

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the Fort Pierce Police Department, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), in furtherance of their respective duties under law for the purpose of facilitating investigations of incidents as described hereafter. The Fort Pierce Police Department and FDLE agree as follows:

1. The occurrence of any of the following predicate events will initiate investigative and forensic involvement, assistance, or coordination by FDLE:
 - a. The shooting of a person by a Fort Pierce Police Department law enforcement officer acting in the line of duty; or
 - b. The death of an arrestee while in the care, custody or control of a Fort Pierce Police Department law enforcement officer, the death of an arrestee shortly after being in the care, custody or control of a Fort Pierce Police Department law enforcement officer or the death of an intended arrestee during an arrest attempt by a Fort Pierce Police Department law enforcement officer.
2. Upon the occurrence of any of the enumerated predicate events, the ranking Fort Pierce Police Department member on the scene will ensure that emergency medical services are provided to injured persons and that a secure crime scene perimeter is established with restricted access. Only emergency medical personnel, crime scene technicians, medical examiner personnel, State Attorney personnel, investigating FDLE members and other law enforcement investigators assisting FDLE will be permitted inside the crime scene perimeter. The ranking Fort Pierce Police Department member will then ensure that the appropriate FDLE regional operations center is promptly contacted and requested to dispatch an FDLE Critical Incident Team to initiate an investigation and to coordinate crime laboratory services at the scene. FDLE will notify the State Attorney as soon as reasonably possible.
3. Pending arrival of the FDLE Critical Incident Team, the ranking member will ensure that the scene remains secured, that physical evidence and documentation is protected and preserved and that all law enforcement and citizen witnesses are identified and separated pending initial interview. If feasible, the ranking Fort Pierce Police Department member will insure that arrested persons at the scene are detained pending the arrival of the FDLE Critical Incident Team. The ranking Fort Pierce Police Department member will also provide any assistance requested by FDLE during and after the on-scene investigation has been concluded, such as additional collection of evidence from suspects, vehicles, or involved law enforcement personnel, as well as the securing of other evidence such as radio communications tapes. The ranking Fort Pierce Police Department member will also coordinate with local law enforcement in any necessary crowd control efforts.
4. Upon receipt of notification from the Fort Pierce Police Department that any of the enumerated predicate events have occurred, the appropriate FDLE Special Agent in Charge or designee will immediately implement an investigation pursuant to FDLE Procedures governing Use of Force/Investigations Concerning the Use of Deadly or Other Force by a Law Enforcement Officer and Incidents of In Custody Deaths, which are incorporated herein by reference. FDLE will promptly coordinate the dispatch of the Critical Incident Team together with the appropriate crime laboratory personnel, medical examiner personnel, State Attorney personnel and any additional law enforcement personnel which are required.

5. FDLE will assume operational direction of investigations and forensic assistance, or coordination initiated pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding. FDLE may request the assistance of Fort Pierce Police Department personnel or personnel from other law enforcement agencies.

6. The Fort Pierce Police Department will retain overall direction and responsibility for any internal or administrative investigations initiated in response to the occurrence of any of the enumerated predicate events. However, the parties agree that the criminal investigative efforts take precedence over any internal or administrative investigations conducted by the Fort Pierce Police Department. No internal report or statement, authored or obtained by Fort Pierce Police Department personnel involved in the subject incident, that has been provided to the Fort Pierce Police Department under order or policy shall be provided, or its contents revealed, to the criminal investigative team or the prosecutor until such time as the criminal investigative team and the FDLE Office of General Counsel agree that the criminal investigation will not be adversely impacted by any potential for immunity that may attach to any such statement. The criminal investigative team and the FDLE Office of General Counsel may consult with the prosecutor to determine whether such statement may adversely impact any subsequent criminal prosecution. However, the criminal investigative team and the FDLE Office of General Counsel will make the final determination regarding use of such statements in FDLE's investigation. To help assure that the criminal investigation is not impeded or negatively affected by internal or administrative investigative efforts, the Fort Pierce Police Department's internal or administrative investigation shall be initiated only after the criminal investigative efforts have been concluded or when otherwise specifically authorized by the FDLE's investigative team.

7. The parties agree that the Fort Pierce Police Department may issue initial press statements acknowledging an incident, reporting the status of the law enforcement officer(s) involved in the incident, and referral to the investigative process. At the appropriate stage(s) of an investigation initiated under this Memorandum of Understanding, FDLE will forward copies of all investigative reports and investigative summaries to the State Attorney having jurisdiction over the case and to the Fort Pierce Police Department for review. Transmittal of reports and summaries will be done so as to preserve any applicable exemptions from public disclosure and to maintain any confidentiality of information that may apply. Any press release related to investigative activities and responses to public records requests shall be coordinated jointly by the involved agencies to assure that disclosure, if any, is appropriate and timely.

8. FDLE will submit all final reports to the State Attorney for review. FDLE will report the material factual findings of the investigation but will offer no recommendations or reach legal conclusions concerning whether the force used, if any, was justified.

9. The parties acknowledge that the Office of the State Attorney or another law enforcement agency may assert primary jurisdiction and responsibility for investigations such as are contemplated in this Memorandum of Understanding. Absent the consent of the Office of State Attorney, FDLE and the Fort Pierce Police Department will defer to the Office of State Attorney and refrain from participation in the investigation of the incident, but FDLE will provide forensic assistance as requested by the Office of State Attorney.

10. This Memorandum of Understanding represents the entire agreement between the parties on this subject matter. Any alteration or amendment of the provisions of this agreement shall be in writing, duly signed by authorized personnel of each of the parties and attached to the original of this agreement.

11. This agreement shall become effective upon signing by FDLE and the Fort Pierce Police Department and may be terminated upon thirty (30) days notice by mutual agreement of the parties.



Mark Glass, Commissioner

Florida Department of Law Enforcement



David Smith, Chief of Police

Fort Pierce Police Department

DW#
2/18/26

23 FEB 26

Date

Date

Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce

ATTEST:

Date

Linda W. Cox, City Clerk

(seal)

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL
FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

Sara K. Hedges, City Attorney