

CITY OF FORT PIERCE *Florida* *Police Department*  
"In Honor We Serve"  
*Diane Hobley-Burney, Chief of Police*



June 23, 2016

Dear Residents, Businesses and Visitors:

At the Fort Pierce Police Department, our motto is "In Honor We Serve." This short, but meaningful sentence guides all that we do, and reminds us every day that we must remain worthy of the great honor this community has bestowed on us to be your police officers.

As your chief, I want to assure you that this department's policy is to treat all people with dignity and respect, regardless of their walk of life. We are committed to fairness and equality, and we embrace the diversity that defines Fort Pierce.

In no instance will bias-based profiling by our officers be tolerated. Biased-based profiling is the selection or disparate treatment of an individual based solely or partially on an individual's race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group or other identifiable characteristic.

However, the use of identifiable characteristics to identify a suspect in a specific offense is not considered biased-based profiling, such as when we get a report of a crime and find someone nearby generally matching a particular description. Officers might be properly justified in stopping that person to inquire about his/her involvement, but mere similarity to the description would not be sufficient for arrest. The law requires that all police actions be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

The trust between officers and the people we protect and serve is essential to the stability of every neighborhood in our beautiful city. Officers need your trust and support to be truly effective. To perform our duties, we need everyone to understand that traffic stops, field contacts, proactive patrols and other enforcement efforts are necessary to deter crime and provide a safe, peaceful environment.

The Fort Pierce Police Department is committed to fair treatment of all members of the community, and to service that is fair, unbiased, judicious and respectful of the dignity of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Hobley-Burney".

Diane Hobley-Burney  
Chief of Police