

### **What is Biased-Based Profiling?**

Bias-based profiling is the selection of individual's based solely on an individuals actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, age, disability or other characteristics attributed to an individual as a member of a group.

Biased-based profiling often leads to allegations of violations of constitutional and/or civil rights. It undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts, fosters distrust of law enforcement, and invites outside scrutiny of agency practices.

### **What is Reasonable Suspicion?**

Reasonable suspicion is more than a mere hunch, but is based on a set of articulable facts and circumstances that would warrant a person of reasonable caution in believing that an infraction of the law has been committed, is about to be committed, or is in the process of being committed by the person or persons under suspicion.

This can be based on the observations of a police officer combined with training and experience and/or reliable information received from credible outside sources.

### **What is Police Authority?**

Enforcement action, including, but not limited to:

- Vehicle stops
- Stop and risk of an individual
  - Arrests
- Searches and seizures
- The application of force
- And initiation of forfeiture proceedings must be based solely on law, Department policy and articulable facts.

A legitimate objective of law enforcement is to protect the public by enforcing laws in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority, while protecting the rights of all persons. To this end, enforcement action must be based solely and exclusively of Federal, State, and local laws, and the policies and procedures of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.

**For more information or to report a complaint of Bias Based Profiling, Please contact the Professional Compliance Unit at (305) 757-7708**

### **What is MDSPD policy regarding Bias-Based Profiling?**

It is the policy of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department to treat every citizen with courtesy and respect. The Police Department is dedicated to protecting the constitutional rights of citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, age, disability or other characteristics attributed to an individual as a member of a group

Police officers are required to use skills developed through training, experience and knowledge in order to identify suspicious circumstances, unusual occurrences and violations of the law and act according to the situation.

Officers shall patrol in a proactive manner when a belief that a crime was committed, is about to be committed or is in the process of being committed. This proactive approach aids in the detection and apprehension of criminals, maintains the safety of our streets, and protects our citizens and community from crime.

Employees of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department shall not, directly or indirectly, participate in bias-based profiling. Any contact, stop, detention, or search based solely on bias-based profiling is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

## What is Proactive Policing?

Proactive Policing is the practice of deterring crime and criminal activity by showing police presence and engaging the public in order to learn their concerns. In contrast, responding to a complaint after a crime has been committed is considered reactive policing.

Proactive policing is part of the community policing approach to problem solving.

Patrol personnel are the most fundamental problem solving and crime reduction resource, and it is imperative that they are engaged in the entire process. Officers are to be aware of problems occurring in their patrol zones, as well as the surrounding zones, and be engaged in solving those problems.

When officers identify areas that generate repeat calls for service, problem-solving efforts can be initiated. Officers may increase the time spent on proactive policing in those areas, such as directed patrols, field interviews, traffic stops, contacts with known offenders, contacts with potential victims, etc. This type of proactive policing reduces criminal activity, thereby reducing the number of repeat calls for service.

It is the policy of the MDSPD to enforce the law in a proactive manner, to aggressively investigate suspicious persons and circumstances, and to actively enforce the motor vehicle laws.

The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life in the community by providing quality services and emphasizing fair treatment.

### NEED HELP?

Emergencies Only  
Dial 911

Crime Stoppers  
305-471-TIPS (8477)

Crisis Hotline  
Switchboard of Miami or Dial 211

Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-96-ABUSE (2-2873)

### Miami-Dade County Public Schools



1450 NE 2nd Avenue  
Miami, FL 33132

Phone: (305)-995-1000

[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)

### Miami-Dade Schools Police Department



6100 NW 2nd Avenue  
Miami, FL 33127

Phone: (305) 995-COPS (2677)

[www.mdspolice.com](http://www.mdspolice.com)

# Miami-Dade Schools Police Department

**“Committed to  
Excellence Through Service”**



**Bias-Based Profiling  
&  
Proactive Policing**

**Ian A. Moffett  
Chief of Police**