



Community Education and Awareness Efforts

What is Biased Policing?

The inappropriate consideration of specified characteristics while enforcing the law or providing police services. Specified characteristics includes, but is not limited to , race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, political status, or any other legally protected characteristics.

A fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States to all who live in this nation is the equal protection under the law. Along with this right to equal protection is the fundamental right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by government agents. Citizens are free to walk and drive our streets, highways, and other public places without police interference so long as they obey the law. They also are entitled to be free from crime, and from the depredations of criminals, and to drive and walk our public ways safe from the actions of reckless and careless drivers.

The New Smyrna Beach Police Department is charged with protecting these rights, for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion or other belief system.

Because of the nature of their business, law enforcement officers are required to be observant, to identify unusual occurrences and law violations, and to act upon them. It is this proactive activity that keeps our citizens free from crime, our streets and highways safe to drive upon, and that detects and apprehends criminals.

Therefore, it is the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department that profiling is prohibited in conducting traffic and/or field contacts, asset seizure and forfeiture efforts. Members of this department shall provide citizens with the highest degree of law enforcement services, regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender, age, income status, sexual orientation, or religious or political affiliation. Further, it shall be the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department to train agency enforcement personnel in fair and impartial policing including legal aspects; in accordance with Florida Statutes and, take corrective measures when necessary, and to conduct an annual review of the department's practices.

Agency Training

It is the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department to train agency personnel in fair and impartial policing including legal aspects; in accordance with Florida State Statute, and conduct an annual review of the department's practices.

Complaints/Compliments

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint, please complete the "Employee Misconduct Complaint" form and forward to the police department in person or by mail. You may also send a letter if you feel that our staff or police officers were particularly helpful in your situation or you observed a good deed that should be recognized. Our officers and employees work diligent to perform the best they can to serve our community.