



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 023-2010

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LETTER TO COMMISSION  
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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 22, 2010

SUBJECT: MBPD POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE – POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information on the MBPD Police Athletic League's Police Explorer program. The Police Explorer Program is offered to the youth of our community, ages 14 to 21 years old. This program is designed to build strong relationships within our community and creates an opportunity to bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement. Explorers work closely with their MBPD advisors, Officer Peter Socarras and Officer Jose Ortivero. With their guidance, the Police Explorers have learned about traffic control, defensive tactics, crime scene investigations, firearms safety and training, search and arrest procedures and physical fitness training.

During 2009 the Police Explorer Program (Post 120) grew from 14 to 20 participants. The Explorers have volunteered their services to assist with a tremendous amount of events in our community for a total of 1559 community service hours. These included helping with:

- Tropical Miami 5K Run
- ING Marathon
- Festival of the Arts
- MBPD PAL Flag Football Tournament
- The Great Eskate
- SOBE Fit 5K Run
- Miami Beach Marathon
- Ocean Drive 5K Run
- Nautica Triathlon
- MBPD Take Your Kids to Work Day
- Miami Beach Polo Tournament
- MBPD Police Memorial Ceremony
- MBPD Memorial Day Weekend (traffic and food detail)
- Miami-Dade Police Memorial Ceremony
- Beach Clean-Up at Nikki Beach
- MBPD Operation Cassandra Training Exercise
- MBPD PAL Book Bag Give-Away Event
- Domestic Violence Week
- Miami Beach Regatta
- Moonlight Madness for M.A.D.D.
- Veterans Day Parade
- MBPD PAL Thanksgiving Basket Give-Away
- Holiday Parade (NMB)

- Holiday Clean-Up Project (Lenox Avenue)
- MBPD PAL Holiday Toy Give-Away

This outstanding group of young people has also successfully competed with other PAL Police Explorer in various competitions throughout the State of Florida. In April 2009 they competed in the South Florida council Explorer Challenge for Miami-Dade and Broward County Explorer Posts. In this competition they received 1<sup>st</sup> Place Overall as well as:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Traffic Stop Scenario
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Domestic Crisis Scenario
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Burglary In-Progress Scenario
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Drill Team
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Crime Scene Scenario
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Explorer Male Bicycle Course

During April 2009 they also participated in the Florida Association of Police Explorers Shooting Match. This competition was with Explorer Posts statewide. They received 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Expert Shooter and 4<sup>th</sup> Place Overall Shooting Team. In June 2009 they participated in the Florida Association of Police Explorers Law Enforcement Conference. In this competition they received:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Drill Team
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place Color Guard Team
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place Bicycle Team
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place Expert Shooter

Please join me in congratulating these extraordinary young people for their tremendous accomplishments during 2009. We wish them continued success in 2010.

JMG:CN:tr