

## **Racial Profiling as an Enforcement Strategy: A perspective of law enforcement officers in three South Florida police departments**

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The nation is in an emotional whirlwind struggle and at odds with law enforcement officials over the perceived use of the practice of racial profiling. Law enforcement officers are facing increased scrutiny from the citizens they serve. Dissatisfaction is mounting among some community groups. Citizens are voicing their disappointment in public servants, and calling for the recognition and reform of objectionable police practices.

The public perceptions of law enforcement play a vital role in how police officers go about performing their duties. National surveys indicate the perception of black and minority communities is that police officers often stop motorists and pedestrians solely on basis of ethnicity or skin-color. With this pervasive attitude, trust, which is an essential ingredient of a successful citizen and law enforcement relationship, is surely diminished.