

May 20, 2016

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation  
2331 Phillips Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Commissioners,

The North Miami Police Department is a vibrant and diverse organization consisting of 125 sworn officers and 36 full-time civilian employees. We have been an accredited agency since 2000 and are committed to the accreditation process. Due to the efforts of the dedicated staff and personnel of the Department, the following is a sample of our continuous successes that we have accomplished during our past accreditation cycle, from April 2013 to April 2016:

- Reduced Part 1 crimes to the lowest level since 1979, resulting in a 55% decrease in crimes since 1994.
- Displayed professionalism as our officers made 2,865 arrests, while at the same time they had a decrease in the number of Use of Force Reports (-18%), Taser usage (-40%), and Physical Force (-39%).
- Beginning October 1, 2014, the Department acquired the City's Code Enforcement Program and committed a Commander and Major to its supervision and management.
- Continued and improved upon the Citizens' Mobile Patrol Program where sixteen volunteers graduated from the 14-week Training Academy.
- Accomplished the main objective of the Police Athletic League (PAL) Program, which is to meet the needs of our youth, through a variety of after school, athletic and educational initiatives. Some of the programs were peer tutoring, a boxing team, a track and field team, and the Irving Thomas Basketball Camp.
- Recognized by the prestigious Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) Foundation, which paid tribute to our courageous and dedicated men and women. We were honored with awards in the following categories: Investigative Services, Traffic Safety, Crime Prevention/Community Policing, and Uniform Services/Officer of the Year.
- Engaged the community during Police Staff Bike Rides and "Walk and Talks" in the business districts and residential neighborhoods, and participated in fun-filled events with the children at local camps in our "Cops and Kids" initiative.
- Opened our long-anticipated North Miami Police Community Workstation, in an effort to provide a closer and more convenient location for residents and business owners to meet with our personnel.
- Won three traffic safety categories at the 2013-2014 Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Challenge, including the Champions Class for overall traffic enforcement, the "Click It or Ticket" Challenge and the DUI Enforcement Challenge. We also won first place in the 2014-2015 "Click It or Ticket" Challenge.

Even with the aforementioned successes, we understand the importance of remaining compliant with all standards of accreditation. During our recent onsite assessment, the assessors discovered some compliance issues that occurred during the same time period, which required our immediate attention. We know that we must and will rectify our deficiencies immediately. Regarding these non-compliance concerns, I would like to offer this Commission some insight into the circumstances and conditions during this accreditation cycle that challenged our ability to monitor our compliance efforts as we did so, successfully, for the previous four accreditation cycles. The issues noted, and circumstances that led to these issues and our plan for an expedited correction are listed on the attached Action Plans.

On behalf of the hard-working men and women of this Department who continuously serve with diligence and pride, I would like to assure this Commission that our Department is fully committed to the accreditation process, as we have been for the last 12 years. Moreover, we fully recognize the Commission's standards hold the ideal guidelines for our Department to continuously improve and move beyond the challenges of this past accreditation cycle.

I am proud of this Department and all of its past accomplishments, and am confident we can improve upon those accomplishments in the future. We respectfully request this Commission takes into consideration our agency's continuous ability to maintain and monitor the Commission's compliance standards in the past. Given this experience, this Department will be even better, as we will be especially mindful of being prepared for unexpected changes in any area and prepare a failsafe approach that will ensure the safety and top-notch professionalism of our personnel.

The North Miami Police Department pledges to work vigorously to prevent any issues from interfering with our ability to meet all accreditation standards at this time and for years to come.

Sincerely,

---

Leonard Burgess  
Chief of Police

Enclosures (4)