

City of Miami 2019 Voter Guide

Candidate Responses



Our Future. Our City. Our Vote. Election Day: Nov 5, 2019

Question 4: Police Oversight and Reform

*How will you improve investigation and monitoring of police misconduct?
What changes would you make, such as an independent monitoring department or other mechanisms to restore public trust?*

District 1 Candidate Responses

Horacio Aguirre

As chairman of the City of Miami Civilian Investigative Panel, the city agency that oversees the police department, I played a major role in bringing about changes in our police department, in concert with the current and the last two excellent police chiefs. I believe that a strong civilian oversight agency continues to be the best tool for the people of the community to maintain public trust in law enforcement.

Verania "Betty" Hermida

We currently have a Citizen Investigative Panel in place to help monitor misconduct. However, I feel that further training of police officers is necessary, to include more community outreach and education paired with better approaches on responding to non-violent or special needs cases.

Eleazar Meléndez

1. I will advocate and prioritize robust enforcement of the city's rules around officer body cameras. 2. I will specifically seek to stop and reverse the trend of police militarization inside the Miami Police Department. 3. I will push to significantly re-structure the police department so that tasks that are non-essential to community policing can be performed by non-officers. 4. I will study the off-duty police program and the possibility of forcing officers into a rotating pool, as was done in Miami Beach, as a way to prevent racial profiling. 5. I will ask the city manager to negotiate financial penalties into the next union contract for officers who refuse to comply with the Independent Civilian Review Board, within the parameters of Florida law. I will also ask the city manager to negotiate bonuses for officers with exemplary records of community relations and engagement.

District 2 Candidate Responses

Javier Gonzalez

No Clue, don't think that is in my purview as a City Commissioner.

Rosy Palomino

Community policing is a big step. When we involve the public as part of the law enforcement process we change the relationship with police from adversarial to cooperative. Ultimately, civilian oversight is important whether it is over politicians or police officers. We should protect the civilian oversight mechanisms we have.

Ken Russell

The city has a Civilian Investigative Panel (CIP) which is tasked with reviewing cases of police misconduct. In my first term, I strengthened the CIP by tying any budget increase of the Police Department to be matched percentage-wise for the CIP. This allows the organization to have greater scope and more through reviews.

This voter guide was created by Engage Miami. All candidates in District 1 and District 2 were sent questionnaires. We have included only the responses of candidates who submitted a response.