

MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# 415-2016

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: October 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Police Transparency through Data Initiative

On December 18, 2014 President Barack Obama signed an executive order establishing the Task Force on 21st Century Policing to better understand specific policing challenges and help communities identify actions they can take to improve legitimacy among law enforcement and the communities they serve. This letter to the Mayor and Commission is provided as an update regarding the Police Department's on-going commitment to implement national best practices, as outlined in the Task Force's recommendations.

One of the re-occurring themes the Task Force addressed in its final report was the need for police agencies to build trust with their communities. While positive community engagement between citizens and the Miami Beach Police Department is supported through daily contacts, meetings, events, and social media platforms, etc., the task force recommended additional steps, including open access to data. Accordingly, the White House has launched the Police Data Initiative (PDI) that seeks to provide open access to law enforcement data which has previously been difficult to find or in some instances, not collected.

The Miami Beach Police Department is among the initial group of agencies throughout the country and one of just three in South Florida that has committed to take action on concrete deliverables on the Task Force recommendations in the area of data and technology.

In the coming weeks, the Miami Beach Police Department will publish four initial datasets consisting of calls for service, arrest data, employee demographics and internal affairs case disposition statistics. The information will be available for public viewing, via the City's website. Future datasets will include use-of-force statistics and officer-involved shootings data. All datasets will be made available through a portal that allows for downloading, analyzing and aggregation.

As previously noted, repairing police-community relations throughout the nation will require a comprehensive, multi-dimensional strategy, of which, data and technology is an important component. Having open access to data that has previously been unavailable will serve as a critical step in re-establishing community trust and transparency.

JLM/DJO/wrg