

# City of Miami



SHIRLEY E. RICHARDSON  
Executive Director

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BRENDA SHAPIRO  
Chairperson

March 13, 2008

Mr. John Timoney, Chief of Police  
City of Miami Police Department  
400 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33101

Re: Case #08-047-CIP /City of Miami Internal Affairs # 07-174N

Dear Chief Timoney:

Recently the CIP completed a review/investigation of a complaint of Improper Procedure that was filed against Officer Jesse Henriquez. Essentially, the Complainant, Mr. Melville Nozza, went to the Central District on July 10, 2007, to file a stolen temporary tag report. According to Mr. Nozza, the officers at the front desk refused to take a report and informed Mr. Nozza that he did not need to file a report because whoever was using the tag, if caught, would be arrested.

On July 26, 2007, Mr. Nozza filed a complaint with Internal Affairs. The matter was classified as a "Non Complaint." Reportedly, Sgt. Andrew Boan informed the Complainant that the City of Miami does not generate reports on stolen temporary tags. As a side note, the Panel was not able to locate any such policy within the Departmental Orders currently in our possession. The Panel respectfully requests that if such policy exists, that a copy be forwarded to us as soon as possible.

Mr. Nozza's case was presented before the Panel on February 19, 2008. Panel members expressed dismay that the Miami Police Department's policy apparently calls for no formal reporting of stolen temporary vehicle tags, especially in light of the fact that vehicle tags are linked and cross-referenced to an individual's personal information. Furthermore, MPD Policy 11, Chapter 8 § 8.4.10.2 and Field Operations Division SOP 2-17§ IV, requires a Motor Vehicle Report be generated for stolen tags. It does not, however, differentiate between regular or temporary tags. Therefore, the Panel unanimously agreed that a recommendation be made to the Miami Police Department that police reports should, routinely be generated on all stolen temporary tags to formally document the incident for protection of the victim and to provide potential investigative leads. Further, if not already considered in this or any Departmental Order or Standard Operating Procedure, that language is added to specifically include reports on stolen temporary tags.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Shirley E. Richardson

SER/ssw

C: Pedro Hernandez, City Manager  
Panel Members

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