



## COLLIER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### POSITION STATEMENT

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**Subject:** Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops

**Distribution:** Citizens of Collier County

**Note:** The following is an official position of the Collier County Sheriff's Office as approved by Sheriff Don Hunter.

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**Background:** Approximately 3 years ago, media and public attention was drawn to possible "racial profiling" in regards to law enforcement officers conducting traffic stops in other areas of the country. Florida has always attempted to be a premier state when it comes to identifying law enforcement trends and the need for training, and during the 2001 Florida Legislative session, the Legislature addressed this subject and introduced Senate Bill 84, which was subsequently passed and made effective as of October 1, 2001.

Senate Bill 84, as passed Section 943.1758 Florida Statutes, states that Florida law enforcement training schools and agencies shall deliver a 4-hour training module entitled "Discriminatory Profiling and Professional Traffic Stops" to law enforcement officers. The Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) provided a lesson plan across the State to ensure that this instruction would be standardized. The lesson plan was quickly disseminated to law enforcement agencies and to law enforcement training schools. It addressed prohibited acts and provided recommended guidelines for Deputies concerning issues and situations that may arise during a traffic stop. [A model policy was produced by the Florida Police Chief's Association and distributed to all agencies for their use in the development of a written policy for distribution to Agency members.]

The Collier County Sheriff's Office completed the required training for all Certified Law Enforcement Deputies in December, 2001 and a directive entitled "Prohibited Discriminatory Personal Status Profiling" was prepared and issued to each agency member prior to 9/15/01, and was made a permanent part of the Collier County Sheriff's Office Operations Manual.

The Sheriff's Office began educating its Deputies in the early 1990's on human diversity issues, requiring professional and fair treatment of every person, and had a policy statement in place prohibiting discriminatory traffic stops a year before the State requirement.

**Position:** The Collier County Sheriff's Office provides continuous training to all Law Enforcement Deputies. The training includes the Sheriff's policy that treatment of any person based solely on their race, ethnic characteristics, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status is unacceptable behavior. Singling

out any one person, culture, ethnicity, race and targeting any one person unfairly will not be practiced in our County.

Since the 2001 Legislatively required training for all certified law enforcement Deputies was completed, a training program has been developed to ensure that each Deputy will receive this training again during the Agency in-service training cycle, at least once every 4 years in order to maintain his or her state certification.

Every citizen of this county should rest assured that the Collier County Sheriff's Office is continuing to ensure that Deputies are educated on professional behavior and attitude, so that the most fair, efficient and effective law enforcement service possible will be delivered to citizens. Although law enforcement Deputies cannot disengage from conducting traffic enforcement, they can do their best to maintain a courteous and respectful attitude throughout the traffic stop, with the goal in mind of reducing crime, reducing traffic crashes, and encouraging motorists to obey traffic laws and drive safely.