

**South Miami
Police Department
2007**

ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Vincent A. Landis





ANNUAL REPORT PRODUCED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF:
Chief Vincent A. Landis

CHARTS, GRAPHS & LAYOUT:
Lisa Corbin

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Lt. Larry Corbin
Lisa Corbin

CONTRIBUTORS:
Chief Vincent A. Landis, Major Mike Mills, Capt. Lisa Morton,
Capt. Michael D'Angelo, Lt. Bruce Ross,
& Lisa Corbin

Mission Statement

The South Miami Police Department exists for the purpose of maintaining social order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits, to develop a sense of personal security within South Miami, enhance public knowledge and confidence that timely emergency and professional assistance will be rapidly dispatched when needed, to create public confidence through educating the public in crime prevention techniques and encouraging a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust between the department and the public.

FUNCTIONS:

- ✚ Maintain social order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits
- ✚ Preserve the peace and protect life and property
- ✚ Promptly and thoroughly investigate crimes against persons and property
- ✚ Enhance public awareness and confidence that timely emergency and professional assistance will be rapidly dispatched when needed
- ✚ Courteous and efficient response to public service needs
- ✚ Create public confidence through education in crime prevention techniques

Vision Statement

To be a world class law enforcement agency – one that exhibits traits for other agencies to emulate – 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 it's successes, and; one that empowers and encourages it's employees to serve the public and protect life and property with dignity, honor and pride.

Chief's Message



I am pleased to present the City of South Miami Police Department's Annual Report for 2007. Once again your police officers have done an outstanding job. Due to their efforts and the efforts of the department's supervisors and command staff, crimes in all major categories were reduced. This is a significant accomplishment in light of the fact that crime nationally has been on the rise.

In my 2006 Annual Report I set out some transitional concepts I wanted to achieve in 2007. In review the following were accomplished:

Computer Software Capabilities: Due to the hard work of the committee I formed headed by our Communication Supervisor; the department's software provider repaired the chronic systemic problems that plagued the software. Additionally, they updated and enhanced our computer capabilities.

Departmental Orders: This was an arduous task due to the complexity of the document. In addition, the complete revision of the document was computerized and placed on disk for easy access and portability.

Emergency Preparedness: Our department is now fully trained and in compliance with the Department of Homeland Security "National Incident Management System" (NIMS). Although this project was time sensitive and labor intense, the department's command staff, supervisors and police officers completed the training within the necessary time frames. As a direct result of the police department achieving compliance, we qualified to apply for \$150,000 dollars of federal funding to update and improve our computer software.

Training: Ongoing training is now the norm for our department personnel. All police personnel receive, on a regular basis, in-service training and specialized class room training. In addition one of our command staff attended the prestigious "Southern Police Institute" and completed its rigorous police management course. The department's commitment to training will insure that the citizens of The City of South Miami will have the highest caliber law enforcement professionals in Miami- Dade County.

Chief's Message

Organizational Structure: The total re-organization of the department was completed. Our organization now follows a traditional structure.

Additionally, I'm pleased to report that the department re-instituted the "Community Policing Detail". The officers assigned to this detail are deployed in various work modes, e.g., bike patrol, foot patrol and/or vehicle patrol.

An intricate part of this program empowers the officers assigned to work directly with citizens and other City of South Miami Departments, as well as, Miami-Dade County Agencies. The end result is less bureaucratic red tape and a faster resolution to problems that need immediate attention.

In closing, I would like to thank all the employees of the police department for their support and exemplary work ethic. Their professionalism and dedication to duty provides residents of The City of South Miami with one of the safest communities to live in, within Miami- Dade County and the nation.

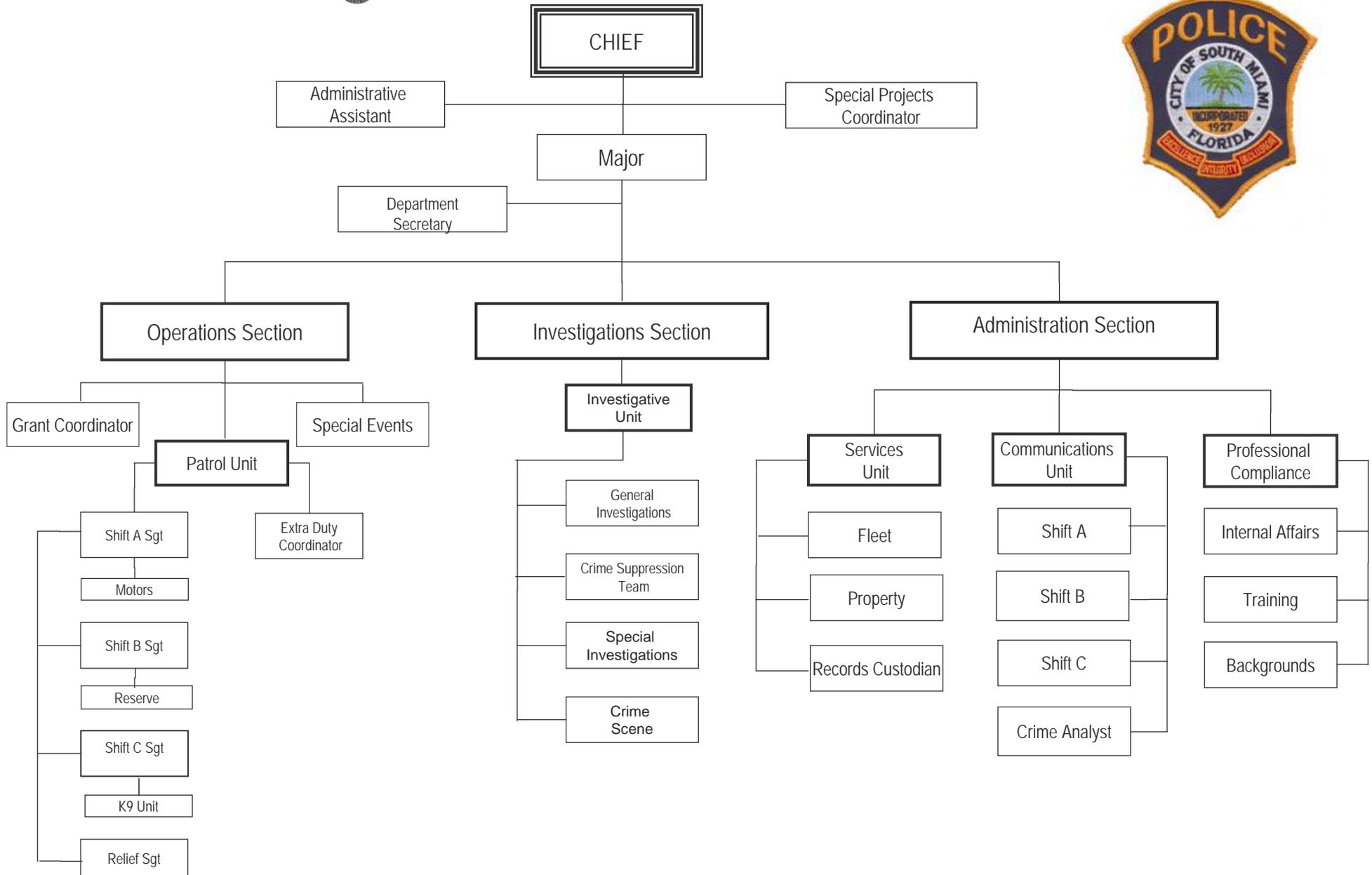
Sincerely,



Vincent Landis

Chief of Police

Organizational Chart



Department Staff



Chief Vincent A. Landis



Major Michael Mills



Major Bobby Richardson



*Captain Lisa Morton
Administration Section*



*Captain Ruben Rodriguez
Investigations Section*



*Captain Michael D'Angelo
Operations Section*



*Lieutenant Dan Salerno
Services Unit*



*Lieutenant Bruce Ross
Investigative Unit*



*Lieutenant Larry Corbin
Patrol Unit*



*Lisa Corbin
Communications Supervisor/
Crime Analyst*



*Sergeant Jeff Griffin
Shift A*



*Sergeant Shiela Scanlon
Shift B*



*Sergeant John Barzola
Shift C*



*Sergeant Rich James
Relief*



Budget



Fiscal Year 2005/06: 4,414,660
 Fiscal Year 2006/07: 4,577,590
 Fiscal Year 2007/08: 4,813,078

ACCT	2006-2007	2007-2008
SALARIES - REGULAR	3,343,717	3,595,576
SALARIES – PART TIME	11,895	0
OVERTIME	140,000	160,000
SPECIAL PAY-ED.	25,000	25,000
HAZARD PAY	52,000	52,000
FICA	273,305	297,015
GROUP HEALTH INS	285,793	277,759
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERV.	4,131,710	4,407,350
ANNUAL PHY./DRUG TESTS	6,325	6,875
CONTRACTUAL SERV.	33,270	32,830
CRIME PREV. PROGRAM	6,500	3,750
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	10,000	6,500
TRAINING/EDUCATION	14,000	13,681
LEASE PURCHASE - TEL.	-	-
LEASE PURCHASE - POL.VEH.	129,812	132,752
MAINT/REPAIR - EQUIP	25,000	30,900
MAINT/REPAIR - COMM.	42,704	51,100
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS	7,500	6,500
EMPLOYEE TESTING	10,000	11,670
SUPPLIES	35,000	30,000
UNIFORMS	60,000	66,000
MEMBERSHIP/SUBS.	7,000	8,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	387,111	400,558
EQUIP.UNDER \$500 IN VALUE	4,350	350
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,510	3,020
OPERATING EQUIPMENT	58,800	1,800
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	64,660	5,170
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,583,481	4,813,078

Annual Comparison

Violent Crimes	2007	2006	2005
Homicide	0	1	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Rape Committed	0	1	2
Rape Attempted	0	0	0
Sodomy	1	0	2
Fondling	0	0	0
Robbery	29	50	23
<i>Highway</i>	11	23	10
<i>Comm. Other</i>	4	6	3
<i>Gas/Svc. Station</i>	1	0	0
<i>Convenience</i>	1	2	1
<i>Residence</i>	1	5	1
<i>Bank</i>	2	1	0
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	9	13	8
Agg Assault	46	45	35
Agg Stalking	0	1	0
Simple Assault*	108	107	121
Total Violent	76	98	62
*not a Class I crime			
Non-Violent Crimes			
Burglary Res	78	98	94
Burglary Non Res	32	43	32
Grand Theft Auto	61	44	44
Larceny	569	584	595
<i>Pick Pocket</i>	2	3	5
<i>Purse Snatch</i>		<i>reported under robberies</i>	
<i>Shoplifting</i>	60	60	62
<i>From Motor Veh</i>	219	204	206
<i>Motor Veh Parts</i>	79	88	105
<i>Bicycles</i>	13	13	14
<i>From Bldg</i>	19	29	16
<i>From Coin Opr. Device</i>	2	0	1
<i>All Other</i>	175	187	186
Total Non- Violent	740	769	766
Total Offenses	816	867	828

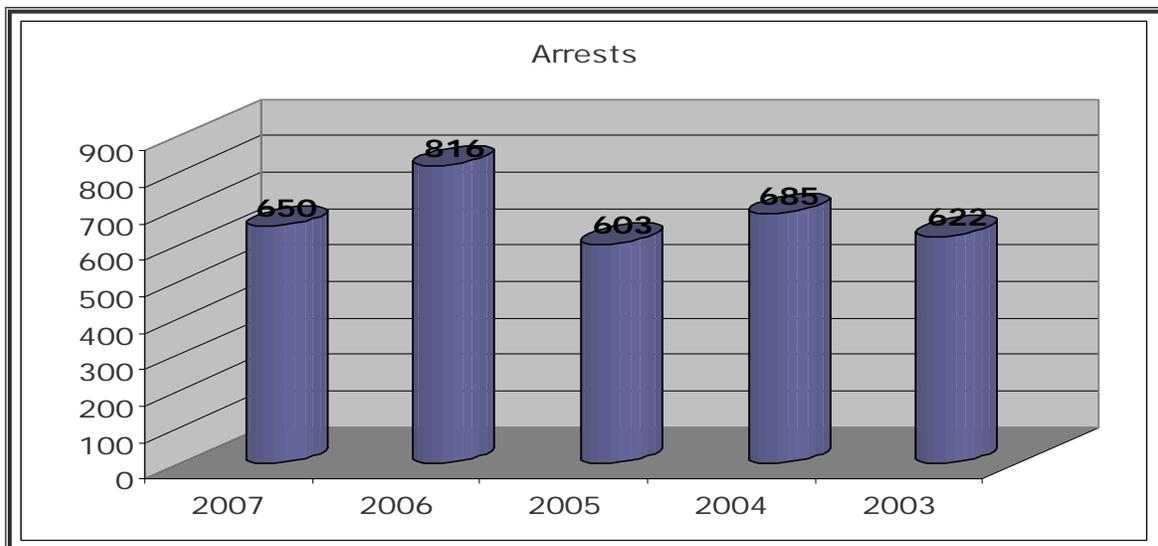
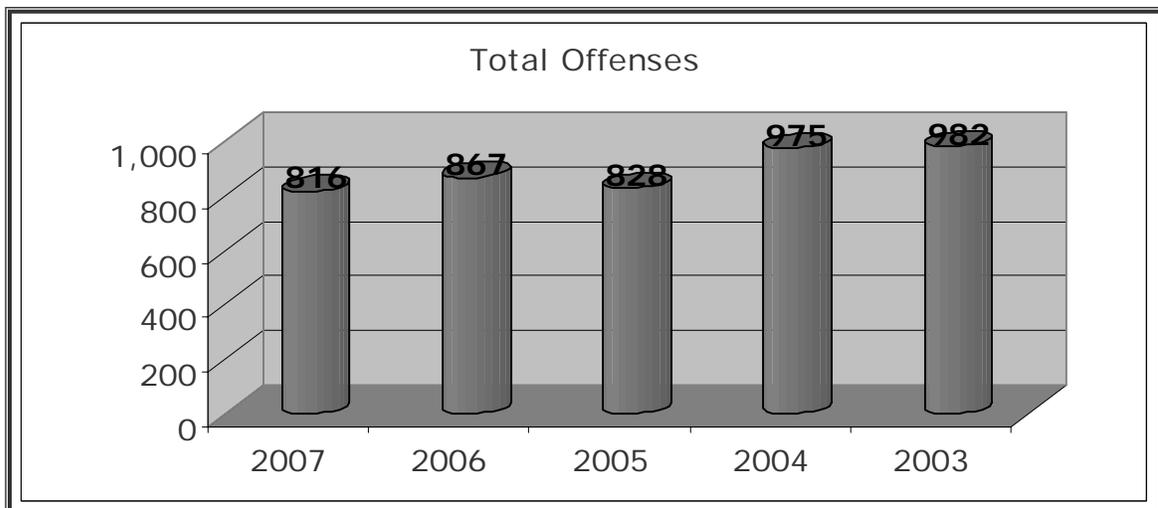
Uniform Crime Reports

In 2007, the City experienced a significant 22% drop in violent crimes. This decrease in the most serious of crimes is highlighted by the fact that there was not a single Murder or Rape and a 42% reduction in Robberies.

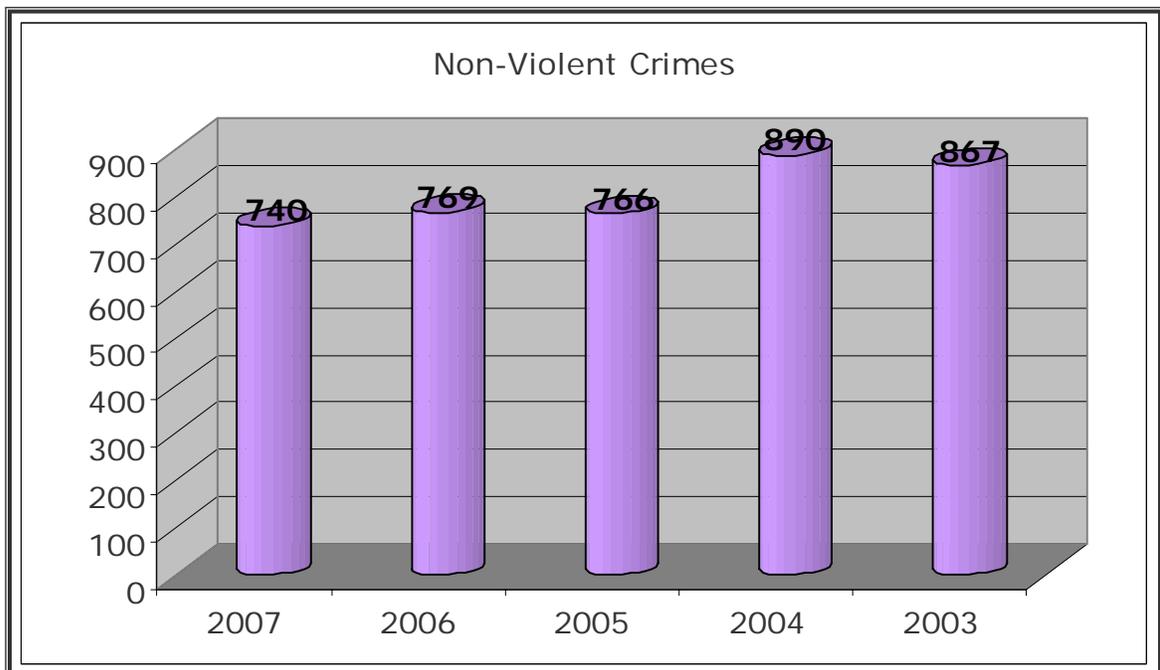
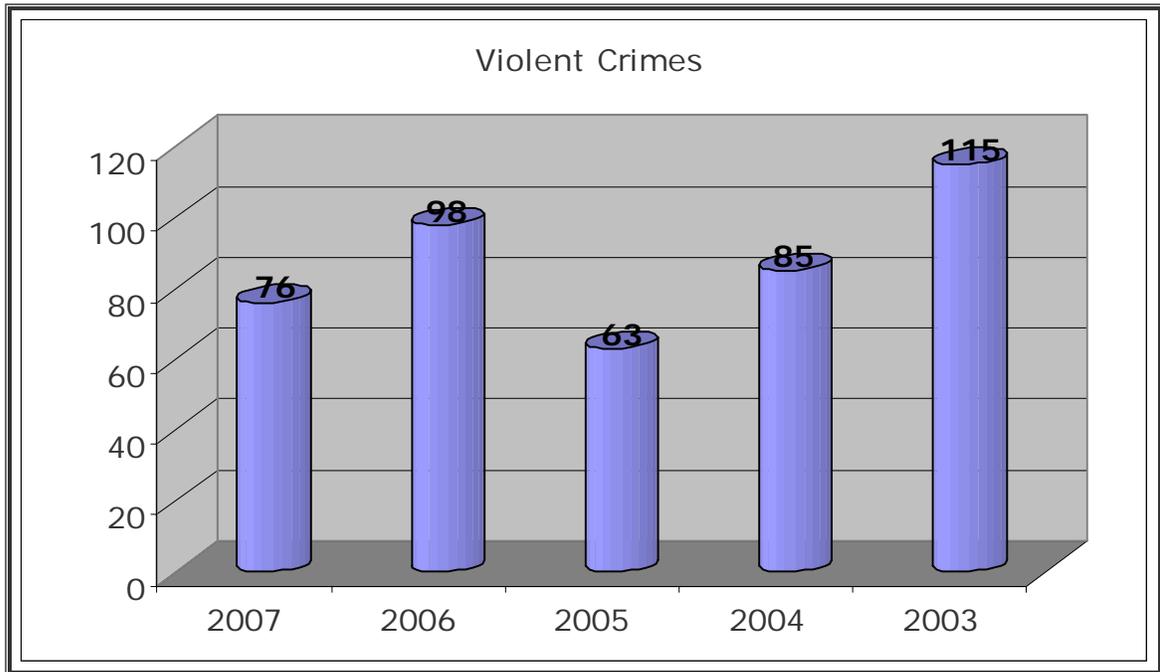
While these are statistically substantial reductions in Robberies, there were still 29 victims who were victimized- meaning that we must continue to improve preventive measures and remain vigilant.

The only notable increase for 2007 was in the Auto Theft category, where there was a spike in reported incidents during the first half of the year. In 2006, there was a mild increase in commercial and residential burglaries but in 2007, commercial burglaries returned to 2005 levels and residential incidents decreased heavily.

The overall drop in crime and the heavy emphasis on prevention and traffic activities resulted in the number of arrests returning to the levels seen in 2003-2005.



Uniform Crime Reports



Community Activities

D.A.R.E. PROGRAM:

The South Miami Police Department was one of the first in Miami-Dade County to have an officer certified to teach elementary and middle school students the dangers of drugs through the **D**rug **A**buse **R**esistance **E**ducation program. Since the early 1980's, the department continues the commitment to keep our children healthy and drug free. In 2007, 415 middle school students completed this program.

S.A.F.E. AND R.A.D. PROGRAMS:

For the last few years, the S.A.F.E. program, **S**elf defense **A**wareness **F**amiliarization **E**xchange, which teaches women awareness and self defense, has been offered and taught by the South Miami Police Department to local women's groups.

The R.A.D. program, **R**ape **A**ggression **D**efense, is also taught to women and high school aged girls, primarily in cooperation with South Miami's Junior Commission for Women.

POLICE EXPLORERS: The South Miami Police Explorer Post #256 is sponsored by the South Miami Police Department and is chartered through the Learning for Life Organization. The program provides high school and college students an insight into a career in law enforcement. It also allows young men and women an opportunity to give positive service back to the community. Throughout the history of the program many South Miami Explorers have become very successful leaders, inside and outside of the law enforcement community. In 2007, the post expanded to include 14 members.

The South Miami Police Explorers participate in a wide range of community service events and city events. Students participate in events such as: crime prevention projects, parades, observer ride alongs, explorer competitions, social events, law enforcement related training and much more.

The South Miami Police Explorer Program is known locally for its dedication to provide community service and help build a bridge between students and police officers. The program is also known for its ability to improve student's leadership skills and to produce future leaders.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Members of the Police Department are involved in a myriad of organizations to "give back" to the community and support positive programs. Some of these are:

-  Rotary
-  Kiwanis
-  Local, State & International Police Chief Organizations
-  Cops for Kids
-  Alliance for Youth
-  Community Relations Board
-  Senior Citizens Center
-  Citizen's Crime Watch
-  YMCA
-  South Miami Elks
-  Big Brother/Big Sister
-  M.A.D.D.
-  Informed Families

Community Involvement

During 2007, the distinguished Honor Guard and several other members of the Department represented the City at an unprecedented number of police funerals locally and around the state.

This year was one of the most violent in the State's history as far as Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty.

Particularly disturbing was an incident in September in southern Miami-Dade wherein Miami-Dade Police Officer Jose Somohano was killed and 3 other officers injured by a person wielding an AK47 assault rifle. As the year drew to a close, MDPD Officer Jody Wright was still recovering from the serious leg injury incurred in that incident.

On Saturday, October 6th, several members of the South Miami Police Department joined family and friends for a hard day of work washing cars to benefit the families of the above officers. Members of every rank, including Communications Officers and Police Explorers worked side by side to raise over \$5,000 as MDPD district stations and other agencies throughout the county held their own car washes. Well over \$100,000 was raised on this single day.



Operations Section

The South Miami Police Department's Patrol Unit is the most visible arm of the Operations Section. This unit responds to all calls for service from citizens, merchants and visitors to the City. The members of this unit work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year including holidays, hurricanes and other significant events. During 2007, officers assigned to Patrol responded to over 11,000 calls for service. Additionally, they provide a myriad of additional services, such as crime prevention, traffic enforcement, roadway assistance and general community service. Within Patrol, the following specialized units assist regular patrol officers with their mission:



- K-9 Units
- Motorcycle Unit
- Crisis Intervention Officers
- Field Training Officers
- D.U.I. Enforcement
- Honor Guard

Patrol officers are responsible for the six patrol zones of South Miami. The zones are made up of a wide variety of

residential and commercial areas and provide our officers with the ability to work with citizens from a wide variety of backgrounds. Officers receive continual diversity and community oriented training.

This unit also handles specialized patrol assignments (such as the downtown holiday walking beat, parade details and major event organizations) and all other requests for general police services. Patrol Officers are responsible for initiating criminal investigations for detectives to follow up.

In 2007, Strategic Patrol Planning was implemented. This is a proactive method of assigning patrol officers according to information provided by crime analysis. Officers are now deployed in the parts of the City they are needed the most and in a method where they can provide the most effective prevention of crime.



Operations Section



This year the Patrol Unit took part in a large scale mock shooting/terrorist training exercise conducted at the University of Miami. This training was nationally attended and provided exposure to worse case scenarios. South Miami played an intricate roll in the scenario and is ready to assist in case of a real life event of significance. This training will lead to additional training of similar nature at the Shops of Sunset Place and other high risk locations in the City.

2007 also saw the reactivation of the Community Patrol Unit. These officers patrol the CRA designated neighborhoods employing traditional and non traditional patrol methods (walking beats, bicycles, etc.). These officers utilize community problem oriented policing techniques to effect positive change in the community.



Our Motor Unit is pro-active and enforces all state traffic laws. Traffic enforcement is the most common complaint of citizens. An accidental injury to one of the two motorcycle officers resulted in a four month period during which he could not participate in enforcement activities. As one of the top enforcers, this substantially impacted the total number of citations issued in 2007.

Citations Issued: 2007- 3,765; 2006- 4,434; 2005- 3,340

The K9 Unit is fully certified in criminal apprehensions and narcotics detection. This year K9 Justice retired, however the unit continued to partner with outside agencies such as DEA and Customs Blue Lightening Task Force. There they search cruise ships, luggage and containers at the Port of Miami to assist in combating the importation of illegal drugs.



DUI Enforcement

For the first time in its 80 year history, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Alcohol Testing Program issued a Certificate of Operation to our agency. The South Miami Police Department is now a fully functional FLDE Breath Testing Facility. The Intoxylizer 8000 worth about \$6300, was obtained on a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. South Miami Police Department has its own FDLE licensed Agency Inspector to perform routine inspections on this instrument.



The police department also began participating in the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program. The program trains selected officers to determine whether an individual is under the influence of drugs, and then to determine the type of drug causing the observable impairment.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training is probably the most rigorous academic training that any law enforcement officer can undertake. Only selected experienced officers are allowed to enroll in the course. In order to attend DRE training, the candidate is typically nominated in writing by the officer's commanding officer. The criteria for selection include a demonstrated aptitude and interest in DUI enforcement and/or narcotics enforcement. Candidates must also have demonstrated an ability to conduct thorough crime scene investigations, and to testify clearly and convincingly in court.

Grants and Donations

This year, South Miami PD obtained the following items through the DUI program:

\$6300.00	Intoxylizer 8000 [1]
\$2400.00	Moving RADAR, single antenna [1]
\$1900.00	Moving RADAR, dual antenna [1]
\$1200.00	LASER [1]
\$1600.00	Portable Breath Test Unit [2]
\$650.00	Tint Meter [8]

Additionally the following were donated through other sources:

\$300.00	Funding for Crash Templates
\$1160.00	Check from grant
\$600.00	Various Logo items [pens, pads, key chains]
\$700.00	Funding for food and beverages for events

Multi-agency DUI Checkpoints – Participation by SMPD

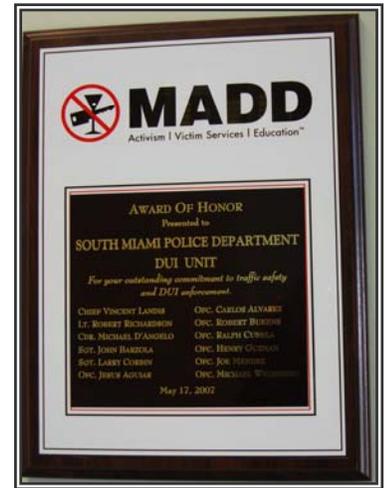
January 26, 2007	South Miami PD
June 08, 2007	South Miami PD
September 22, 2007	South Miami PD
November 15, 2007	Sweetwater PD
November 16, 2007	Coral Gables PD
November 30, 2007	Sweetwater PD
December 21, 2007	Miami PD



DUI Enforcement

Multi-agency DUI Saturation Patrols Hosted by SMPD

January 31, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
February 23, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
March 23, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
April 27, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
May 26, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
June 30, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
July 28, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
August 31, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]
September 01, 2007	South Miami PD	[Host]



MADD Dade County Awards

South Miami Police Department is proud to have a police officer on the Executive Board of MADD Dade County. MADD was instrumental in helping SMPD start the DUI program nearly three years ago.

Award Category: Special

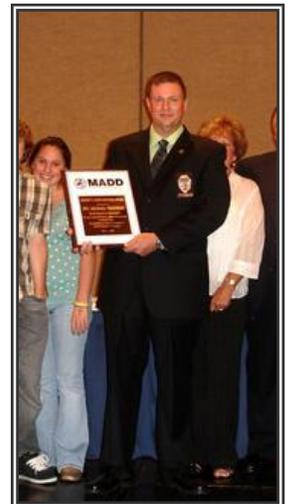
Trooper Robbie Smith Memorial Award - Ofc. Michael Weissberg

Award Category: Agency

DUI Multi-agency Task Force Award
Unit Award

Award Category: Individual Officer Awards

Officer Jesus Aguiar
Officer Carlos Alvarez
Officer Robert Bukens
Officer Rafael Cubela
Officer Henry Guzman
Officer Joe Mendez
Officer Michael Weissberg



Award Category: Staff Awards

Sergeant John Barzola
Lieutenant Larry Corbin
Captain Michael D'Angelo
Major Bobby Richardson
Chief Vincent Landis

Dade County Chiefs of Police Award

The Dade County Chiefs of Police honored South Miami Police Department with the 2007 LEO Award in the Public Safety Category. Ofc. Michael Weissberg was credited with saving life and property by organizing the incredible talent he found in the Department, and encouraging DUI arrests, checkpoints, Saturation Patrols, and Heightened Patrols in our city.



Investigations Section

The role of the Criminal Investigations Section within the South Miami Police Department is to conduct preliminary, follow-up and special investigations. Included in this process is the objective of establishing an information base of criminal activity encompassing the identification and apprehension of offenders. Additionally, VIP/dignitary protection will be provided when required.



The Criminal Investigations Section is supervised by a Lieutenant who reports to the section Captain. The section is divided into two units; General Investigations and Special Investigations.



The General Investigations Unit is currently comprised of four Detectives who conduct preliminary and follow-up investigations on crimes against persons or property and processing crime scenes.

During the year, besides working their normal assigned cases, G.I.U. Detectives handled an

additional 763 cases contacting victims of minor crimes. They worked numerous crime suppression details to stem the increase in vehicle burglaries within the parking lots of the Shops of Sunset Place and South Miami Hospital, the downtown business as well as residential areas. They also worked special details in order to combat an increase in robberies occurring around the Metro Rail Station and around the Miami Dade County Fire Station. G.I.U. Detectives also assisted S.I.U. Detectives in identifying narcotic sellers/suppliers/buyers, who in turn were also committing residential and vehicle burglaries. Overall, during 2007 there was a 54% clearance rate on assigned cases.



Special Investigations

The Special Investigations Unit is currently comprised of four Detectives; two who handle local narcotics, vice, intelligence and crime suppression activities and two who are detached to a Federal Task Force handling narcotics, smuggling and gathering of intelligence for homeland security.

A high priority for any police department is eradicating street drug sales in the community. While the sale and use of illegal drugs is a problem in itself, customarily other crimes are always on the rise when this type of activity occurs. A continued focus with the emphasis on zero tolerance has continued in 2007 and is resulting in a noticeable change by members of the affected community.



During this year, the Special Investigations Unit detectives conducted numerous undercover narcotics operations. Due to their efforts we now have identified over 140 individuals as narcotic sellers, suppliers or buyers. As that investigative process moves forward, those identified individuals will be arrested and their narcotics operations closed down. Also, due to the efforts and hard work of the two SIU Detectives assigned to work closely with different federal agencies

(DEA, ICE, USSS and FBI), they collectively confiscated over \$25,500,000 of which approximately \$6,300,000 in pending forfeiture monies are ear marked for the City of South Miami Police Department.

Our efforts will carry on as we make a continued impact on the quality of life in our community and the lives of our children.



These puppies were implanted with liquid heroin

Professional Compliance

Last year, the South Miami Police Department received Commission support to become compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Part of becoming compliant is the requirement that all officers complete ICS-100 training (Incident Command System). We are proud to say that all of our officers have successfully completed this phase in 2007.

NIMS is a standardized approach to incident management and response. Developed by the Department of Homeland Security and released in March 2004, it establishes a uniform set of processes and procedures that emergency responders at all levels of government will use to conduct response operations.

The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively and efficiently to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity, including catastrophic acts of terrorism and disasters.

Federal agencies also are required to use the NIMS framework in domestic incident management and in support of state and local incident response and recovery activities.



Police employees are among the most highly trained and 2007 resulted in the completion of 3,542 training hours, ensuring a continued commitment. These training hours consisted of various courses including Crisis Intervention Team Training. This specialized training is instrumental in preparing officers to deal with the mentally ill. In addition to any specialized training, officers are required to attend a specific amount of training every four years in order to maintain their Florida Law Enforcement Certification.



This year, two officers successfully completed a "Police Cycling Certification Course" that was offered through the International Police Mountain Bike Association. This was a physically demanding course that included distance and endurance rides of up to 20 miles. Upon the completion of the course, these officers were assigned to Community Patrol where they will patrol various areas of the City on their police bicycles.

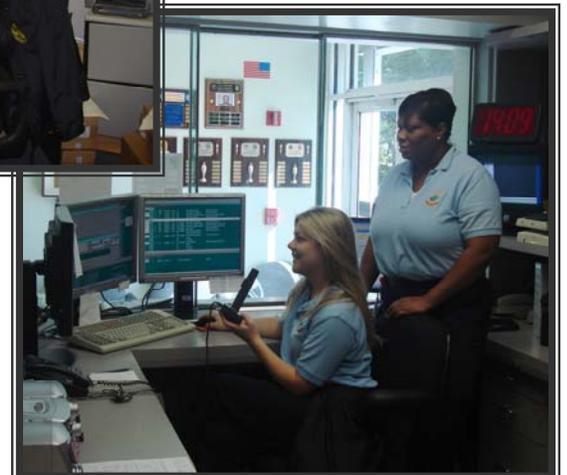
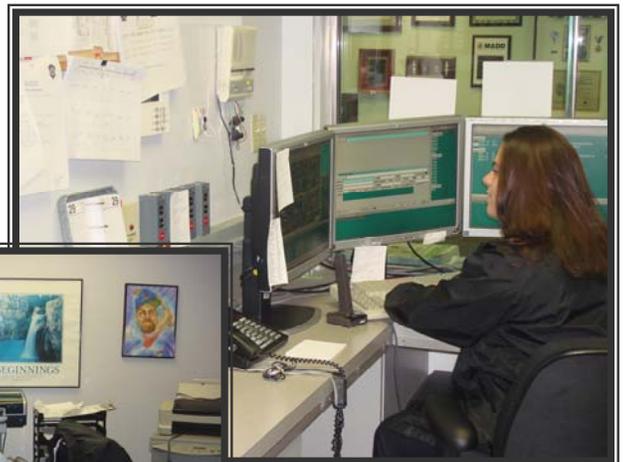
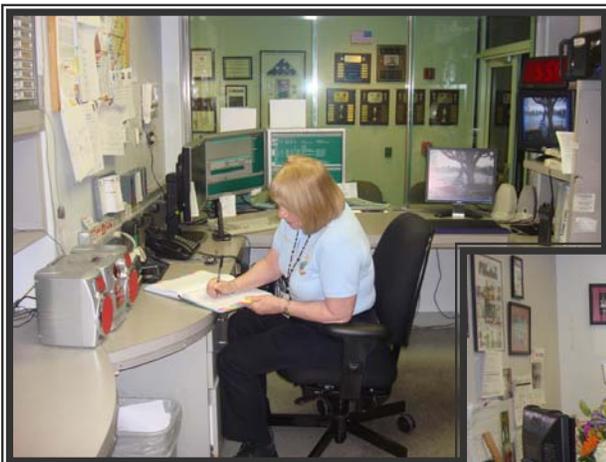
During 2007, fifteen pre-employment background investigations were conducted. These investigations consist of Polygraph Examinations, Psychological Evaluations, Medical Exams as well as examining personnel records for the applicant's previous employment. The successful completion of the investigations resulted in the hiring of two Communications Officers, four Police Officers and one Reserve Police Officer.



Communications

The Communications Division is the hub of the department and is staffed around the clock, year round. Communications Officers are usually the first contact on calls for service. They function as dispatchers, call takers, teletype operators, court liaisons and record clerks. During 2007 we received 11,136 calls for service. These calls are generated in four different ways; 911 calls via the Miami Dade Police Department, non-emergency calls, inter-agency radio communications and officer self-initiated or discovered activity.

Our calls for service are primarily dispatched through the Miami-Dade Police Department's Computer Aided Terminal (CAD). We also use a secondary CAD terminal that allows us to dispatch directly to our units on patrol via officers' Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). This "in-house" CAD enables us to dispatch our officers to calls in a more expeditious manner. This is hugely advantageous during periods when air traffic is extremely heavy on the police frequency. This also allows us to instantly access calls for service from previous shifts and facilitates public records requests with a much faster level of service.



In Memory Of Officer L. Daniel Schulz

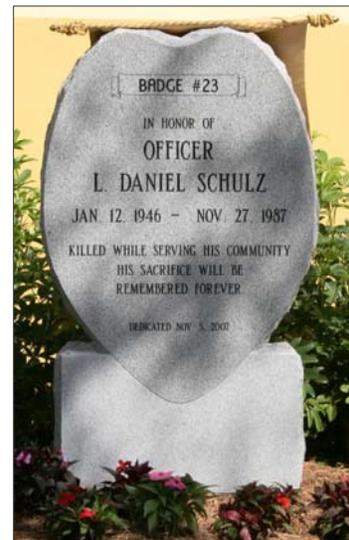
The South Miami Police Department dedicated a memorial to fallen Officer L. Daniel Schulz on Monday, November 5, 2007. Officer Schulz died in the line of duty 20 years ago, after being stabbed while working an off duty job.

On October 15, 1987 Officer Schulz attempted to arrest a juvenile who was part of a gang which had been causing problems at the Bakery Centre movie theater. As he was taking the subject into custody, he was stabbed four times by the other members of the gang. Officer Schulz succumbed to his injuries on November 27, 1987.

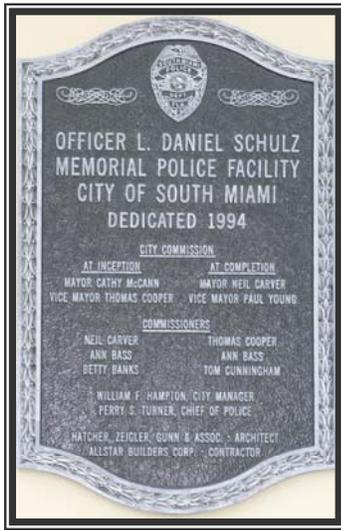


The granite memorial stone is located in front of the police station and serves as a constant reminder of the hero who gave his life protecting our community. In 1994, the South Miami Police Department dedicated the police station in Schulz' honor and through the PBA's street dedication program a portion of SW 57 Ave was also dedicated in Officer Schulz' memory. South Miami Mayor Horace Felio presented The Schulz Family with a proclamation designating November 5, 2007 as Officer L. Daniel Schulz Day. After the dedication and fellowship, the family was able to visit the new Police Memorial site located in Tropical Park where Dan's legacy continues on along with the other fallen officers in Miami-Dade County.

South Miami Police would like to give a special thanks to the PBA, POAT, the Schulz family and South Miami police employees both former and present, who made this a memorable event.



In Memory Of Officer L. Daniel Schulz



L. DANIEL SCHULZ
SOUTH MIAMI P.D.
EOW II-27-1987



Award Recipients

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Officer Jesus Aguiar was an easy choice for 2007's Officer of the Year Award. During the year, he was nominated for Officer of the Month six (6) times and received it 5 times.

In each instance, he was recognized for a level of productivity that far exceeded that of his peers. Also, there was always at least one specific instance of particular interest. These included drug seizures and D.U.I. arrests and multiple incidents in which he investigated the perpetrators of violent crimes such as assaults or robbery. In one instance, his efforts resulted in the criminal prosecution of five (5) individuals for a racially motivated attack at a bus stop.

In each of the many nominations throughout the year, Officer Aguiar's supervisors cited his genuine concern for the community and love of the job.

While his excellent proactive crime fighting work is worthy of this award, his efforts in other areas justify it even more. He has taken over and improved the South Miami Police Explorer Post. This program for youngsters interested in policing had already grown to one of the best in South Florida. His dedication to recruiting has led to 16 young men and women joining the post. Always involving himself in D.U.I. enforcement initiatives, Officer Aguiar has received Program Support recognition from MADD.

He is also a member of the Department's distinguished Honor Guard with which he has represented the city on numerous occasions during this particular year.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY	Det. Joe Mendez
FEBRUARY	Det. Victor Jackson & Det. Michael Vargas
MARCH	Ofc. Carlos Alvarez
APRIL	Ofc. Jesus Aguiar
MAY	Ofc. Jesus Aguiar
JUNE	Ofc. Kevin Lantigua
JULY	Ofc. Jesus Aguiar & Ofc. Kevin Lantigua
AUGUST	Ofc. Jesus Aguiar
SEPTEMBER	Ofc. Michael Weissberg
OCTOBER	Ofc. Richard Munoz
NOVEMBER	Ofc. Jesus Aguiar
DECEMBER	Ofc. Marcus Kinlaw & Ofc. Pedro Rojas

Award Recipients

CHIEF'S AWARD

Detective Joe Mendez, Jr. receives the distinguished Chief's Award for his outstanding achievements in the war on drugs as well as his dedication to the community and the Police Department.

Prior to becoming a detective in early 2007, Officer Mendez was named Officer of the Month in January for going above and beyond when, off duty, he followed a severely alcohol-impaired driver to North Miami where the person was arrested and the vehicle was discovered to have been stolen. He was also nominated for the monthly award in February.



In March, he was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section where he served for a short time assisting Special Investigations Unit (SIU) detectives with local street level drug investigations. He was then assigned to work with a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) group. In the seven ensuing months, Det. Mendez was an integral part of many investigations that were extremely serious and dangerous. These investigations, many of which were initiated by Detective Mendez, have caused the dismantling of substantial illegal drug operations including 42 marijuana grow houses, money laundering rings and other illegal organizations.

In this short period of time, the DEA HIDTA Group seized assets valued at just under \$15,000,000. Through asset forfeiture sharing, the South Miami Police Department is slated to receive over \$3,200,000. With dozens of individuals facing very serious felony charges, the seizure of airplanes, ultra-luxury automobiles (in one case, a \$210,000 Bentley) residences and entire companies, Detective Mendez and his Group are having a great impact on the scourge of drugs in South Florida.



With just two years as a member of the South Miami Police Department, Detective Mendez displays the traits of an investigator with ten times the experience. In recommending him for the award, his Commander cited his commitment, dedication and fortitude. He also commended the detective's attitude, demeanor and exemplary work ethic.

City of South Miami POLICE ZONES



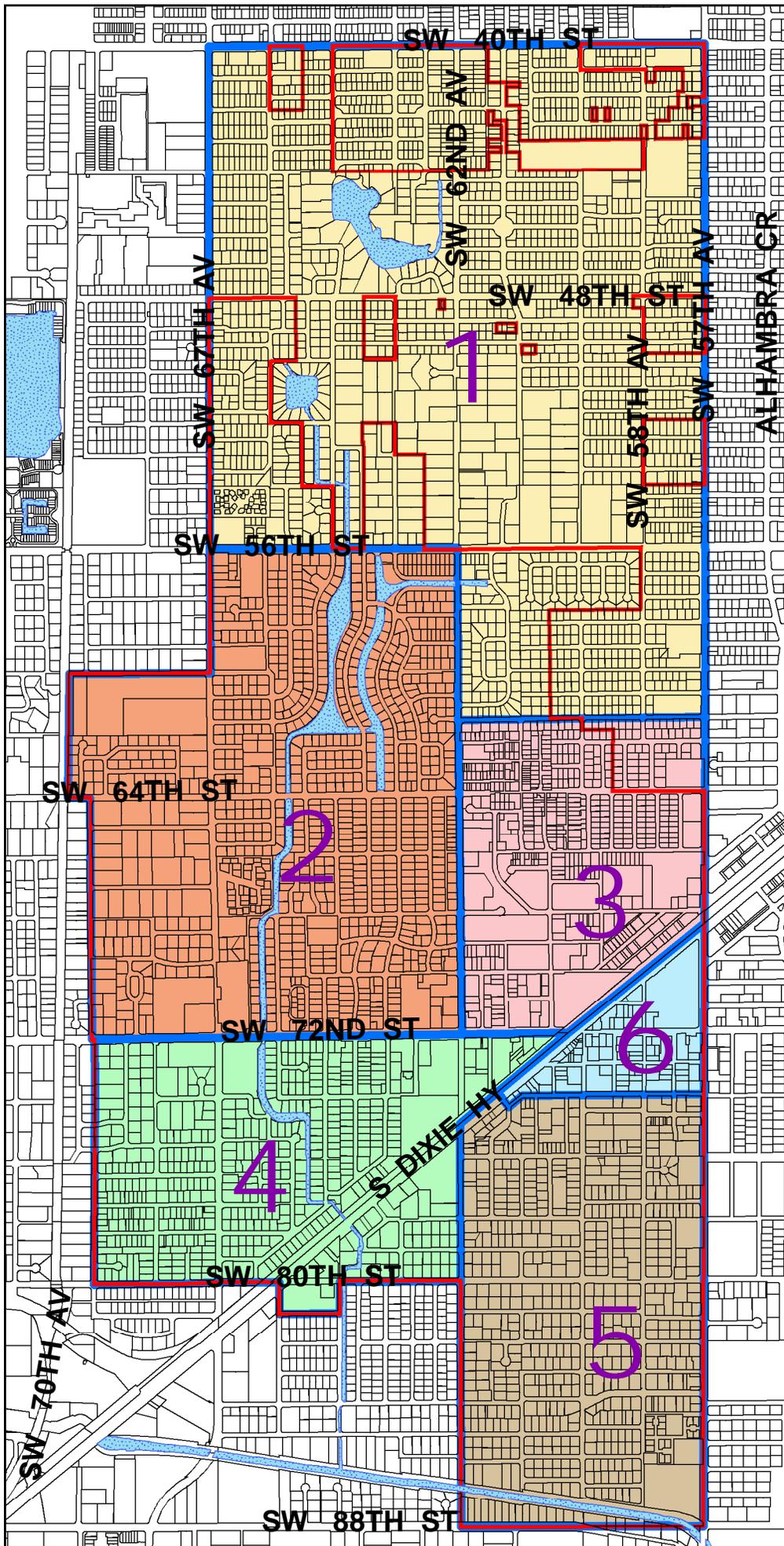
South Miami
Police Department
6130 SW 72 Street
South Miami, FL 33143

Emergency
Telephone Number
911

South Miami Police
Telephone Number
(305) 663-6301

Criminal Investigations
(305) 663-6322
*to contact a detective
once a police report
has already been filed.*

Drug Tip Line
(305) 663-6303
*citizens having information
concerning narcotics
possession and/or sales.*





CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI

Horace G. Feliu, Mayor

Randy G. Wiscombe, Vice Mayor

Marie Birts, Commissioner

Velma Palmer, Commissioner

Jay Beckman, Commissioner

Yvonne S. McKinley, City Manager

Maria Menendez, City Clerk

Luis Figueredo, City Attorney