**Date: November 10, 2011**

**Subject: Miami’s Interim Chief Releases Statement**

**“Miami PD – FHP Relationship Is Good”**



In response to speculation that *“there is animosity between the Miami Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol,”* propagated mainly by internet blogs, Miami’s Interim Chief Manuel Orosa would like to set the record straight.

He has released this statement:

“The Miami Police Officer’s traffic stop by a Florida Highway Patrol trooper has generated much media attention and speculation that there is ‘animosity between the two agencies.’ The internet blogs which are propagating this perception are, for the most part, inaccurate. Most of the time, those who comment anonymously claim to be law enforcement officers, when many are not. I’d like to make it clear that the Miami Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol have a professional, cordial relationship. It is one we have enjoyed for many years.

The recent traffic stop of an FHP trooper by one of our officers was an isolated incident, and his actions should not reflect negatively on the Miami Police Department or the professional men and women who work for us. This Miami Police officer had no jurisdictional authority to conduct this stop. As a result, I took immediate disciplinary action in accordance with departmental policies.

Since the initial incident on October 11, 2011, I have been in contact with the Colonel David Brierton and members of his executive staff in order to keep the lines of communication open and ensure my commitment to the furtherance of our long-standing cooperative partnership. Additionally, I have attended roll calls and am pleased to say that all officers I’ve met with feel that the MPD and FHP are, and will always be, part of the greater law enforcement family in spite of the recent incidents. To ensure clarity with regard to traffic stops of law enforcement officers while on duty, and avoid future misunderstandings, I have expanded our departmental policies in this area to include communicating with the agency prior to taking police action.

The Miami Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol conduct training, road blocks and multiple initiatives jointly, on a regular basis, and remain committed to the safety of the people we serve with pride.

I look forward to our continued partnership for years to come.”

Manuel Orosa

Interim Chief of Police

Miami Police Department

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