

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



South Miami Police Department

Reo B. Hatfield III
Chief of Police



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MISSION STATEMENT

TO DELIVER PROFESSIONAL POLICE SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE WE SERVE, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

VISION STATEMENT

TO BE A WORLD CLASS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, ONE THAT EXHIBITS TRAITS FOR OTHER AGENCIES TO EUMULATE, ONE THAT IS CONSTANTLY ENDEAVORING TO IMPROVE AND STAY ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE POLICING PROFESSION; AN AGENCY THAT IMPRESSES ITS CITIZENS THE FIRST AND EVERY TIME, ALWAYS STRIVING TO IMPROVE UPON ITS SUCCESSES AND ONE THAT EMPOWERS AND ENCOURAGES ITS EMPLOYEES TO SERVICE THE PUBLIC AND PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY WITH DIGNITY, HONOR AND PRIDE.

CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE
INTEGRITY
INCLUSION



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The City of South Miami encompasses about 2.3 square miles. It borders unincorporated Miami Dade County, Coral Gables, the University of Miami and Pinecrest. South Miami's population is just over 12,000 residents. We are a full service law enforcement agency with 51 sworn budgeted positions and 8 civilian staff.

[Source: Florida Estimates of Population, 2024, University of FL, https://www.bebr.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/estimates_2024/]



2024 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR | Javier E. Fernández, Esq.

VICE MAYOR | Brian Corey

COMMISSIONER | Steve Calle

COMMISSIONER | Danny Rodriguez

COMMISSIONER | Lisa Bonich

2024 CHARTERED OFFICIALS

CITY CLERK | Nkenga Payne

CITY MANAGER | Genaro "Chip" Iglesias

CITY ATTORNEYS | Anthony Recio &
Lillian Arango

CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Dear South Miami Residents and Members of the South Miami Police Department,

As we reflect on the progress made over the past year, I share this message with deep pride and an unwavering sense of duty. It is both a celebration of our achievements and a reaffirmation of our ongoing commitment to public safety and community trust.

Thanks to the dedication of our officers and staff—and the trust and cooperation of our residents—we have seen a measurable reduction in crime. Just as importantly, we've witnessed a decline in the fear of crime. Our neighborhoods are safer, our streets more secure, and our families more confident in their daily lives. This is more than a statistic; it's a testament to the shared commitment between law enforcement and the community to build a city rooted in trust, vigilance, and mutual respect.

To enhance our service to the community, the department has invested in modern equipment, advanced technologies, and robust community engagement tools. Programs such as Project Lifesaver and the Special Needs Registry have increased our responsiveness and inclusivity. Our expanded social media outreach and the launch of the Police-to-Citizen (P2C) portal have allowed for more direct, transparent, and real-time engagement with residents, making it easier than ever for the community to stay informed, share feedback, and access services. These resources are not just instruments—they reflect our promise to embrace innovation while deepening the connection between the department and the people we serve.

We are also proud to announce a major milestone: for the first time in over 25 years, the City has successfully sponsored and graduated a recruit through the police academy. This marks a new chapter in the department's history and reflects our steadfast focus on recruitment, retention, and leadership development. Our targeted recruitment strategies—including impactful video campaigns aimed at humanizing the badge—have significantly boosted interest in joining our ranks and helped us attract individuals who reflect the values and diversity of our community. It is a powerful investment in the future of policing in South Miami.

At the core of all we do is the enduring nobility of our mission. The badge we wear is not just a mark of authority—it is a symbol of service, integrity, and courage. We are guardians of peace, committed to fairness, transparency, and the protection of human dignity. We do not stand above our community, but within it—united in purpose and guided by a deep respect for those we serve.

To our officers who serve with honor and to the residents who continue to support us—thank you. Together, we will build a safer, stronger, and more just South Miami.

With respect and resolve,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reo B. Hatfield".

Chief William J. Weaver
1927-1929

Chief Poe
1929-1937

Chief George Weigand
1937-1944

Chief Chuck McKinney
1944-1951

Chief Earnest Tatum
1951-1967

Chief Sal Vizinni
1967-1980

Chief Hank Selsky
1980-1986

Chief Perry S. Turner
1986-1994

Chief Rafael Hernandez
1995-1997

Chief Cokes Watson
1997 - 2003

Chief Orlando Martinez
2004-2006

Chief Vincent Landis
2006-2008

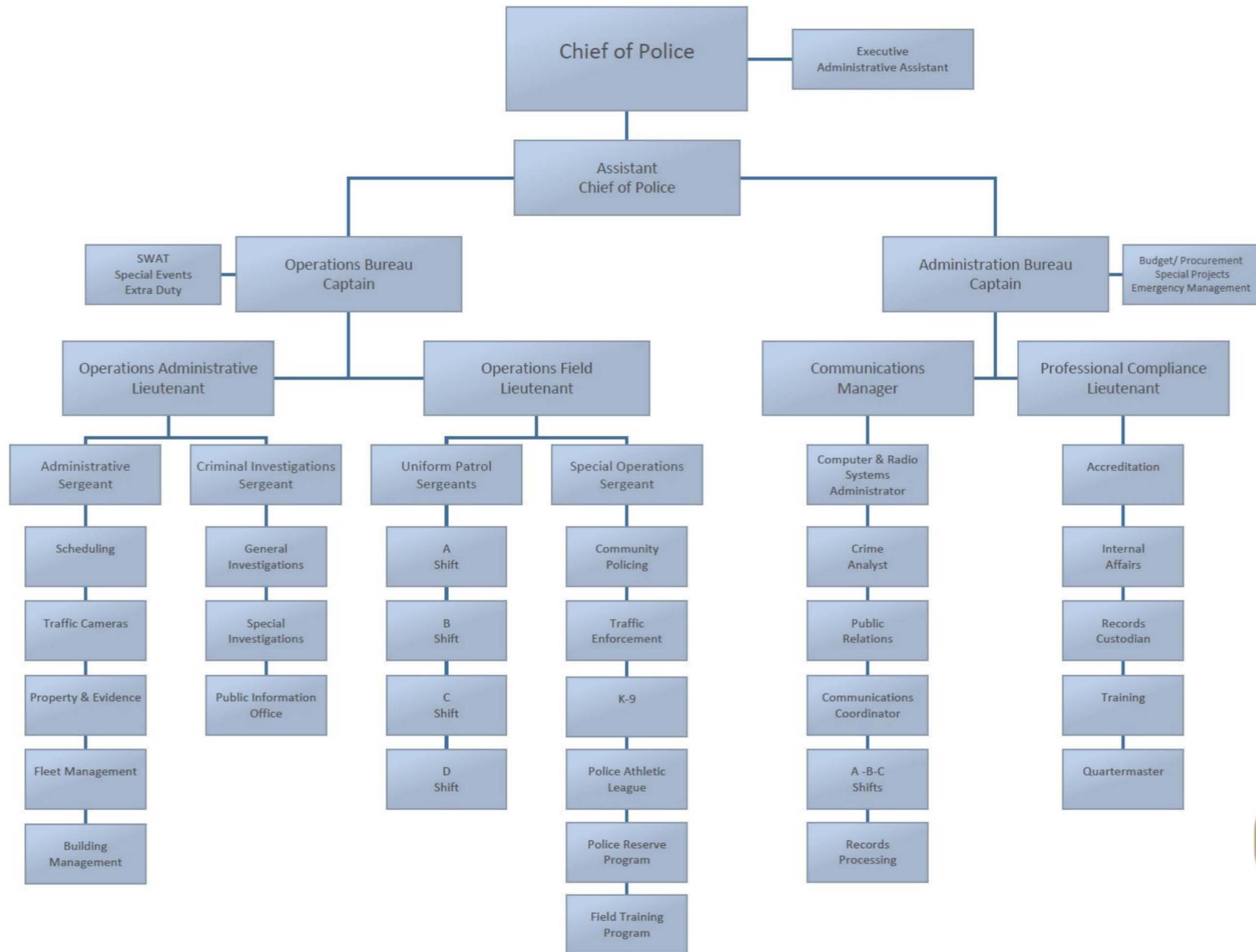
Chief Robert Richardson
2008-2009

Chief Orlando Martinez
2010-2012

Chief René G. Landa
2013-2023

Chief Reo B. Hatfield, III
2023-Present

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COMMAND STAFF



Reo Hatfield III
CHIEF



Larry Corbin
ASSISTANT CHIEF



John Barzola
CAPTAIN



Junior Vijil
CAPTAIN



Robert Bukens
LIEUTENANT



Jesus Aguiar
LIEUTENANT



Kile Nave
LIEUTENANT



Yvette Valdes
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Lisa Corbin
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER



FIBRS | NIBRS REPORTING

Florida & National Incident Based Reporting Systems

Total Population

12,018*



Jurisdiction

2.3 sq miles



Overall Clearance Rate

40.4%

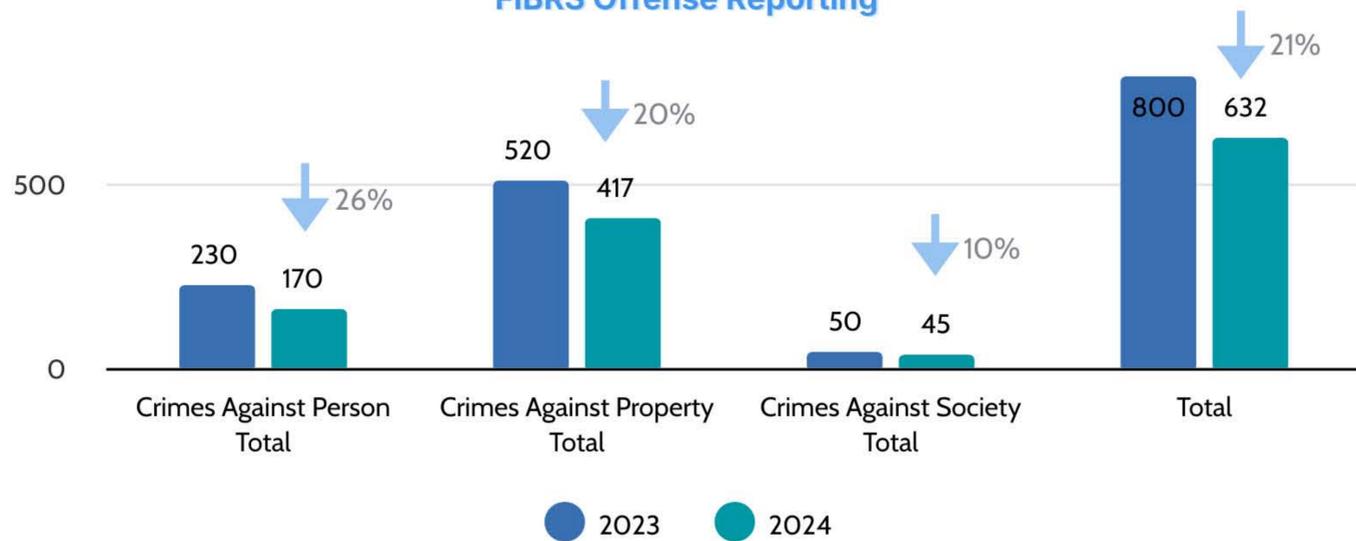


Employees

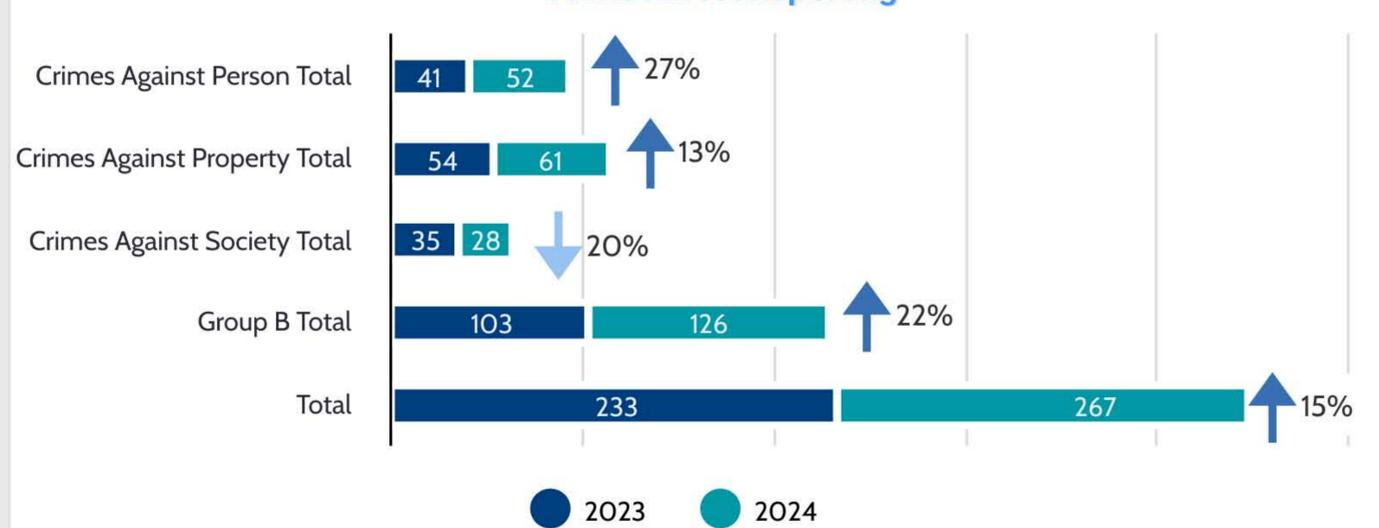
59



FIBRS Offense Reporting



FIBRS Arrest Reporting



Clearance Rate - All Crimes Against Persons

65.7%



Crimes Against Persons

assaults, homicides, human trafficking, kidnapping/abduction, sex offenses (consenting), sex offenses (non-consenting)

*one offense counted for each victim

Clearance Rate - All Crimes Against Property

25.4%



Crimes Against Property

arson, bribery, burglary/breaking & entering, counterfeiting/forgery, destruction/damage/vandalism, embezzlement, extortion/blackmail, fraud, identity theft, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, robbery

*one offense counted for each distinct operation

Clearance Rate - All Crimes Against Society

84.4%



Crimes against Society

animal cruelty, drug/narcotic offenses (except DUI), gambling offenses, pornography/obscene material, prostitution, weapon law violations

*one offense is counted for each crime

*Note: Source of population figure is Florida Estimates of Population, 2024, University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

"Though some state and local Record Management Systems require the same level of reporting for all offenses, NIBRS requires differing levels of detail in reporting Group A (most serious crimes) and Group B (minor offenses) offenses. Law Enforcement must report both incidents and arrests for Group A offenses, and they must report only arrests for Group B offenses" (NIBRS Manual, 2019).

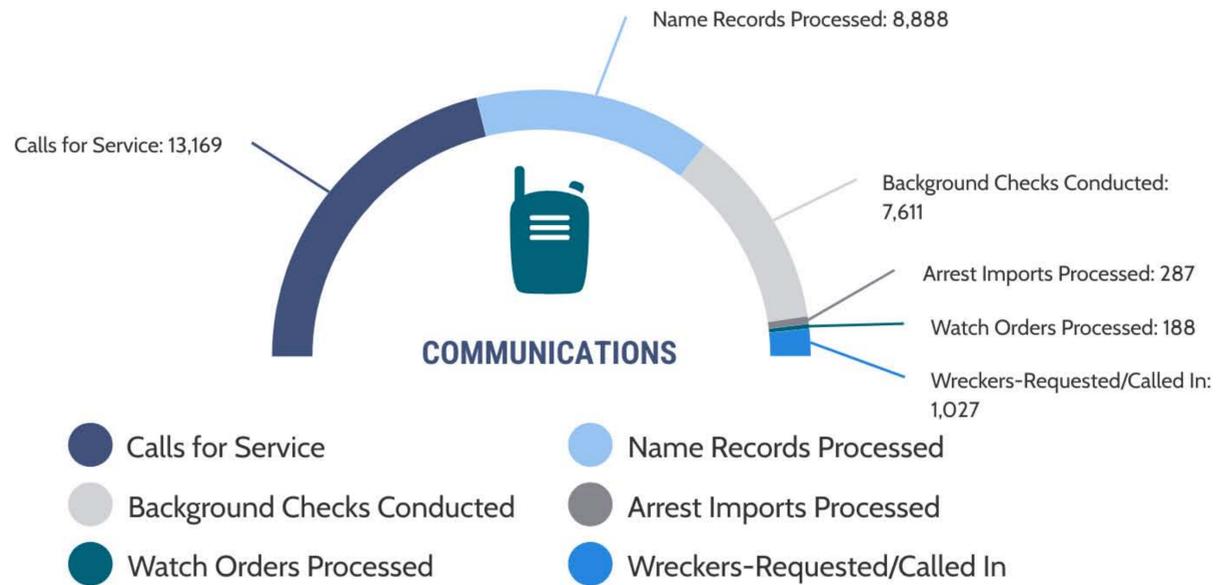
The Administration Bureau oversees communications, recruitment, training, professional compliance and support services for the department.

Responsibilities include vehicle procurement, special initiatives, budget, records management, product research, and other ancillary services as assigned by the Chief of Police.

During this year, we hired six officers, three dispatchers, one executive assistant and two police cadets.

-Captain John Barzola

ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

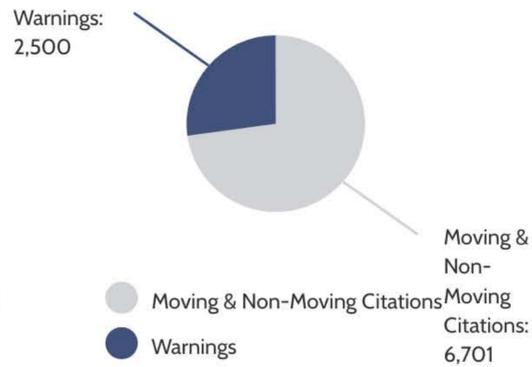


The Operations Bureau is the largest within the agency overseeing both the Uniform Patrol & Criminal Investigations Divisions. Patrol is responsible for handling calls for service; crimes, crashes, medical emergencies and various citizen concerns.

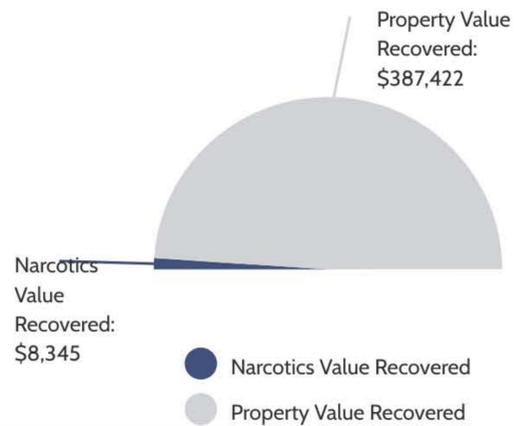
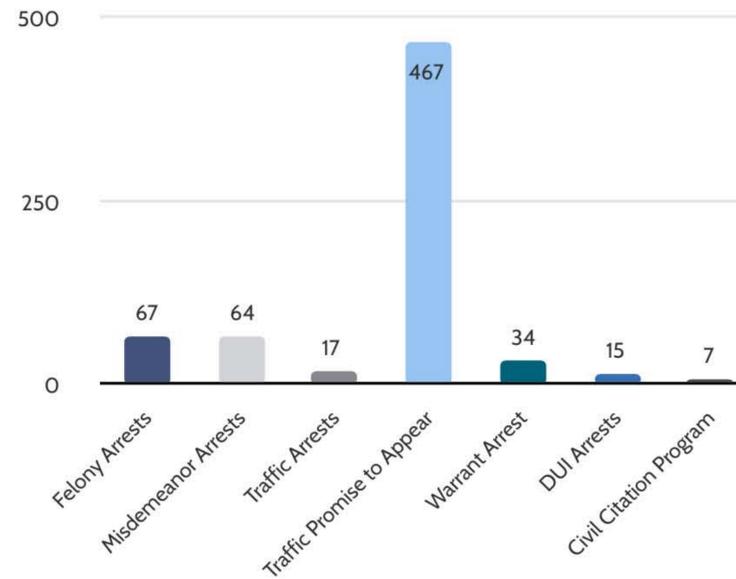
Investigations is divided into two units; General & Special. General (GIU) focuses on follow-up investigations to criminal reports against persons and property. Special (SIU), focuses on narcotics, human trafficking, crimes against children and vice crimes. In 2024, Criminal Investigations achieved a clearance rate of 28.66%. This figure reflects all investigated cases, regardless if they meet NIBRS criteria.

-Captain Junior Vijil

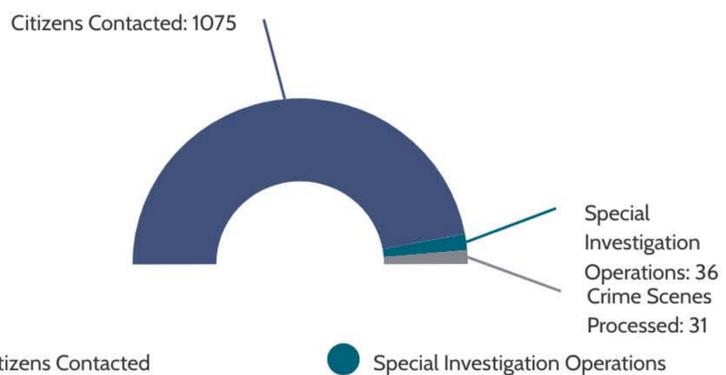
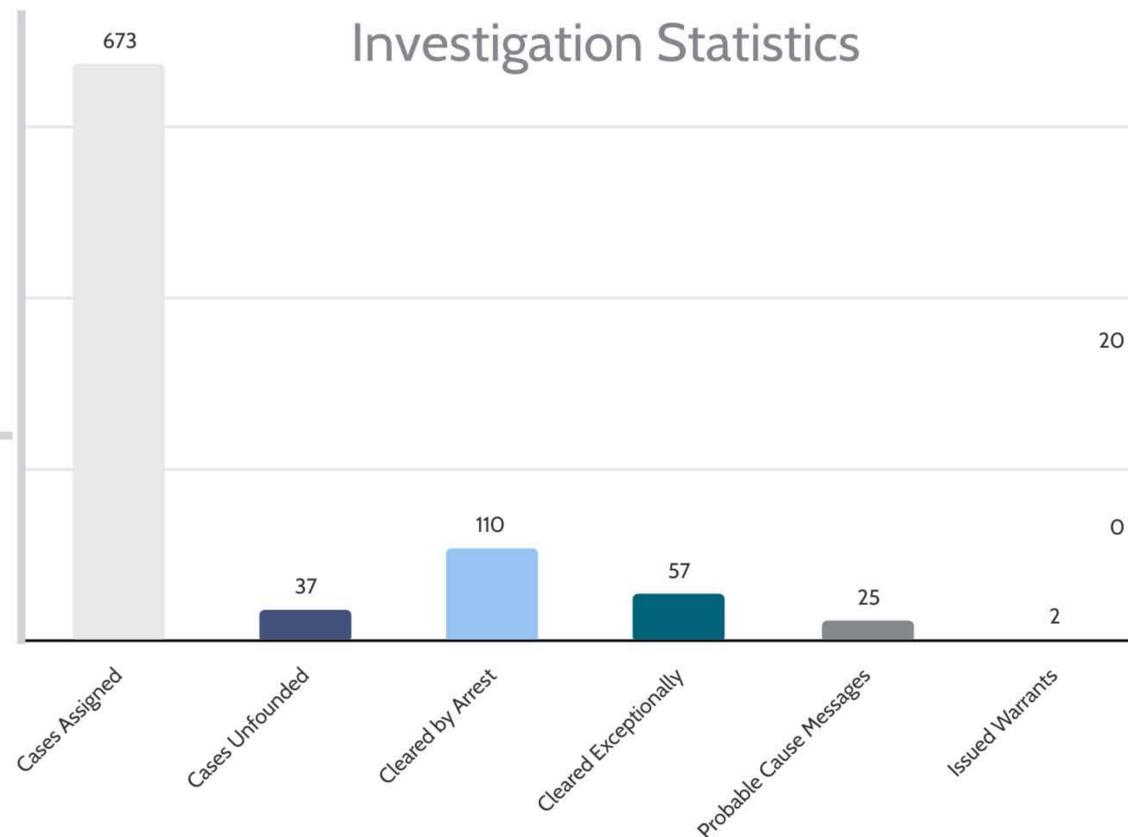
OPERATIONS BUREAU



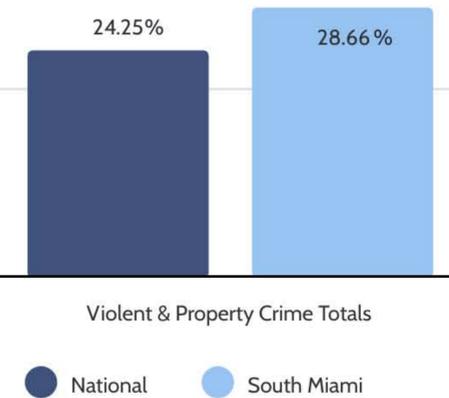
Patrol Statistics



Investigation Statistics



Investigative Clearance Rate



*National average published by Statista Research Department, (2024 Nov 14), Clearance rate- crime by type in the US 2023 Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/194213/crime-clearance-rate-by-type-in-the-us/>

● Citizens Contacted
● Crime Scenes Processed

● Special Investigation Operations

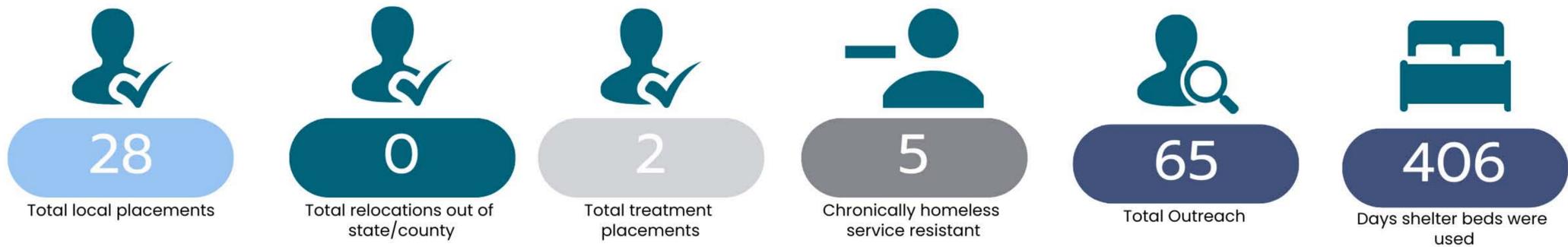
The South Miami Community Affairs Unit continues to hold its regularly scheduled Homeless Solutions Outreach meetings at the South Miami Library.

These meetings have been instrumental in expanding outreach efforts, sharing resources, and exchanging best practices with neighboring departments such as the Coral Gables and Pinecrest Police Departments, which face similar challenges and operate comparable units. Collaborative efforts have been strengthened through the participation of groups like the Miami Recovery Project and New Hope Outreach, both of which have played a vital role.

New Hope Outreach, one of the most active participants in these meetings, has developed a strong partnership with the South Miami Police Department to support the homeless population through dedicated case management services.

-Sgt. Cassandra Lilavois

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

The South Miami Police Department's PAL program is run by Executive Director, Ofc. Marcus Kinlaw. Ofc. Kinlaw oversees all aspects of the program with the help of assistant coaches and volunteers. This year 30 kids, ages twelve and under, participated in 14 track meets. They attended the University of Miami for a Track and Field clinic.

-Officer Marcus Kinlaw



APPOINTMENT

Assistant Chief Larry P. Corbin



PROMOTIONS

Captain Junior Vijil



Sergeant Darien Rodriguez



NEW HIRES



Ofc. Richard Mandini & Ofc. Lens Nepius



Comm. Ofc. Janessa Vickery



Comm. Ofc. Danissa Vickery



Comm. Ofc. Amaria Evans



Cadet Ashley Soler



Cadet Nicole Ulowicz



Executive Assistant Yvette Valdes



Ofc. Kesnel Arbizu



Ofc. Karina Ponce & Ofc. Roxana Fernandez



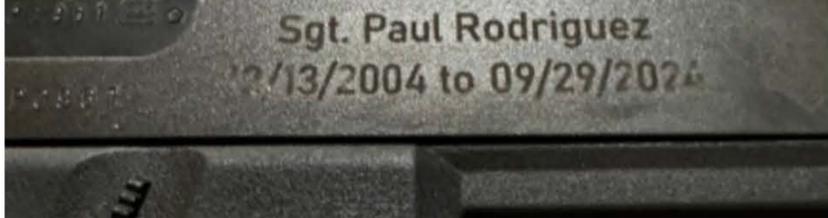
Ofc. Luis Gonzalez



K9 Officer Ace with his handler Cpl. Morejon

RETIREMENTS

*Sergeant
Paul Rodriguez*



20 years



*Administrative Assistant
Catherine Motta*



27 years

AWARDS & LEADERSHIP COURSES



Lt. Junior Vijil, Det. Jenny Sanchez, Det. Sgt. Fernando Bosch
Anthony Damato Legacy Award



CID Unit Citation Award
Back row L to R: Capt. J. Vijil, Mayor J. Fernandez, Comm. S. Calle,
Det. V. Jackson, Chief R. Hatfield, Vice Mayor B. Corey, Comm. L.
Bonich, Comm. D. Rodriguez, City Manager C. Iglesias
Front row L to R: Det. J. Sanchez, Det. J. Del Sol, Lt. J. Aguiar



Comm. S. Calle, Vice Mayor B. Corey, Ofc. M. Prather, Chief R. Hatfield,
Comm. L. Bonich, Comm. J. Liebman, City Manager C. Iglesias
Employee of the Third Quarter Award



Sgt. Edgardo Bartra
95th Graduating Class of the Southern Police
Institute Command Officer's Development
Course



Chief Reo Hatfield III
Police Executive Leadership Institute

TRAINING & EQUIPMENT



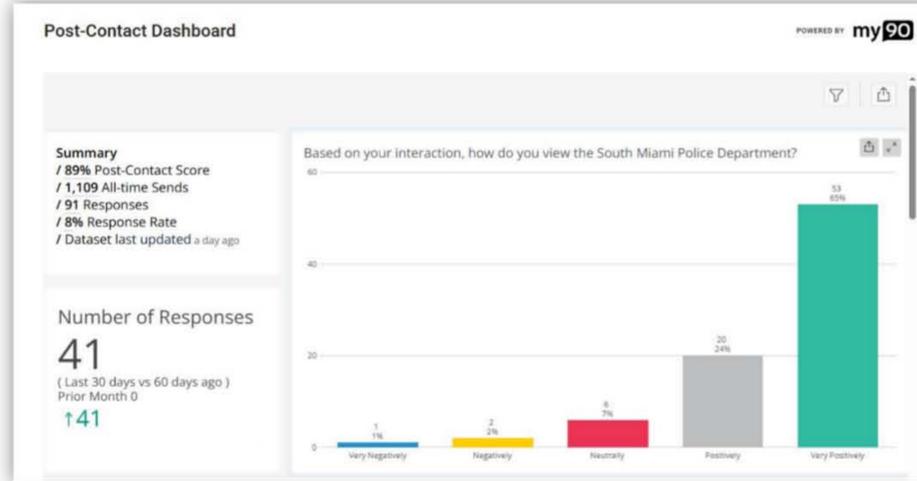
NEW INITIATIVES

Police-to-Citizen (P2C) - www.southmiamipdf.policecitizen.com
Connects citizens and agencies through convenient access to public information and agency online services.

- Report an Incident**
 - Must have occurred in South Miami
 - Reporting person 18yr of age or older
 - Valid email address
 - Theft valued at less than \$2,500
 - Vandalism/Damage to Property valued at less than \$2,500
 - Lost Property
- Online Submissions**
 - Officer compliments/complaints
 - Security watch requests
 - File online police reports
 - Mobile Friendly- Desktops, tablets & phones
- Easy Access to Info**
 - Incident reports (reports filed since 2020)
 - Recent arrest records (last three months)
 - Trespass warnings (issued last 7 days)
 - CAD calls (3 days)
 - Event Searches (30 days)
- Daily Bulletin**
 - Allows us to share our daily incidents and arrests made with our citizens and the public at large. This report is searchable as far back as 2020.
- Event Map**
 - Provides citizens with insight into what's happening in their area. Events are mapped to a block to avoid disclosing specific locations. Updates 24 hours after the call closes.

FACTS: In 2023 officers wrote 352 non-criminal informational reports for citizens, in 2022 they wrote 283. Communications Officers handled 212 security watch order requests in 2023 and 192 in 2022. This user friendly reporting option will allow us more time to focus our attention on traffic details, citizen concerns and concentrate on crime.

Police to Citizen - E-Services -online reporting options, interactive crime map, research capabilities



Axon My90 Citizen Surveys-provide feedback from the community on interaction with agency from start of call to completion of service by the officer

SchoolZone SAFETY PROGRAM

School zones will be enforced in 2024.
 Safety cameras are coming to the following school:

- SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER SOUTH MIAMI
- SOUTH MIAMI MIDDLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- THE MANDELSTAM SCHOOL
- LUDLAM ELEMENTARY

Enforcement will commence **early in the first semester** following a 30-day warning period. Please drive carefully and obey posted speeds.

Safety

PROBLEM +10 mph
 Traffic studies found hundreds of drivers each day exceeding more than 10+ mph over the speed limit in school zones.

SOLUTION
 School zone cameras have proven to reduce speeds and improve safety.

OUTCOME
 Reducing a motorist's speed by only 5 mph doubles the child's chance of survival if struck by a vehicle.

- School Zone Cameras work throughout Florida.
- Significant reductions in speed.
- Low rate of recidivism.

Fair Program

Enforcement Hours
 Citations will only be issued from thirty minutes before school, throughout the school day, to thirty minutes after, only when school is in session.

+11 mph
 Motorists will only be cited if they exceed the school zone limit by 11 mph.

- All funds collected are used for Public Safety programs.
- All Fines are \$100 with no processing fee. Civil infraction - no points or insurance increase.

Red Speed -School Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras



Persons with Disability Registry enables officers to respond to individuals specific needs during encounters



#ReoReels - informational videos keeping the community informed

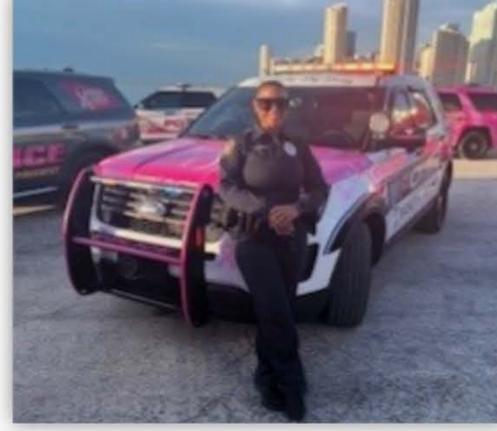


Project Lifesaver tracks individuals with cognitive conditions

COMMUNITY EVENTS



COMMUNITY EVENTS



COMMUNITY EVENTS



In memory of
Fallen Officer Joseph Kephart..

Sergeant Kephart died in the line of duty
after being hit head-on in a vehicle collision
while driving home from work after his tour
of duty.

Sergeant Kephart succumbed to his injuries
on January 18, 1970.

In memory of
Fallen Officer L. Daniel Schulz...

Officer Schulz died in the line of duty after
being stabbed while working an off duty job.
On October 15, 1987 Officer Schulz
attempted to arrest a juvenile gang member
who had been causing problems at the
Bakery Centre (now known as AMC
Theaters/Sunset Pl) movie theater. As he
was taking the subject into custody, he was
stabbed four times by the subjects fellow
gang members.

Officer Schulz succumbed to his injuries
on November 27, 1987.

FALLEN HEROES



Sgt. Joseph O. Kephart
EOW: January 18, 1970



GONE BUT NOT
forgotten



Ofc. L. Daniel Schulz
EOW: November 27, 1987