




## CITY OF DORAL Office of the City Manager Letter to Council

LTC No. 030-2022

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From:   
Hernan M. Organvitez, City Manager  
Date: August 25, 2022  
Subject: **Facebook Posting Response**

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This letter to Council is to inform the Mayor and City Council of the Police Department's response to a Facebook post which originated under the Residents of Doral group site, posted by Manny Sarmiento, on August 23, 2022 (see attached).

The posting alleges four points about the Doral Police Department. In response, the Department will list the allegations made on the posting and provide a response for each.

I. No Overtime Approved for Officers

This allegation is an inaccurate representation of the facts. Currently, the Police Department's overtime budget for FY 21/22 has been exceeded. On August 8, 2022, based on our calculations that we would be over our overtime budget, an order was issued by the Chief, that all preplanned overtime was to be scrutinized up to the Acting Deputy Chief's level, to ensure that we made every possible attempt to minimize any unnecessary use of overtime. At NO time has the ability to work necessary overtime been curtailed.

2. No New PD Cars Until 2024

This is a FALSE allegation. For FY 22/23 the Police Department has requested 15 replacement vehicles, at a cost of \$648,638.

3. Orders for New Cars Cancelled

FALSE, no vehicles have been ordered for FY 22/23 since the budget has not been approved. Once the FY22/23 budget is approved the 15 vehicles will be ordered. There were 23 vehicles ordered from FY 21/22 budget, of which all 23 vehicles have been received by the Department.

4. Doral PD Detectives Use Older Fleet

There are 12 sworn personnel assigned to the General Investigations Unit. There are 12 vehicles assigned to the sworn personnel, of which 8 are vehicle models year 2020 or newer. The 4 remaining vehicles are from 2015, 2016 and 2017.

5. Crime up Almost 12% PCT

As of August 21, 2022, year to date (YTD) Part I Crimes are up by 11.3%. Although the above allegation is true, it is irresponsible to throw out a percentage without an explanation of that number. The increases in crime for this YTD have been in Aggravated Battery, Robbery and Sexual Offenses. The Aggravated Battery crimes are at 31 this YTD or 63% over last YTD with a clearance rate of 71% of which 21 are known subjects. The majority of these Aggravated Battery are either domestic related or situations where the subjects previously knew each other. The Robbery crimes are at 30 or 25% over last YTD, of which 18 were domestic related. Additionally, our clearance rate for Robbery is 70%. The Sexual Offenses are at 16 this YTD or 78% over last year YTD, with a clearance rate of 50%. Thirteen of those offenses are subjects known to the victims. The Doral Police Department takes violent crimes seriously. As you can see by the high closure rates, our resources are applied to the crimes that impact people the most.

6. The final allegation on the posting states that the Doral Police Department has no budget left for 2022.

This is another FALSE statement. As of this writing, the Department has expended 82.3% of its allotted FY 21/22 budget, compared to 89% in FY 20/21, 84.3% in FY 19/20 and 82% in FY 18/19. As in previous FY's we will be on target for the remainder of this budget.

It is unfortunate that some will make false and inaccurate statements to further a personal agenda. It is irresponsible to allow this Facebook post to go unaddressed as inaccurate statements such as these do nothing but spread misinformation and potential mistrust from the community. Building trust with the community has always been at the forefront of this department and its officers. It is what we do and what we pride ourselves. Establishing and maintaining this trust is fundamental to public safety and effective policing.

Let it be perfectly understood that decisions made within this department are always made with the safety of officers and of the community as a priority. The men and women of the Doral Police Department are professional, noble, brave, and proudly serve this community. Inaccurate comments such as these also have the potential to affect the morale of these police officers who risk their lives daily. Although most of us have experienced some type of criticism in our professions, to do so with broad inaccurate statements is only done to try to cause harm.

It is the Department's responsibility to ensure that Doral Police Officers have the proper training and equipment to provide the best service to this community, but it is also our responsibility to ensure to our community and the leaders of the City of Doral, that the Doral Police Department is fiscally responsible and transparent. The department's mission, the safety of officers and the community have not and will never be compromised.

HMO/RV/RMU

c. Rey Valdes, Deputy City Manager  
Raul M. Ubieta, Chief of Police

