

2024

ATLANTIC BEACH POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Commander T. Layson



CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT - 2024 BIASED BASED PROFILING ANNUAL REVIEW

A compilation and analysis of statistical data relevant to residential demographics in Atlantic Beach and any enforcement trends. CFA 2.06M requires a written directive that prohibits bias-based profiling in accordance with Florida Statutes and includes a documented annual administrative review of traffic stop procedures related to bias-based profiling.

Signature of Preparer: Jiffany R. Layson Date: 1-29-25

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Accepted By: V. Gallo Date: 1.29.25

The purpose of this review is to determine agency compliance with current laws prohibiting biased based profiling, review agency policies and practices, and ensure that any actions or allegations involving biased based profiling were properly documented and investigated.

In order to evaluate the enforcement actions reviewed in this report, it is important to understand the residential demographics of the citizens within Atlantic Beach, Florida. These statistics provide perspective when attempting to determine if any enforcement trends are present within the practices of the Atlantic Beach Police Department. According to the most recent data compiled in 2023 by the US Census Bureau and Census.gov website, the population demographics of Atlantic Beach are as follows:

Atlantic Beach population – 13,182
White (not Hispanic) – 75.1%
Hispanic or Latino Origin – 8.8%
Black or African American – 9.4%
Asian persons – 3.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons – 0.1%
Other – 3%

The following enforcement activities were reviewed for the period of 2024:

Forfeitures
Traffic Stops
Search and Seizures
Juvenile Arrests
Juvenile Civil Citations
Citizen Complaints

The total number of enforcement actions in each area to be analyzed were compiled and compared with the demographics listed above. Some areas required additional facts to determine if any practices or policies unfairly targeted certain racial or ethnic groups. A summary of each area which was reviewed is listed below.

Forfeitures

The Atlantic Beach Police Department did not initiate and forfeiture actions in 2024.

Traffic Stops

All Uniformed Traffic Citations and written warnings issued in 2024 (5,764 total) were analyzed and reviewed. Each citation/warning was completed pursuant to agency policy and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle (DHSMV) requirements and was issued for a violation of law. The citations issued were as follows:

White –60% (3483)
Hispanic or Latino Origin – 13% (764)
Black or African American –20 % (1136)
Asian – 3% (148)
Other Ethnicity – 3% (191)
Indian/Native American 0% (18)
Left Blank –0 % (24)

For comparison purposes, below is a graph showing the same data from 2020-2023

Race	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
*Total	1712	2245	4333	5459	5764
White	66% (1126)	64% (1426)	62% (2708)	64% (3506)	60% (3483)
Hispanic	11% (186)	13% (297)	10% (448)	12% (661)	13% (764)
Black	18% (304)	17% (379)	21% (927)	17% (926)	20% (1136)
Asian	2% (40)	2% (56)	3% (109)	3% (141)	3% (148)
Other	3% (56)	3% (87)	4% (141)	4% (225)	3% (233)

In 2024, approximately 25% (1,433) of the total citations issued were to residents of Atlantic Beach. The majority of the remaining citations were given to individuals residing in surrounding communities, primarily Jacksonville. The racial composition of Jacksonville differs significantly from that of Atlantic Beach. According to the 2023 U.S. Census, Jacksonville's population consists of 51% White, 12% Hispanic, 30% Black, 5% Asian, and 10% other. Given the distribution of citations issued to non-Atlantic Beach residents and the demographic breakdown of Jacksonville, the racial and ethnic makeup of those cited for traffic violations aligns with the broader demographics of the area.

The department's policy on traffic enforcement was reviewed and was found to be in compliance with state statute and DHSMV regulation. As of Dec 31, 2024, 100% of the sworn members have completed the course called Discriminatory Profiling &

Professional Traffic Stops. This course satisfies the mandatory retraining requirements for Rule 11B-27.00212 (b) Human Diversity Training and (d) Discriminatory Profiling and Traffic Stops. This training is part of the law enforcement mandatory retraining required every four years by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

No identifiable trends or actions were discovered that revealed any type of bias in the agency's traffic enforcement procedures or policies.

Searches and Seizures

No residential search warrants were obtained by the Atlantic Beach Police Department in 2024.

Department policies regarding search and seizures were reviewed and found to be consistent with constitutional, statutory, and case laws governing the application of searches by police.

Juvenile Arrests

During 2024, there were 6 total physical arrests involving a juvenile offender. Each juvenile offender was arrested in accordance with agency policy where the offender did not qualify for a juvenile civil citation, based upon set criteria.

White – 4 (3 males, 1 female)

Hispanic or Latino Origin – 0

Black or African American – 2 (1 male, 1 female)

Asian – 0

Other Ethnicity – 0

Juvenile Civil Citations

During 2024, there were 5 total juvenile civil citations issued to offenders. The juvenile civil citations were issued in accordance with agency policy and state statute. During each incident, the juvenile was found to qualify to be issued a juvenile civil citation based upon set criteria, in lieu of a physical arrest.

White – 2 (1 male, 1 female)

Hispanic or Latino Origin – 0

Black or African American – 2 (both male)

Asian – 1 (1 male)

Other Ethnicity – 0

Citizens' Complaints

There were no complaints filed in 2024 which alleged biased based profiling.

Conclusion

The results of this review concluded that all current policies in effect at the Atlantic Beach Police Department are in compliance with state legislation prohibiting biased based enforcement activities. All enforcement activities uncovered during this review were the result of an enforcement of a criminal law and met the burdens of proof as required. Agency policy specifically prohibits any member of the Atlantic Beach Police Department to take or refrain from taking action based, in whole or in part, on a person's physical characteristics or heritage. From the documents reviewed during this analysis, agency practice conforms to these regulations.