

Press Release – Press Release – Press Release – Press Release



City of North Miami Beach Police Department

Media Relations Office
16901 NE 19th Avenue
North Miami Beach, FL 33162



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scott Dennis – Chief of Police

January 16, 2015

Contacts: Kathy Katerman – Police Major / PIO
Office: (305) 948-2940
E-mail: Kathy.katerman@nmbpd.org

Statement Regarding Sniper Training

The City of North Miami Beach is a culturally rich community served by a dedicated team of diverse officers who put their lives on the line every day. The sniper team is comprised of two officers; one Hispanic male and a black Haitian American male, who is the team leader.

To protect our community, this team uses training techniques which include accuracy tests and facial recognition drills. These drills feature photographs of men and women from various races and ethnicities. As recommended by law enforcement experts, actual photographs are used to assure accurate target recognition to simulate the real situations they may encounter.

While the two snipers had no negative racial motivations in using the photographs that have been distributed to the media, the North Miami Beach Police Department nonetheless recognizes how, taken out of context, it may appear to be offensive. We want the community to rest assured that this training suspension only impacts 2 of our 95 officers, as the rest of the officers are not snipers and do not use real photographs in their firearms training.

For that reason, I immediately suspended the sniper training program as we conduct a thorough review of our training process and materials, ordered commercially produced training images, and opened an investigation into the matter.

Our Police Department, and our City, are committed to serving and protecting the diverse community we serve in a fair, caring, and impartial manner.

#