

## PROGRAM NARRATIVE

## ATTACHMENT A

Jurisdiction Name: City of Coral Gables

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Program Area: Records Improvement

Program Dates: 10/01/11 through 09/30/12

Program Name: Coral Gables Police Records  
Improvement

Target Population: City Residents

### Problem Identification

The Coral Gables Police Department recognizes that the necessity for articulated, documented, and researchable interview data be available for criminal and civil rulings. Investigator notes have been the standard for the profession for decades. Understanding the advent of technology, the Coral Gables Police Department has come to realize that digital availability and storage of interviews is a more effective method of collating, dissecting, and formulating case structure parameters and items for trial preparation and for comparative analysis with regard to body language, voice inflection, verbal cues, content discrepancies, and investigative key points of concern.

Interview room recording is becoming standard practice for Police Departments and Sheriffs Offices everywhere. Some departments have been doing this since the 'VCR days'. At the time this was the only way to record videos. The propensity of digital recordings of interviews and interrogations are becoming more commonplace, thus law enforcement agencies are starting to see the benefits of electronically recording interviews and interrogations, including:

- Increased number of convictions and guilty pleas
- Removes almost all pretrial / trial arguments over what actually occurred or was said during an interview
- Eliminates problem with suspects changing stories in court
- Provides true picture of suspect before they are "cleaned up for court"
- Provides easy review and time-stamping of previously missed body language showing evasion or guilt
- Identification of previously overlooked inconsistencies
- Increases public confidence over law enforcement activities
- Provides for remote viewing and input on an interview by other investigators

### Program Description

In the upcoming year (FY2012), the Coral Gables Police Department will purchase software that will enable the department to conduct digital recordings of interviews and interrogations. The Coral Gables Police Department has a long established history of working in tandem with multiple agencies on various task forces and combined law enforcement agencies. Not only will the applicability of this software and digital recording system benefit the Coral Gables Police Department but it will also indirectly benefit the agencies we assist. The ability to have actual digital recordings of exactly what is asked and what is said will significantly reduce the errors in transposing transcripts, the inference gathered with elongated dictation, and the discrepancies that occur when confronted with what was truly actually stated by witnesses and defendants. Digital video storage can also be used for companion or spin off cases that may result from further investigations, plea bargain agreements, and repetitive offender connected cases.

The Coral Gables Police would like to use the FY2012 Record Improvement Grant funding to enhance the interview room at the Coral Gables Police Department with digital software and hardware components, training for the investigators on the usage of the system, and installation of the system. Previous usages of VHS based recording systems left too many variables for courtroom discovery including but not limited to time stamp illegible, tape stoppage, unmatched or inaudible audio, background electronic noise, and fragmented or distorted imagery due to excessive or quick movement by interviewers or interviewees. The seamless digital streaming that will be afforded the Coral Gables Police Department via this grant will alleviate those issues and allow for cohesive documentation without the electronic glitches that have compromised investigative case integrity in times past.

The improved method of digitally capturing the exact syntax and word structure spoken by a witness or suspect will afford the investigators the ability to focus their attention on the individual instead of having their head buried in their notes. The digital recording system allows investigators ease of use as they can retrace an interview and scan for certain words, word phrases, or time. By scanning through the typed scroll feature and selecting their search criteria the software will automatically queue up the interview to the exact spot the investigator is searching for. Each interview is catalogued by date, investigator's name, case number, suspect/witness name, and incident location. As multiple interviews are conducted an electronic file of those interviews is stored allowing for a compendium of information to be accessible.

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Proposed Activities	Planned Measures	Monitoring Plan
<p>To purchase software and applicable components to allow for digital recording of all witness and suspect interviews. The enhanced digital clarity and ability to archive the interviews will be an added enhancement to case solvability.</p>	<p>The provider shall be responsible for:</p> <p>Purchase software and applicable components to retrofit the Criminal Investigation Interview room for enhanced digital and audio capabilities.</p> <p>Improve the timeliness and cataloging of interviews conducted by the police department</p> <p>Implement the system upon installation</p>	<p>The provider shall submit the following documentation to the County in a complete and timely manner:</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Reports</p> <p>Quarterly Expenditure Reports</p> <p>Copies of invoices and cancelled checks for all materials purchased.</p>

