

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

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TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: March 18, 2014

SUBJECT: International Police Education & Training Program (IPET) Haiti Project

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information on the Miami Beach Police Department's participation in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) International Police Education and Training Program (IPET). The IPET aims to increase the capabilities of international senior police officials and police organizations; encourage effective and mutually beneficial relations between the U.S. and international police organizations; and provide current and future international police leaders with broad theoretical and practical exposure to state of the art policing concepts, practices, technology, and trends. The visiting police officials develop change proposals for their home agency based on what they observe and learn here. These change proposals are then incorporated into their policies and procedures for implementation when they return home.

This specific project involves the IACP bringing two representatives from the Haitian National Police (HNP) to observe the Miami Beach Police Department's programs for engaging marginalized populations, identified by them as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community (GLBT) and the homeless. The MBPD's liaison for the HNP representatives is Captain Henry Doce. The HNP visit to Miami Beach will occur March 23, 2014 through March 30, 2014.

The MBPD will be providing the HNP officials with information on the following GLBT and Homeless initiatives:

- Assigned GLBT Liaison Officer, who attends all GLBT Business Development committee meetings and related functions throughout the City. Its mission is to make suggestions regarding city policy and projects that enhance the welfare and future of the Miami Beach LGBT community. This committee established the City's annual Gay Pride Parade, which the MBPD participates in, including the exhibit of the Rainbow-Striped Patrol car.
- The MBPD has established a Hate Crimes Hotline, which is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure these types are given the highest investigative priority possible, and to ensure rapid apprehension of all persons involved.
- MBPD is highly active with the GLBT community, sponsoring GLBT Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala and the Taskforce Gala.

- In 2013, the MBPD was invited by the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service to participate in the fourth roundtable discussion and reconvening session for law enforcement personnel and transgender advocacy leaders.
- All MBPD personnel – sworn and civilian – are required to attend Hate Crimes training, so they are able to assist in guiding a victim of a hate crime.

Homeless Population

- The MBPD works closely with the City's Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) to engage the homeless population on Miami Beach. While the MBPD focuses on enforcing the law and quality of life issues, the HOT are able to provide outreach and engagement services to the homeless, shelter placement, referral services, identification document replacement services, employment assistance and family reunification. Together, these two City departments are addressing a strategic priority, identified by residents and businesses through community surveys.
- The MBPD has a standard operating procedure (SOP), which provides guidelines for MBPD personnel in the provision of assistance and enforcement of laws arising from encounters with persons who are homeless. It is the policy of the Department to treat all homeless persons with respect and dignity; and to offer assistance accessing shelter when appropriate.

Later this year Captain Doce will be traveling to Haiti to observe the HNP's efforts in implementing their change proposals for engaging their marginalized populations. The IPET as part of the IACP, is grant funded from the U.S. Department of State International Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership.

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