



# TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## BIAS POLICING

### EDUCATION & AWARENESS

This brochure is designed to educate the community on the issue of Bias-Based Policing to include what it is and what to do if you believe you have been a victim of Bias-Based Policing.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Tarpon Springs Police Department is to Reduce Crime and Enhance Quality of Life through a Cooperative Partnership with the Community.

### VISION

The Tarpon Springs Police Department will strive for excellence in policing. This will be accomplished through training, innovation and exceeding the expectations of our citizens, in delivering on our vision of

*"Building a Better Future"*

### VALUES

**Accountability   Creativity   Integrity**  
**Professionalism   Quality**

## GOALS

### GOAL #1 - Public Safety

Build a Better future for all the residents of the City Of Tarpon Springs, by ensuring a safe city for our citizens and visitors.

### GOAL #2 - Traffic Safety

Enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety of Tarpon Springs roadways through education and enforcement.

### GOAL #3 - Community Partnerships

It is important that the Tarpon Springs Police Department is proactive in increased community satisfaction. We can increase satisfaction by providing better service, communications and building relationships with the citizens of Tarpon Springs.

### GOAL #4 - Personnel Development / Technology Advancement

Assure agency and individual accountability by effective and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and technology.

### GOAL #5 - Public Safety Programs

Continue to offer and enhance community programs such as Community Officers in Public Schools, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education, Homeless Out Reach Program, Peace4Tarpon, Cops N Kids, Cops N Teens, and School Resource Officer Unit.

## To Our Residents, Local Business Owners, Commuters & Visitors

We are here to protect the community. Tarpon Springs Police Officers are required to use skills developed through observation, training and experience in order to identify suspicious circumstances, unusual occurrences and violations of law (ordinances, criminal and traffic) and to act according to the situation. We contact people who, according to our training, experience, and knowledge, are in a place or are acting in a way to make us believe that a crime was committed, is about to be committed or is in the process of being committed. This proactive approach aids in the detection and apprehension of criminals, maintains the safety of our streets and highways, and protects our citizens and community from crime.

We want to do the right thing. Discriminatory enforcement practices can alienate our citizens, foster distrust of officers in the community, invite media scrutiny, legislative action and judicial intervention, and potentially lead to allegations of constitutional and civil rights violations. As we perform our duties, it is imperative that we afford all citizens the Constitutional and fundamental right to equal protection under the law.

The selection of individual (s) based solely on a trait common to a group for enforcement action. This includes but is not limited to: race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group or any other identifiable group.

The Tarpon Springs Police Department is committed to unbiased policing. Investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, non-consensual searches, and property seizures.

## How To Report Bias Policing

Citizens who feel they have been stopped or searched due to bias-based policing are encouraged to file a complaint with the Tarpon Springs Police Department.

Complaints may be filed in person, by mail, electronic mail, or by telephone. To file a complaint in writing or by email, please include all the facts, names, dates, and places known. Please include as much detail as possible. All complaints will be investigated.

## Contact Information

### Tarpon Springs Police Department

444 South Huey Avenue  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
**(727) - 938-2849 - Main**



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