 explorers. Currently, there are eight active explorer posts within the Department. More than 90 percent of its participants continue on to college, and more than 15 percent have become members of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau coordinates this program with full cooperation from police districts

POLICE RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Police Reserve Officer Program (PROP) was designed to enable interested certified police officer volunteers to work side-by-side with a full-time police officer. The program's theme is, "Law enforcement is the responsibility of every citizen." The goal of the PROP is to provide an additional cadre of trained uniform personnel employing full police power to further the efforts of MDPD during routine and emergency operations. They are required to work a minimum of 16-hours per month and partake in any training required by the Department.

EVALUATION:

The PROP continues to be an asset to the Department. The PROP provides increased staffing in patrol functions and specialized units. They also provide assistance during hurricane and storm-related details. Historically, many retired officers join the PROP.

USER:

Personnel Management Bureau

PRIDE VEHICLE

DESCRIPTION:

The PRIDE vehicle was added during June 2021, in an effort to promote public safety and awareness in all facets of MDC's diverse community. The PRIDE vehicle shows that MDPD is committed to continuing to build positive relationships and trust within the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender community and is proud of all the accomplishments made so far. It will promote hope, equality, inclusion, and kindness as well as bring trust and acceptance, and build a better unified community.

EVALUATION:

The PRIDE vehicle will provide awareness to a more empathetic and unified community. Throughout 2022, the PRIDE vehicle participated in caravans as well as community events.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE

DESCRIPTION:

The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program has been active in the Village of Palmetto Bay for approximately three years and active in the Hammocks District for one year. The program is currently offered to the Village of Palmetto Bay residents but is open to any MDC resident. The RAD class is offered to women 15 years of age and up, with special emphasis placed on mothers and daughters attending together.

The class is conducted for three days with four hours per day of lecture and physical skills. During the lecture portion, statistics of attacks on women are shared with the students along with tips on how to avoid being an assault victim. The remainder of the class consists of a physical skills portion where the students are shown several different techniques they can use if confronted by an attacker. At the end of the third day, the students are able to participate in an attack simulation and can apply these skills to fend off their attacker.

EVALUATION:

For the 2022 academic year, the Village of Palmetto Bay conducted two RAD classes, with 30 participants, while Hammocks District conducted three RAD classes, with 48 participants. Classes for the upcoming academic year are being scheduled through collaboration with Miami-Dade Police Department and the Citizens Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County.

For the 2022 academy year the Midwest District conducted 9 RAD classes with 135 participants.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay; Midwest and Hammocks District

REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER

DESCRIPTION:

The Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) is an MDPD resource that provides 24-hour, seven days a week, “real-time” support for the Department’s patrol officers and detectives. It is comprised of dedicated sworn and civilian personnel who utilize the most effective technologies and practices in providing resources previously unavailable. The RTCC works with other entities throughout the Department, but not limited to, the Communications and Homeland Security Bureaus, and the Criminal Investigations Division. RTCC fosters partnerships with many local, state, and federal agencies throughout Florida. Its mission is to provide “real-time” information to increase citizen and officer safety, and to ensure the effectiveness of Department personnel in solving crime.

RTCC provides the following services:

- Vets calls for service
- Monitors, relays dispatch information, and provides intelligence information related to the Acoustic Gunshot Detection System (ShotSpotter)
- Provides National Integrated Ballistic Information Network reports for investigators
- Monitors License Plate Reader (LPR) “Hits” and enters wanted license plates into the system
- Monitors video surveillance systems
- Assists investigators with facial recognition, line-ups, and other analytical requirements
- Monitors and provides assistance during critical incidents
- Monitors/disseminates information received on the Community on Patrol Tip Application
- Monitors social media to investigate school threats and identify trending protests throughout the County

EVALUATION:

The RTCC has proven to be a valuable resource by quickly providing valuable information to patrol officers and detectives. Numerous stolen vehicles have been recovered within MDC through the RTCC’s continued monitoring of the LPR System. The ShotSpotter system has proven itself invaluable in identifying shooting incidents that would not have been identified via a complainant notifying the Communications Bureau. ShotSpotter has resulted in faster response times and more recovered criminal evidence, to include casings. The value of recovered casings is paramount regarding National Integrated Ballistic Information Network matches related to other shootings. Future plans of the RTCC includes expanding its LPR capability, video surveillance systems to include public/private video feed from local businesses to virtually patrol and monitor criminal activity, gun intelligence information with the primary goal of reducing gun-related violence Countywide; as well as the implementation of Project Green Light Miami-Dade (PGLMD), a police-community partnership that focuses on improving community safety and promoting business growth by installing high-definition cameras at participating businesses that feed directly into the Miami-Dade Police Department’s (MDPD) Real-Time Crime Center. The cameras feeds will assist the police in our effort to deter and solve crimes, by making the partnered business and the surrounding community safer.

USER: MDPD and MDC municipalities. Coordinated by the Homeland Security Bureau

RESISTING AGGRESSION DEFENSIVELY

DESCRIPTION:

The Resisting Aggression Defensively (RAD/KIDS) Personal Empowerment Safety Education program has been active in the Village of Palmetto Bay for over ten years. The program is currently offered at Howard Drive, Coral Reef, and Perrine Elementary Schools, and the Village of Palmetto Bay Summer Camp. The RAD/KIDS program is a ten-hour program that is taught to students between the ages of 5 and 12. The Midwest District implemented the RAD/KIDS in September of 2022 at Leewood K-8 Elementary School.

The classes consist of a total of four hours of lecture, where several safety topics are discussed, to include strangers, bullying, bike safety, home safety, water safety, gun safety, and good touch/bad touch, to name a few. The remainder of the class consists of a physical portion where the students are shown several different techniques they could use if confronted by a stranger or bully who wants to harm them. The students are taught several techniques which include doing a hammer fist to the nose or private parts of a would-be abductor; use of high and low elbow strikes; and how to kick the abductor in the shin and/or private parts. The students are also taught that while doing these techniques they need to, "Yell loud, hit hard, and run fast." The students then participate in a graduation exercise where they actually use the techniques they have learned to get away from an "abductor" who is a RAD/KIDS Instructor. Both instructor and students wear full protective equipment, as this portion of RAD/KIDS is very physical.

EVALUATION:

For the 2022 school year/summer camp, two classes were conducted, and 28 students graduated from the RAD/KIDS program. To date, a total of 1,478 students have completed the program. Funding for this program comes from the Village of Palmetto Bay, through a grant from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

For the 2022/2023 school year, the Midwest District conducted one class, with 21 students who graduated from the RAD/KIDS program.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay; South and Midwest Districts

ROBBERY INTERVENTION DETAIL

DESCRIPTION:

The Robbery Intervention Detail (RID) is a comprehensive robbery suppression initiative that primarily utilizes analytically driven enforcement techniques to schedule operations and deploy personnel. The primary mission is to conduct pro-active, analytically-driven enforcement operations, within specified areas, in an effort to deter and reduce the number of robberies and other violent crimes within unincorporated MDC.

During their daily deployment, RID is responsible for the following duties:

- Assist Investigative Services and other departmental entities in apprehending wanted individuals throughout MDC.
- Identify individuals and locations that warrant special enforcement attention.
- Locate and apprehend known robbery offenders.
- Track cases from the arrest, through the prosecution phase, to ensure offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent.

RID continues to concentrate on apprehending individuals or groups known to commit robberies. Additionally, RID provides high-visibility patrol in areas where robberies are known to occur.

RID provides coverage, seven days a week, utilizing variable day and afternoon shifts, while responding to robbery trends and/or requests.

EVALUATION:

RID continues to be an effective resource for the Department. During 2022, RID deployments led to 775 arrests, the recovery of 127 stolen vehicles, and the seizure of 262 firearms. During the same year, RID detectives apprehended 106 wanted subjects for violent crimes, to include robberies and homicides.

Overall, the focused goals of RID to incarcerate violent offenders, reduce the robbery rate, and return stolen property continue to meet the needs of the community.

USER:

Robbery Bureau

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The School Crossing Guard (SCG) Program was instituted to play an important role in assisting children to cross streets safely at designated crosswalks in unincorporated MDC; cities of Doral, South Miami, Village of Palmetto Bay, and the Town of Cutler Bay. The Program is staffed with a SCG Program Administrator, 4 SCG Coordinators, 16 SCG Supervisors, and approximately 540 SCGs, covering 125 schools throughout the County. SCGs spend countless hours assisting our children to cross busy intersections as they arrive and depart from school. The SCG Program provides an invaluable service to our communities.

EVALUATION:

The Program is well received by the public and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools administration. The SCGs continue to attend re-certification courses to comply with state standards.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

SECURITY SURVEY PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Security Survey Program (SSP) was instituted to provide citizens with information on how to better secure their homes and businesses, thus reducing the potential of becoming burglary targets.

Security surveys are performed by certified police officers who have attended at least 120 hours of training through the Office of the Attorney General. The survey consists of an on-site examination of the structure and surrounding property. The purpose is to identify possible concerns and provide recommendations to minimize criminal opportunity.

EVALUATION:

The SSP helps educate citizens on crime prevention techniques and fosters better police and community relations. The proactive program encourages people to maximize the protection of their property by considering and implementing recommended measures for better security.

USER:

Intracoastal, Northwest, Midwest, and South Districts; Town of Cutler Bay, Town of Miami Lakes, Village of Palmetto Bay; and Community Affairs Bureau

SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Shop With A Cop Program was implemented to provide holiday gifts for children of low income families. MDPD partners with Target and Walmart retailers to foster positive relationships in the community and make the holidays a little brighter for underprivileged children.

The young participants are selected by teachers, clergy members, and community leaders who have personal knowledge of their family's economic situation. Each child receives a gift card generously donated by Walmart or Target retailers. Next, families are paired up with police officers to begin the "Shop With A Cop" experience. As children select their toys and gifts, officers tally up the items and assist with checkout procedures. The children are overwhelmed with excitement and the families are most grateful for this outpouring of generosity.

EVALUATION:

The program is well-received by the community. It develops positive relationships between children, their families, and MDPD officers. The retailers are happy for the publicity they receive and welcome the opportunity to assist MDPD in "giving back" to the community.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau; Hammocks, Intracoastal, Northside, Midwest, Kendall, and South Districts

SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU CLEARINGHOUSE

DESCRIPTION:

The Special Victims Bureau Clearinghouse (SVBCH) provides law enforcement agencies with the intelligence data necessary to identify serial trends and sexual crime offenders. Additionally, it captures domestic statistical data and is in partnership with other agencies to develop a protocol for disseminating domestic cases. It is staffed with one Intelligence Analyst Supervisor, two Intelligence Analysts, and four Police Crime Analysis Specialist 1s, supervised by the Special Victims Bureau, Sexual Crimes Investigation Unit (SCIU) Platoon I Lieutenant.

The SVBCH analysts utilize computerized databases to track reported offenses and assist investigators in the identification of pattern activity, offender location, and repeat offenders. The SVBCH incorporates information from other regional law enforcement agencies into a database, increasing the probability of linking offenders to multiple acts, as well as identifying transient or multi-jurisdictional offenders. Additionally, the SVBCH is responsible for researching numerous databases to locate subjects, victims, and witnesses in Cold Case investigations.

EVALUATION:

During the 2022 calendar year, 13,040 investigative cases were received from MDPD districts and various municipalities. Of the cases investigated, 1,901 involved sexual crimes investigations, and 3,367 were domestic-related investigations. The remaining 7,772 were other incidents, such as information reports, exposures to adult victims, burglaries, thefts, Baker Acts, suspicious persons, etc.

This multi-agency participation has cultivated a cooperative network within the South Florida area. In a time where the “neighboring town” has become just another component of a major metropolitan city and residents continually cross traditional jurisdictional boundaries, a greater commitment and vision is necessary to truly serve a community. With the growth of regional communities comes the growth of transient crime and the multi-jurisdictional offender. Multi-agency programs and partnerships are instrumental to addressing criminal and quality of life concerns. Over the years, the SVBCH has proven to be an effective investigative tool for identifying sexual offenders and domestic violence perpetrators. The SVBCH strives to carry out the mission originally set forth by MDC and the MDPD in their commitment to serve all the citizens of South Florida.

USER:

Special Victims Bureau

SPORTS DAY

DESCRIPTION:

Sports Day is intended to celebrate our youth, their achievements, and commitment to make a difference in our community. Consequently, eighty local sixth grade students from the district's four public middle schools participate in various sporting activities and games in an effort to promote teamwork, health, and wellness. The students are selected by their school's administration based on academic, personal, and behavioral achievements. The goal is to continue to improve upon the relationships between law enforcement and the community's youth.

EVALUATION:

The program has been well received by school administrators, participating students, and local community leaders.

USER:

Midwest and Kendall Districts

SPRING BREAK ENFORCEMENT DETAIL

DESCRIPTION:

Spring Break Enforcement Detail is designated to address criminal activity, specifically occupied residential burglaries where school age children may be at home during spring break. Additionally, the operation focuses on areas where children frequent, such as shopping malls and parks. A combination of specialized units including NRU, GIU, and uniform officers are utilized for surveillance, high-visibility patrols throughout the residential neighborhoods, apartment buildings, shopping malls, and parks. The visual presence of the marked police vehicles creates a deterrent to crime, while the unmarked vehicles with non-uniformed personnel conduct covert activities. Furthermore, the detail creates the opportunity for positive interactions between the Department and the community's youth. The detail runs for the length of the MDCPS' spring break.

EVALUATION:

The high-visibility patrol and plain-clothes covert operation greatly enhances the safety and well-being of local residents, specifically the youth.

USER:

Midwest and Kendall Districts

STATIC DISPLAY HELICOPTER

DESCRIPTION:

The Static Display Helicopter (SDH) is a non-airworthy Bell 206L Jet Long Ranger III that was donated to the Department for the purpose of creating a mobile display helicopter. Crew chiefs at the MDPD and Opa-locka Airport Aviation Unit completed a difficult and creative restoration of the helicopter using un-airworthy parts donated by various aircraft manufacturers from throughout the United States. This display allows citizens to sit in the pilot's seat and become familiar with the police pilot's perspective.

Named "Choppy," the SDH is mounted to a trailer and is displayed at schools, parades, malls, and civic events. When on location, the helicopter is able to facilitate the delivery of any crime prevention program, along with raising public knowledge and appreciation of police aviation.

EVALUATION:

The SDH is a unique and highly visible law enforcement public relations tool, which has been very cost effective. It not only reduces the cost and liability of having to send operational helicopters to civic events (the helicopter is one of the most requested pieces of police equipment), but it also keeps operational helicopters available to fulfill their duties.

To date, "Choppy" is one-of-a-kind and was showcased at numerous events throughout MDC. The Department has received very positive local and national attention for its cost-saving, innovative approach to bringing positive police messages to the public.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

STRANGER DANGER/ANTI-DRUG/GUN SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

DESCRIPTION:

The Stranger Danger presentation teaches young children how to handle a situation if they are approached by a stranger and the safety steps to avoid dangerous confrontations. The presentation also includes a video program, a question and answer session, and distribution of Stranger Danger coloring books.

The Anti-Drug presentation is an hour-long program geared mainly towards fifth graders. This age group is crucial (before entering middle school) because young people are most vulnerable to peer pressure.

Program administrators discuss drugs and the effects they have on the human body, the importance of proper decision-making, the negative consequences of peer pressure, and questions and answers. A display case with simulated drug samples is utilized as a visual aid.

The Gun Safety presentation is an hour-long program that discusses securing firearms from children, safe storage of firearms at home, carrying weapons safely, and dangers accompanying the ownership of firearms.

EVALUATION:

All three programs are successful as they educate children in each topic. The program has always been well received.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau coordinates this program with participation from district stations

STREET TERROR OFFENDER PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The Street Terror Offender Program (STOP) and Firearms Interdiction Reduction Enforcement (FIRE) Units are currently staffed by members of the Department's Homicide Bureau, and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The program targets individuals involved in the illicit drug industry who have demonstrated a propensity for committing violent crimes, are current criminally active, have past convictions for violent crimes, and are in possession of firearms.

Through program activity, some of the most active and violent criminals in MDC are incarcerated. Prosecution under federal firearm statutes provides for enhanced sentencing without the possibility of parole or early release, which segregates the offender from society for a greater period of time.

Traditional, as well as non-traditional enforcement approaches are employed with the ultimate goal of bringing federal firearm charges against the offenders. STOP provides the capability of conducting long-term proactive investigations into a criminal element that largely operates with impunity because their victims are unwilling or afraid to cooperate with law enforcement.

EVALUATION:

During the 2022 calendar year, the STOP Unit conducted multiple long-term investigations resulting in the dismantling of several violent criminal organizations operating within MDC. The combined efforts of the units resulted in the seizure of 224 firearms, 60 federal arrests, 3,842 grams of methamphetamine 207,309 grams of cocaine, and \$229,920 in seizures.

USER:

Homicide Bureau

STUDENTS TOGETHER AGAINST NEGATIVE DECISIONS
(Miami-Dade County Youth Awareness Program)

DESCRIPTION:

The Students Together Against Negative Decisions (STAND) program is nationally recognized and was originally instituted as a possible long-term solution to the growing teen alcohol and drunk driving problem in MDC. It is a cooperative effort between MDPD and MDCPS.

Over the past ten years, the program has expanded its presentations and covers topics that are current trend hazards to the youth in MDC. The general message is that there are consequences associated with negative decisions. For example, presentations on drinking and driving, texting and driving, bullying, peer pressure, sexting, gangs, internet safety, drug abuse, and human trafficking are all completed throughout the year in MDC high schools. Additionally, STAND clubs put on events at their schools, such as mock crashes, ghost outs, and seatbelt checks.

In 2013, the Driver Simulator was added to further provide a realistic experience of the dangers of impaired driving or texting and driving. Other activities consist of the Youth Summit, Youth Fair Projects, and the Poster Contest. Students eventually understand the dangers and consequences of destructive decisions.

In 2017 marijuana goggles were added as an educational tool to promote awareness on the dangers of impaired driving by demonstrating the loss of motor coordination and slowed reaction time.

EVALUATION:

The program is currently in 20 high schools and 6 middle schools throughout MDC and taught by four officers. The program is supported by teachers, school administrators, and community leaders. It provides students with the information they need to make the right choices and impacts more than 25,000 students each year.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

SUMMER ENFORCEMENT DETAIL

DESCRIPTION:

The Summer Enforcement Detail is designated to address criminal activity, specifically occupied residential burglaries, where school age children may be at home during the summer break. Additionally, the operation focuses on areas where children frequent, such as shopping malls and parks. A combination of specialized units including NRU, GIU, and uniform officers are utilized for surveillance, high-visibility patrols throughout the residential neighborhoods, apartment buildings, shopping malls, and parks. The visual presence of the marked police vehicles creates a deterrent to crime, while the unmarked vehicles with non-uniformed personnel conduct covert activities. Furthermore, the detail creates the opportunity for positive interactions between the Department and the community's youth. The detail runs for the length of the MDCPS' summer break.

EVALUATION:

The high-visibility patrols and plain-clothes covert operations greatly enhance the safety and well-being of local residents, specifically the youth.

USER:

Midwest and Kendall Districts

SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE CAMP

DESCRIPTION:

This program is designed to provide a safe environment for underprivileged children, within the districts, by providing a week of activities that enriches their overall learning and growth. Throughout the week of spring break, as well as during the summer, the officers attend departmentally-approved field trips with the youth.

EVALUATION:

The districts observed behavior improvement in all participants. Several parents have reported better relationships with family members and teachers as well as academic improvements.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau; and Northside and South Districts

THANKSGIVING FOOD AND TURKEY DRIVE

DESCRIPTION:

Each district participates in the Thanksgiving Food and Turkey Drive program by partnering with local community organizations and vendors to provide holiday food items to needy, low-income families. Program administration is different according to geographic area; however, the mission of making Thanksgiving holiday meaningful and bright for the underprivileged is unanimous. Some districts involve volunteer children of all grade levels to collect, wrap, and distribute bags of food and turkeys to needy families and elderly citizens. Others hold events to raise funds and collect canned goods. District Explorer Posts also assist with the collection and distribution of holiday baskets and parcels. More than 2,500 needy families throughout MDC are given holiday food baskets each year.

EVALUATION:

Through the cooperative efforts of community partners and law enforcement, the program is successful in accomplishing its goal of enhancing the Thanksgiving holidays and providing nourishment to needy members of the community. It also provides children and volunteers the opportunity to assist the elderly and underprivileged residents and understand the importance of community service.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau; District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes and Village of Palmetto Bay

THE MULTI-AGENCY MARINE THEFT TASK FORCE

DESCRIPTION:

The Kendall District hosts the Multi-Agency Marine Theft Task Force, which is responsible for investigating individuals, organized crime groups, businesses, and other complex criminal and racketeering enterprises involved in the theft and distribution of stolen marine vessels, and marine related equipment, throughout MDC. The unit also provides investigative assistance to other national and local law enforcement agencies when required, as it relates to marine thefts. In addition to departmental personnel, the Multi-Agency Marine Theft Task Force consists of law enforcement personnel from the United States Department of Homeland Security; Customs and Border Protection; United States Coast Guard; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Offices; United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Homestead Police Department.

EVALUATION:

The task force bridges a gap in the Department's overall criminal investigations coverage. Detectives assigned to this unit possess technical training and understanding of marine equipment, which is critical to completing thorough marine related investigations. Since the inception of the unit, the Department has seen a dramatic increase in the recovery and prosecution of stolen vessels and marine equipment. Additionally, the unit has made several arrests of criminal organizations which have specifically targeted marine related equipment.

USER:

Kendall District

THE SCIENCE BEHIND USE OF FORCE

DESCRIPTION:

The program was designed to bring forth awareness as to the human factors associated with police use of force encounters and discuss how biases are formed from both the police and community perspectives. Community members are presented with scenarios based on current trends involving use of force incidents. Program meetings are held as often as necessary or when predetermined to address a community concern.

EVALUATION:

This program was well received by community members as it afforded them an opportunity to gain perspective and knowledge associated with law enforcement. This program is provided to the members of the MDC Community Relations Board and once established and staffed, the Independent Civilian Panel.

USER:

Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute & Research Center

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

DESCRIPTION:

To better serve those with special needs in the community, the Town of Miami Lakes has created a Special Needs Registry. The registry is intended to compile and maintain a list of individuals who have special needs due to mental or neurological disabilities, and who reside within the Town of Miami Lakes. The registry is shared with the police dispatchers so that they can provide useful information, such as preferred means of communication, to officers responding to a registered location to successfully interact and communicate with individuals with special needs. The dispatchers will also be able to provide the officers with emergency contact information so that the officer may communicate with a family member or caregiver to determine the best approach for a successful interaction.

Residents are invited to proactively provide information about themselves, their child, or ward with special needs, regardless of age, who may require special assistance during an interaction with police officers. The Special Needs Registry program is completely voluntary.

To register for the Special Needs Registry, residents complete the Special Needs Registry Application Form and can either return the document in person to the Town of Miami Lakes Police Office, or via e-mail. Residents can also schedule a time for the Special Needs Registry Application Form to be picked up by the Town of Miami Lakes Community Service Officer.

EVALUATION:

This program has had a positive impact on the Town of Miami Lakes and the relationship they have fostered with their special needs residents.

USER:

Town of Miami Lakes

TRUANCY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

Truancy is a problem that negatively impacts both the truant and the community. Truancy provides opportunities for children and teens to be exposed to and participate in potentially unsafe and unlawful activities. Truancy has often been correlated with higher crime rates in categories such as auto theft, burglary, and graffiti, and has been considered an early indication of delinquent tendencies in children and teens. Additionally, truancy impedes the educational process of the truant.

To reduce this negative activity, the MDPD cooperates with MDCPS in locating and returning truants to schools through a program called Operation Truant. Truants with outstanding warrants are taken into custody.

District officers focus their activities towards locating and apprehending truants by targeting known locations, such as fast-food establishments, parks, shopping centers, and apartment complexes.

EVALUATION:

The Truancy Enforcement Program, in cooperation with Operation Truant, has proven to be effective within MDPD districts. The program complements the Department's efforts to reduce juvenile crime. It also reinforces the message that attendance in school is paramount and education is important for the youth of our community.

USER:

District stations; Towns of Cutler Bay and Miami Lakes and Village of Palmetto Bay

TURN AROUND POLICE ACADEMY (TAP)

DESCRIPTION:

The Turn Around Police (TAP) Academy Program was initiated in 2005, in conjunction with the MDC Juvenile Services Department and MDCPS Administrators/Division of Opportunities & Access. TAP is an intense 11-week program, which offers a structured curriculum designed to instill traditional values and encourage community service. Participants are mandated to attend by the courts at the earliest stages of the juvenile justice process as an intervention method rather than incarceration. TAP offers a variety of prevention techniques, which discourage continued delinquency. It provides a holistic approach to family, school, and law enforcement intervention. Sworn officers act as teachers and mentors, and routinely conduct home visits.

EVALUATION:

The TAP Academy was reintroduced in 2021 and attempts to reduce the number of crimes being committed by juveniles. This program will encourage juveniles to adopt positive attitudes to be responsible members of society and stay out of the Judicial System. The interaction with families will improve positive perceptions about police and will establish stronger bonds between law enforcement and the community in target neighborhoods.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY POLICING UNIT/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DESCRIPTION:

This program has been in place in the Village of Palmetto Bay for more than 16 years. Officers assigned to this unit are responsible for conducting several outreach programs in the community, and in area schools. The program includes DARE, rad/KIDS, Rape Aggression Defense, Officer Friendly/Career Day, CCW, Youth Crime Watch (YCW), Residential and Commercial Security Survey Program, Emergency Commercial Identification Program, Operation Lookout, SAFE, Certified Bike Helmet Fitting Program, and Child Fingerprint Identification Program.

EVALUATION:

The success of the programs that are offered to the residents of the Village of Palmetto Bay and to the students at the schools is evident. The residents participate in the programs that fit their needs and are confident and trusting in the policing services provided. The success of these programs is proven by the attendance of the residents and children when the programs are offered. The Unit has continued to spearhead a proactive approach to Community Oriented Policing within the Village, which has provided a positive feedback from community.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay

YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

DESCRIPTION:

The Youth Crime Watch (YCW) program is currently conducted at Coral Reef Elementary School. The Community Outreach Officers meet with the students every Wednesday after school. The students in the YCW have been exposed to almost every aspect of what law enforcement officers do and what Citizens' Crime Watch means to a community. The students are instructed on several areas of police work and then they each have an opportunity to try it themselves. Areas discussed included bullying, no place for hate, homelessness awareness, see something say something, reporting internet safety, digital photography, crime scene documentation, crime scene photography, locating and processing latent fingerprints, and criminal investigations.

The students also have the opportunity to take a field trip to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Headquarters. Upon their return to class the following week, the students are asked to complete an essay on what they thought the future of law enforcement/crime prevention would be like.

EVALUATION:

The YCW program continues to be a great success and the club is always filled to capacity. The students are always eager to learn about crime prevention, law enforcement and what police officers do on a daily basis.

USER:

Village of Palmetto Bay

YOUTH OUTREACH UNIT

DESCRIPTION:

The Youth Outreach Unit (YOU) is tasked with proactively engaging adolescents between the ages of 11 and 17, who have a sibling or close family member who has been the direct victim of gun violence within our Northside, Intracoastal, and South Districts in Miami-Dade County. In addition to performing best practices strategically geared towards community-oriented policing with a focus on youth crime prevention, the YOU seeks to support four key components: nutrition, mental wellness, education, and employment opportunity. The utilization of existing community-based programs and evidence-based curricula from key community stakeholders is critical to ensure a pivot in a young and growing mind from potential violence and disparity to opportunity and progress.

EVALUATION:

The YOU fosters a positive bond between at risk youth and police officers. The YOU also continues to establish collaborative partnerships with community organizations and other governmental agencies that empower the growth of all participants.

USER:

Community Affairs Bureau

YOUTH SAFETY INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION:

The Intracoastal and South District's NRUs have been tasked with addressing youth safety within the District. NRU personnel follow recommendations made by the Joint Roundtable on Youth Safety, which consists of area stakeholders, law enforcement, community, and faith-based organizations.

EVALUATION:

This initiative is conducted throughout the year and focuses on the safety of our youth around schools, parks, and major community events. The Districts conduct curfew and truancy sweeps, and concentrate efforts during early release dates, recess days, and other significant in-school events where the potential for violence may be prevalent. This initiative has been successful in safeguarding citizens.

USER:

Intracoastal and South Districts

2022 ACRONYMS INDEX

CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CCW	Citizens' Crime Watch
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COS	Community Outreach Section
CPA	Citizen's Police Academy
CPDV	Crime Prevention Display Vehicle
COPUSU	Community Oriented Policing Services Unit
CSS	Community Service Squad
CVP	Citizens' Volunteer Program
DARE	Drug Abuse Resistance Education
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
E-CIP	Emergency Commercial Identification Program
FIU	Florida International University
GIU	General Investigations Unit
HSVTF	Homicide Street Violence Task Force
JRYS	Joint Roundtable on Youth Safety
LPR	License Plate Reader
MDAD	Miami-Dade Aviation Department
MDC	Miami-Dade County
MDCPS	Miami-Dade County Public Schools
MDPD	Miami-Dade Police Department
MEU	Mobile Education Unit
MIA	Miami International Airport
MIC	Miami Intermodal Center
NAB	Nuisance Abatement Board
NAU	Nuisance Abatement Unit
NRU	Neighborhood Resource Unit
PAL	Police Athletic League
PROP	Police Reserve Officer Program
RAD	Rape Aggression Defense
RAD/KIDS	Resisting Aggression Defensively
RID	Robbery Intervention Detail
RTCC	Real-Time Crime Center
SAFE	Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange
SCG	School Crossing Guard
SDH	Static Display Helicopter
SIDA	Security Identification Display Area
SSP	Security Survey Program
STAND	Students Together Against Negative Decisions
STOP	Street Terror Offender Program
SVBCH	Special Victims Bureau Clearinghouse
TAP	Turn Around Police Academy
UM	University of Miami
YAMI	Youth Athletic Mentoring Initiative
YCW	Youth Crime Watch
YOU	Youth Outreach Unit

DISTRICT STATIONS

Northwest District

5975 Miami Lakes Drive East
Miami, FL 33014
Phone: (305) 698-1500

Northside District

799 NW 81 Street
Miami, FL 33150
Phone: (305) 836-8601

Midwest District

9101 NW 25 Street
Doral, FL 33172
Phone: (305) 471-2800

South District

10800 SW 211 Street
Miami, FL 33189
Phone: (305) 378-4300

Kendall District

7707 SW 117 Avenue
Miami, FL 33173
Phone: (305) 279-6929

Intracoastal District

15665 Biscayne Boulevard
North Miami, FL 33160
Phone: (305) 940-9980

Hammocks District

10000 SW 142 Avenue
Miami, FL 33186
Phone: (305) 383-6800

Prepared by: Community Affairs Bureau
9105 NW 25 Street, Room 1044
Doral, FL 33172
Phone: (305) 471-1716

To obtain additional copies of this guide or information on any program listed,
please contact the Community Affairs Bureau.