

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Fort Myers Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit is an extension of the Chief of Police and provides a clear process for citizens to file complaints regarding alleged misconduct by employees and a pathway to submit commendations for extraordinary employee performance.

FMPD is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a positive working relationship with community members, business owners, visitors, and our law enforcement partners. We continuously strive to improve the community's trust in our ability to provide the highest level of police services possible.

Citizen participation and involvement is vital in our ability to successfully manage the police department. This brochure outlines the basic steps necessary for you to let the department know your opinion concerning the quality of our police services. We value your opinion!

TRUE BLUE

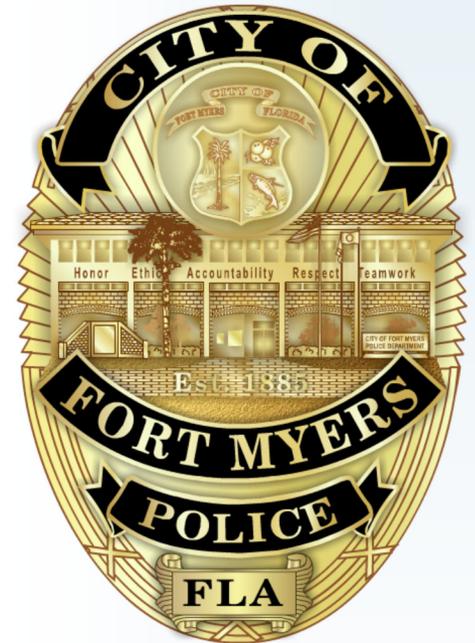
TRUE TO OUR COMMUNITY
TRUE TO OUR COMMITMENT
TRUE TO OUR CITY

IF YOU WITNESS AN OFFICER
DOING SOMETHING YOU THINK
IS WRONG OR AN OFFICER
GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND
THE CALL OF DUTY, DOCUMENT
THE DATE, TIME, LOCATION,
AND PATROL CAR NUMBER.
THEN CONTACT US. WE WANT
TO HEAR FROM YOU.

FORT MYERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT
2210 WIDMAN WAY
FORT MYERS, FL 33901
239-321-7708
www.fmpolice.com

COMMENDATION OR COMPLAINT



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COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The purpose of investigating complaints is to ensure continued confidence of the community by upholding the integrity of the police department. The complaint procedure provides citizens a way to make legitimate complaints regarding police employees. It also protects employees from false or unwarranted accusations.

FILING A COMPLAINT

Step 1: Contact Internal Affairs. You may file a complaint in person, by telephone, by mail, or by visiting our website. Complaint forms are available online. Anonymous complaints are also accepted.

Step 2: Upon receipt of the complaint an investigator with Internal Affairs will contact you. You may be requested to provide a sworn statement, produce any evidence of the allegation, and discuss the complaint in detail.

Step 3: You will be notified of the completion of a thorough investigation and will have an opportunity to discuss the outcome. All cases remain confidential until a final disposition. If the allegation is sustained, the appropriate action will be taken.

RECOGNITION

The men and women of the Fort Myers Police Department strive everyday to not only protect and serve the residents of the City of Fort Myers, but to make the city a better place to live. It is our policy to recognize employees who demonstrate exemplary performance in their duties. We receive hundreds of letters and phone calls each year from citizens expressing gratitude for a job well done.

There are three award categories: Letters of Recognition, departmental awards, and community sponsored awards. You can compliment an employee by calling Internal Affairs, writing a letter, or by visiting our website. A letter is preferred so it can be placed in the employee's personnel file.

The logo consists of the words "TRUE" and "BLUE" stacked vertically. The letters are bold and blocky. The "R" in "TRUE" and the "L" in "BLUE" are a lighter shade of blue, while the other letters are a darker blue.

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FLORIDA STATE STATUTE

Florida State Statute 112.533 governs the process for the receipt and processing of complaints. The statute mandates that every law enforcement agency put a system in place to receive complaints, investigate them, and make determinations. This includes imposing disciplinary action against the employee. The statute also requires that the investigation remain confidential until the case is closed. After a complaint has been investigated it is given one of the following classifications:

Sustained: The employee was found to be in violation of department policy or procedure.

Not Sustained: There was not enough evidence to prove or disprove the allegation.

Exonerated: The employee was within guidelines of department policy and procedures.

Unfounded: The complaint is false, or the accused employee was not involved in the incident, or there is no basis in fact that the incident occurred.

Other: Other violations exist; or the policy does not properly address the allegations; or there is confusion/conflict in the policy; or the policy was non-existent; or the policy itself was deficient.