City of Doral
Police and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Doral Police Headquarters
Roll Call Room
6100 NW 99th Avenue
Doral, FL 33178

1. **Call to Order**
   Meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. **Roll Call of Board Members**

Andy Abbate, Chair	Present
David Yglesias, Vice Chair	Present
Monika Barkhausen, Secretary	Present
Luis Valdez, Board Member	Absent
Peter Espinosa, Alternate Member	Present

   Staff present:
   Leonel Ochoa, Police Department
   Samika Gibson, Police Department
   Javier Rodriguez, Public Works Department

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Monika Barkhausen.

4. **Public Comments**
   Speaker: Anthony Vivo (Resident)
   Mr. Vivo introduced himself as a Doral resident and retired from U.S. Southern Command. He shared concerns regarding:
   - Traffic congestion and aggressive driving in the City of Doral
   - Lack of adherence to basic traffic laws (e.g., turn signals, stop signs)
   - Need for stronger enforcement and education

- Observations from other countries regarding traffic systems and driver behavior
- Concerns about distracted driving and cultural differences in driving habits
- He emphasized that improving traffic safety requires both enforcement and community education.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. January 21, 2026

Motion to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes made by board member Peter Espinosa and seconded by board member David Yglesias. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

a. Open Discussion

- Acknowledgment that traffic is a top concern in the City of Doral.
- Explanation of challenges:
  - High daytime population (commuters exceeding residents)
  - Limited public transportation options
  - Peak congestion hours (morning and afternoon)
- Enforcement limitations due to prioritization of emergency calls
- Explanation of police procedures (e.g., lights/sirens being turned off when calls are downgraded)
- Ongoing initiatives:
  - Aggressive Driving Unit (approx. 10-12 officers)
  - Expansion of traffic cameras and License Plate Readers (LPRs)
  - Implementation of school zone speed cameras
  - High-visibility patrols
  - Educational outreach programs
- Additional concerns discussed:
  - Micromobility (e.g., scooters, bikes) safety, especially involving youth
  - Challenges with international drivers and licensing enforcement
  - Legal and systemic limitations at the local level vs. state/federal authority.

b. Board Member Comments and Discussion

Peter Espinosa

- Mentioned prior discussion about a “Coffee with Police” community initiative
- Proposed new idea:
  - Adding a **veteran appreciation/awareness sticker** to police vehicles recognizing the presence of U.S. Southern Command in Doral
- **Motion:** To create a sticker representing appreciation for the armed forces on police vehicles
- **Vote:** Unanimous
- **Result:** Motion passed

David Iglesias

- Raised safety concerns regarding:
    - Unconnected bike paths on NW 41st Street near the Turnpike
    - Pedestrians and children crossing unsafely due to lack of infrastructure
- Requested update on crosswalk or connectivity plans
- Staff indicated potential inclusion in a master plan (to be verified)

Additional comments:

- Positive feedback on increased police presence and traffic enforcement
- Support for high-visibility patrol strategies
- Concern regarding lack of notification to board members about community events (e.g., PANA event)
- Suggested improvements:
    - Better email notifications
    - Posting events on the City website

Staff Response:

- Public Affairs (City Hall contact: Maggie) handles communications
- Follow-up to be conducted

Additional Discussion Points

- Recognition of Doral Police Department's responsiveness and community engagement
- Positive feedback on monthly "Coffee with Police" events
- Emphasis on continued collaboration with U.S. Southern Command

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7. New Business / Additional Requests

- Request to organize a group photo with:
    - Police Advisory Board
    - Police Chief
    - Advisors
- Suggested to coordinate during a future meeting

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8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monika Barkhausen, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026, Police and Traffic Committee Meeting made by Board Member _____ and seconded by Board Member _____.

Andy Abbate, Chair	_____
David Yglesias, Vice Chair	_____
Monika Barkhausen, Secretary	_____
Peter Espinosa, Alternate Member	_____

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 20th day of May 2026.

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Andy Abbate, Chair