

Biased Policing

Biased policing is the inappropriate consideration of specified characteristics while enforcing the law or providing police services. This includes, but is not limited to: race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, cultural group or any other legally protected characteristics.

It is the Standard Operating Procedure of the Rockledge Police Department to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority while protecting the rights of all persons.

The Rockledge Police Department does not condone the use of any biased policing in its enforcement programs.

Biased policing alienates citizens, fosters distrust of law enforcement and creates an environment not conducive to good community police relations.

Rockledge Police Department officers shall focus on an individual's conduct or other specific suspicious activity or

information. The officer must have reasonable suspicion supported by specific articulated facts that the person contacted regarding their identification, activity, or location has been, is, or is about to commit a crime or currently is presenting a threat to the safety of themselves or others. Additionally, traffic stops must be based on violations of traffic laws/infractions.

One objective of law enforcement is to protect the public by enforcing laws in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority, while protecting the rights of all persons. Therefore, enforcement action must be based solely and exclusively upon federal, state, and local laws and the policies and procedures of the Rockledge Police Department.

All officers who engage in law enforcement activities are trained in biased policing issues, including the legal aspects of field contacts, traffic stops, search issues, seizure and forfeiture, as well as interview techniques, cultural diversity, discrimination and community support. Training in proactive enforcement tactics, officer safety, courtesy, and

interpersonal communication skills also are included.

If you feel you are the subject of racial or biased policing, you can make a complaint with the Rockledge Police Department.

To make a complaint:

A complaint of racial or biased policing may be made to any officer or supervisor of the Rockledge Police Department. The officer or supervisor will obtain the information necessary to initiate a departmental investigation into the complaint.

Complaints may be made in person or via telephone call, email or letter to the Police Department via the contact information listed on the back of this brochure.

Any allegations of biased policing made against any agency member(s) will be referred to the Professional Standards Lieutenant for investigation. Persons making a complaint will not be harassed, intimidated, or retaliated against in any way.

BIASED POLICING

Rockledge Police Department

Contact Information

24-hour Phone (321) 690-3988
Administration (321) 690-3988 Ext. 3157
Chief of Police (321) 690-3996 Ext. 3101

Professional Standards Division
(321) 690-3988 Ext. 3125

Address

Rockledge Police Department
1776 Jack Oates Boulevard Road
Rockledge, FL 32955



A COMMUNITY INFORMATION BROCHURE

Joseph P. LaSata
Chief of Police