

BIASED BASED POLICING

Biased Based Policing at times also known as Bias Based Profiling, but broader in scope, is the inappropriate consideration of a person's specific characteristics by a police officer when enforcing the law or providing police services.

TERMS

Specific Characteristics: Include but may not be limited to race, color, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, age, national origin, cultural group, religion, political status or other belief system.

Police Services: Law enforcement, traffic enforcement and nonenforcement activities that contribute to the well-being and safety of the community. While not limited to this list, police services can include, making an arrest, issuing a traffic citation, conducting a persons or traffic stop, assisting a citizen, performing lifesaving functions, preventative patrol and any other police activity that has an effect on a member(s) of the community or the community as a whole.

POLICY

It is the policy of the FBPD that when providing police services, FBPD officers will treat people in a fair, impartial, equitable and objective manner, in accordance with law, without discrimination and without consideration of any specific characteristics.

SAFEGUARDS

Police officers receive initial and ongoing training in the legal aspects of policing practices, courtesy, cultural diversity, the laws governing search and seizure, interpersonal communications skills, and de-escalation techniques. Training programs include the prohibition of bias policing and the need to respect the rights of all citizens to be free from unreasonable government intrusion or police action.

Utilizing recordings from body worn cameras and in car cameras, supervisors randomly review officer/citizen interactions to identify training needs.

On an annual basis a member of the command staff reviews all statistics relating to the use of force, arrests, citations, and contacts to determine if there are any patterns of biased based policing.

COMPLAINTS OF BIAS POLICING PRACTICES

Any person may file a complaint with the FBPD if they feel they have been the victim of bias-based policing practices by:

- Calling 904-277-7342 and speaking to a supervisor.
- Mailing a written complaint to 1525 Lime Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.
- Coming to the FBPD in person at 1525 Lime Street Fernandina Beach, FL.

No person shall be discouraged, intimidated, or coerced from filing such a complaint, or discriminated against because they have filed such a complaint. All such complaints shall be reviewed and assigned for investigation to be completed within thirty days unless the Chief of Police grants an extension.

Complaints of biased based policing practices that are found to be sustained will subject the FBPD member to corrective actions as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.