

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding the Miami Beach Police Department's
Enhanced Public Safety Citizen Volunteer Initiative
(Agenda Item - #9 – C4G referral from 1/15/20 Commission Meeting)

Analysis:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide some information to assist in on-going discussions about the creation of a Citizen Volunteer Program. This type of program is commonly known as a "Citizens on Patrol" or Citizens Observer Patrol or COPS as an abbreviation. Since the appointment of Richard Clements as Chief of Police, numerous initiatives have been implemented with the goal of enhancing and improving the community policing philosophy department-wide to better serve our community. To accomplish our mission of addressing crime, community concerns and quality of life issues, the Police Department stands ready to provide background and insight for the potential creation of this program.

Citizens on Patrol or Citizens Observer Patrol

The Citizens Volunteer Program, or Citizens Observer Patrol is a voluntary program developed to meet the changing needs of the community for which it serves and to further promote an enhancement of our Community Policing Philosophy.

CVP members assist the department by patrolling neighborhoods, parks, schools and commercial areas as additional eyes in public spaces. Their primary responsibility is to perform high visibility patrols in the business corridor on foot and perform specific tasks associated with special events when needed. CVP members will be trained to report incidents such as vandalism, graffiti or tagging, and parking violations just to name a few. Members can also be trained to report quality of life issues and make the appropriate notifications to departments such as Sanitation, Public Works, Green Space or Transportation.

While prior law enforcement experience is not required, all prospective CVP members will be required to complete the basic Citizens Police Academy program and successfully pass a thorough background check. Once selected, CVP members will be required to

complete a comprehensive field training program led by Police Officers assigned to the Community Affairs Unit. CVP members will be asked to attend monthly meetings, meet or exceed required monthly service hours, and attend other periodic re-training as required.

Implementation

The time frame needed to successfully launch the CVP program is approximately (6) six months once funding has been determined and the program is approved by the Commission.

Recruitment

Recruitment will involve outreach to civic minded persons to include those that are alumni of the Miami Beach Citizen's Police Academy and those that participate in an active HOA program. Other participants can be recommended by the those affiliated with the Community Affairs Unit. Outreach to those interested can be accomplished through, but not limited to:

- City of Miami Beach and Police Department websites
- City Communications Department
- Social media
- Homeowner Associations
- Business Associations

Requirements

All members of a CVP program must complete, pass, or meet the following criteria.

- Background check
- Member in good standing in our community
- Graduate of the Miami Beach Police Citizen's Police Academy
- 21 years of age minimum
- Sign a release waiver
- Commitment of 1 year minimum to the program
- Maintain good conduct and dress code while out on patrol
- Successful completion of a Field Training Program
- Successful attendance at all required mandatory re-training
- All future CPA attendees will receive a minimum 3-hour block of instruction on the CVP program.

CVP Policy

The Community Affairs Unit and the CALEA Manager will draft a policy outlining the parameters of the CVP program, requiring approval by the Chief of Police and City Legal.

Data Collection

The CVP program will be an essential piece of the Community Affairs Unit with a focus on improving community policing in our community. As with any start-up, supervisors must carefully track all aspects of the program in order to evaluate the impact on crime,

perception of crime, impact on quality of life and citizenry feelings of such a program, i.e., “Do I feel safer in my neighborhood?” The methods of data collection will be outlined later if the program is implemented.

Estimated Budget

The CVP program is currently an unfunded program and will require budget approval.

The estimated budget is based on the following:

- Recruitment \$1000.00
- Backgrounds \$80 x 3 hrs. = \$240 per volunteer x 10 volunteers = \$2,400
- Initial Training \$80 x 3 officers x 3hrs. = \$720 (3 hr. block at Citizen Police Academy)
- Field Training \$80 x 10 officers x 20hrs = \$16,000
- Quarterly Training \$80 x 2 officers x 2hrs. x 3 times per year = \$960
- Uniform Shirts \$30 per volunteer x 10 volunteers = \$300
- Tracking of Program \$80 x 3 hrs. per month = \$240 per month x 12 months = \$2,880
- Supplies for program (flyers, water, giveaways, etc.)
 - \$150 per month x 12 months = \$1,800
- Magnetic Placard for Golf Carts \$300
- Communications (Police Radios)
 - \$1,000 per radio x 5 = \$5,000 (already purchased – not included below)

Estimated Annual Budget \$26,360.00

CONCLUSION:

The Miami Beach Police Department will continue to research and understand the best practices, cost and any potential liabilities to the department and City. We are fully committed in creating a program that ensures the safety and well-being of the CVP members, while enhancing the community police experience for our residents and visitors.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know item, Pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?”

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No