



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
 March 24, 2009

ITEM TITLE:

Update on Police Department Area Patrol Deployment.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:


It is recommended that the results of the Area Patrol deployment strategies continue to be monitored for their effectiveness in addressing crime activities. It is further recommended that the cost and the effectiveness of the supervision related to the patrol units' four days, ten hours work schedule be closely monitored.

BRIEF HISTORY :

In January 2008, the Coral Gables Police Department implemented Area Patrolling- a new patrolling strategy that departed from the traditional zone patrolling. The details of area patrolling have been presented to the City on two previous occasions and the crime statistics to date indicate a reduction in crime activity. The proper allocation of police officers is the key to the success of this type of patrolling strategy. Area patrolling provides routine patrolling of areas while providing the flexibility to proactively address areas prone to certain types of crimes, during certain days and times.

The four days, ten hours a day scheduling (4/10) for patrol deployment was introduced in August 2008. This 4/10 schedule is not required to successfully implement area patrolling. It was introduced as a pilot, providing for overlap of resources during the hours of high call demands, and if properly managed, officers can be scheduled for court time and training during the overlap period as well, reducing overtime expenditures. The results of the 4/10 schedule indicate a cost savings in fuel and maintenance of patrol vehicles, as well as a reduction in sick leave. Overtime expenditure has gone up slightly, but that seems to be as a result of the present vacancies in the Patrol Division. Other cost associated with the 4/10 scheduling is the "out of classification" pay for supervision of the area patrolling. Should the City wish to continue the area patrolling with the 4/10 scheduling on an on-going basis, permanent supervisory positions will need to be incorporated.

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager
N/A	N/A	

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Police Chief Memo and supporting documents