

From: [Etienne, Michael](#)

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2015 1:26 PM

To: [Burgess, Leonard](#)

Cc: [Aleem Ghany](#), [Mayda Pineda](#), [Katia Philippeaux](#), [Joseph, Smith](#), [Bien-Aime, Philippe](#), [Steril, Marie](#), [Carol Keys](#), [Galvin, Scott](#), [Sorey Jr, Arthur](#), [Corker, Derrick](#)

Elected Colleagues and Aleem,

I can tell you first hand that North Miami is far safer today compared to previous years. There are roughly 500 cities with more than 60,000 residents in the United States of America. As a criminal defense attorney and a criminology major (from one of the best criminology programs in the world, FSU), I can attest that our crime rate index is low compared to our counterparts (taking average income of the residents into account and other socio-economic stats). However, it is expected that towns with far less residents will have a lower crime rate.

In addition, you can only judge our current chief/police department by the rate of crime reduction and/or complaint reduction from year to year, not by the city's standing in the crime index. The reduction of the crime rate and the reduction of complaints filed against the police by the citizens of North Miami are excellent examples of how to measure progress in a police force.

Elected colleagues and Aleem, take it from me, WE HAVE AN AWESOME CHIEF! You will have a problem with the police department if the citizens' complaint increase from year to year, excessive force increase from year to year, the crime rate increase from year to year, and/or a high rate of unsolved crimes (unsolved open cases). Fortunately, that is not the case today in the City of North Miami, so let's encourage and support our police department, not haul them into meetings to answer to an email. Keep up the good work chief!

Michael A. Etienne