

Program Narrative

The Miami Gardens Police Department (MGPD) began operations on December 16, 2007, after contracting for police services during the four previous years with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD). The original operating staff of the Department consisted of 159 sworn officers. During the first year of operation, the City of Miami Gardens (CMG) terminated its contract for Specialized Service with the County and increased the sworn staff to 199 as it assumed all investigative and crime scene duties from the MDPD. The Department will be completing its fourth year of service to the Citizens of the City of Miami Gardens at the end of 2011.

At the conclusion of 2010, a comparison of statistical data to calendar year 2009, disclosed a reduction in Part One Crimes by 14%. This downturn is significant as it is the third year in a row we've had a decrease in crime. This is especially significant when taking into consideration the economic climate the country is still experiencing. While this reduction is significant, it was achieved in part because of the enormity of the crime problem within the City. During calendar year 2010, the City of Miami Gardens recorded 22 homicides, 351 robberies, 662 aggravated assaults, and 1321 burglaries.

The Department has achieved its third year of success through the effective deployment of our limited amount of personnel and the use of crime trend information provided by our crime analyst and communicated to our dedicated personnel. The implementation of Strategic Management of Analysis, Resources and Tactics (SMART) Meetings has assisted the Department in coordinating efforts, measuring success and meeting our goals of crime reduction. These meetings form a level of accountability for all levels of supervision throughout the Department, as well as the individual zone officers. These successful strategies will also be utilized to implement programs under this grant in order to obtain successful outcomes.

The Department will utilize funding from this program to coordinate overtime details within each of the Department's Divisions to enhance our performance, reduce crime and foster positive relationships with the community. Our **Focus on Public Safety Program FY 11/12** will concentrate our efforts in a multitude of disciplines directed at increasing a community culture of safety within the City of Miami Gardens.

The first use of funds (\$30,008.25) will be to implement the Grinch Busters Program from November 25, to December 31, 2011. This program is a community relations / crime prevention strategy aimed at providing a safe environment for consumers and citizens during the holiday season. Personnel assigned to this detail will be directed to patrol main thoroughfares and shopping areas in an effort to prevent crimes from occurring and increasing the level of safety for residents and visitors to our community. During 2010, this program

resulted in 62 arrests and 316 field contacts, once again reducing our crime rate during the holiday season. The goal of this strategy will be to produce an actual crime reduction during the holiday period by strategic deployment of resources and a highly visible police presence.

The Investigations Division will be allotted \$38,008.25 for "All Out" initiatives. The Investigations Division, in conjunction with the Operations Division, will conduct twenty three (23) "All Out" initiatives utilizing funding received from this allocation. The Department has created the "All Out" initiative as a way of saturating problem areas using a multifaceted approach. During the initiative personnel from the Investigations and Operations Divisions work together to address a particular area for issues ranging from violent crime to quality of life problems. These operations have been very successful thus far and have resulted in a reduction in crime, arrest of violent offenders and an enhanced level of safety in those areas where the initiatives have been conducted. The goal of this initiative will be to reduce violent crime by 3% and property crimes by 10%.

The Investigations Division will be allotted \$18,000 to conduct Special Investigations. In addition to proactive deployments, the Department will also utilize funding to defray the cost of protracted and complex investigations. During our third year of operation several investigations arose that required the dedication of manpower outside of the normal scope of service. These investigations included gang prosecutions and homicide cases which required officers to work various amounts of hours and coordinate their activities with outside agencies in order to obtain successful prosecutions. Many times these cases would not come to fruition without the funding necessary to sustain them and allow personnel to dedicate time and resources that ordinarily may not be available due to budgetary restraints. By dedicating manpower and financial resources to these types of cases, the Department will strive to maintain a high closure rate that is at or higher than the national average for violent crimes. These closure rates will be a direct reflection of the efforts and financial resources expended to investigate these types of complex cases.

The Operations Division will be allotted \$38,008.25 for the purpose of conducting enhanced enforcement initiatives concentrating on juvenile related crimes. These details will focus on truancy and juvenile curfew violations which have a direct correlation to crimes involving children both as offenders and at times victims. The Operations Division will deploy personnel to detain juveniles in violation of these issues and take the appropriate action. It is the Department's intent that juvenile related crimes and arrests will decrease as a result of the implementation of this strategy. Additionally the Division will receive funding to conduct traffic related initiatives geared to citizen complaints and issues that continually arise during community forums and meetings.

The final portion of funding, \$28,008.25 will be allotted to the Community Enrichment Team to enhance the Community Oriented Policing concept. The

CET will conduct targeted enforcement based on bi-weekly statistical meetings which identify crime trends and patterns. In addition, the CET will attempt to increase citizen participation in crime watch endeavors throughout the City of Miami Gardens. Community interaction and inclusion has been one of the main goals of the Miami Gardens Police Department since taking over police duties from the Miami Dade County Police Department. A disconnect had formed over the years between the police and the community, but since taking over policing duties, a trust has developed between the Miami Gardens Police Department and the Community which has led to a 21% crime drop the past two years. The goal of this initiative is to decrease crime by 2% in every Law Beat in the City of Miami Gardens and to sign up 50 new Crime Watch members throughout the City of Miami Gardens.

The City will establish separate fund accounting for this grant in order to maintain controls over expenditures and to ensure that all expenditures are allowable under the grant agreement. As an additional monitoring tool, the Finance Department's Grant Accountant will maintain detailed records of all expenditures to ensure that they are made under established city purchasing policies and are also in compliance with grant requirements. The Grant Accountant will also maintain and monitor all reimbursement requests in order to keep track of all grant payments received. Since the City receives in excess of \$500,000 each year in Federal and State grant funds, we are required to have a Single Audit performed in accordance with OMB-A133.

The use of this funding to staff these efforts will dramatically assist in the Department's crime reduction efforts and to the overall safety of our community. The progress of these efforts will be monitored and adjusted as needed to document the successes of these operations.

Since the MGPD's inception in December 2007, the rate of crime in the City has decreased and the public's perception of the public safety situation has become more positive. The strides that this organization has made during its planning, inception and operation have been unprecedented and can serve as an outstanding model for others to follow. The funding utilized for the enhanced operations initiatives will assist the Department in moving forward to further reduce criminal activity and provide service to its residents. The responsiveness of the Department to "community problems" will foster greater community relations, assist victims, reduce crime and invigorate our growing community through prevention.