

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office, 400 NW 2 Ave., Room 220, Miami, Florida 33128
(305) 603-6420

MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: March 3, 2016

Subject: Drug Recognition Expert Instructor Class Graduation



The Miami Police Department Training Center is hosting a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor School this week. The nine students that are attending this training are DRE's candidates from various police departments throughout Miami-Dade County. The graduation for this school will be Friday, March 4, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. at the Miami Police Training Center located at 350 NW 2 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33128.

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a police officer that is trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) coordinates the International Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Due to the highly technical nature of the functions performed by the Drug Recognition Expert, only persons experienced and proficient in the techniques of drug evaluation should instruct and/or participate in the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) program. **Certified DRE Instructors** are responsible for observing, evaluating and verifying the performance of candidate DREs throughout the training and certification process. In addition, certified DRE instructors must provide periodic update training to DREs already certified officers; therefore, only dedicated and qualified instructors provide the critical component to continue the success of the DEC program.

The importance of such recognized specialized certification is provided on the following Data: In Miami-Dade County there are approximately 6000 police officers in comparison, there are only 220 are certified DRE's for the entire State of Florida. Even more critical there are only 44 Certified DRE Instructors in the entire State of Florida. In keeping with the changes in our communities, police agencies need every tool available to them to promote and enforce traffic safety by engaging Driver's Under the Influence. The DEC Program is key to promoting this endeavor.

Prepared by: Sergeant L. Taborda

Reviewed by: Major Lazaro Ferro

Case: N/A

Transmittal Date & Time March 3, 2016

Rodolfo Llanes, Chief of Police