



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2015

NORTH MIAMI BEACH HALTS USE OF MUG SHOTS AS TARGETS Mayor calls practice "offensive and unacceptable" and demands permanent ban

North Miami Beach, Florida, January 18, 2015

North Miami Beach Mayor George Vallejo issues the following statement regarding recent news reports of the NMB Police sniper team using old mug shots for facial recognition and target practice:

"Using mug shots as targets is offensive and unacceptable. This practice has been halted, effective immediately, and I have called for legislation to ban it outright, along with a comprehensive review of our remaining procedures."

North Miami Beach is better than this. We are a richly diverse city, a fact our residents are very proud of, and as Mayor I will not allow anything to disrupt the harmony and goodwill that exists in our community."

---- Mayor George Vallejo

** Attached is original Jan. 16, 2015 email from Mayor to city staff calling for halt.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact:
Nicole Gomez at 305-948-2986 or by email at Nicole.Gomez@CityNMB.com



Copy of original email from Mayor to City Manager
and City Attorney calling for halt on January 16th:

Sniper training policy changes

1 message

Vallejo, George <George.Vallejo@citynmb.com>

Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 9:32 PM

To: "Garcia, Ana" Ana.Garcia@citynmb.com
"Smith, Jose" Jose.Smith@citynmb.com

Dear Ana & Jose,

Since our Charter does not allow me to give direction to the Police Chief, I'm writing you with this request.

After our discussion today about the sniper training incident, it is obvious that we need to reconsider our policy of using mug shots as targets. Chief Dennis's temporary suspension of that policy is a good beginning but we need to do more.

The practice of using recognizable faces as targets is, at the very least, insensitive and, at worst, offensive to the conscience of our multicultural community and should cease immediately. I urge you to end it permanently. If it needs Council action, let me know and I will sponsor the required legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Vallejo
Mayor
North Miami Beach
Office: 305-948-2986
Contact: Elisabeth Pierre or Mark Perkins

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