

**Marco Island Police Department: Council Briefing**  
**Meeting Date: May 19, 2025**

At the Special City Council Meeting on April 30, 2025, councilors requested to hear from department heads about operations, opportunities, and challenges as they relate to the overall budget. The following topics will be presented by the Police Department during the May 19 meeting.

**Department Overview**

The Marco Island Police Department (MIPD) includes both sworn law enforcement and code enforcement officers along with dedicated administrative staff, united in our mission to serve the community through professional policing and proactive code compliance. Our services are guided by a commitment to safety, community engagement, and quality of life. MIPD provides proactive patrols, emergency response, criminal investigations, marine and canal enforcement, school-based safety, code enforcement, and security and traffic support for community events.

*Our greatest opportunity—and our greatest challenge—is the rising demand for services across all sectors. Statistical information will be shared during the meeting.*

**Service Expectations**

Ongoing feedback from the public reflects increasing demand for services that protect, preserve, and enhance community standards:

- Policing and proactive code compliance
- Land, water, and code enforcement
  - Speeding, low-speed vehicles, trespassing, and parking
  - Wake zone violations, sanitation inspections, canal patrols
  - Quality of life issues (beautification, noise, property standards)
- School safety: permanently assigned officers to each of the 3 schools
- Seasonal patrol support: especially during spring break (6 weeks) and peak-event periods (October – April)
- Environmental stewardship: education and enforcement of sea turtle protection, owl nesting sites, fertilizer regulations, and water quality ordinances
- City event support: police department provided an additional 1,000+ hours of traffic and security assistance in 2024 for city events such as the Farmers Market, Christmas Island Style, Easter Sunrise Service, and concerts.

**Staffing Initiative:**

MIPD began sponsoring police trainees in 2024 to attend the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy. Although the path to full deployment includes approximately 2 months of vetting, 5 months of academy training, and 4 months of field training—totaling nearly a year—these individuals count against our authorized staffing levels from day one. To address recruitment challenges and ensure a consistent pipeline of qualified officers, we propose sponsoring one trainee in each of the four academy classes held annually (Feb., June, Aug., and Nov.). This approach will create staggered entry points into the department, reduce staffing gaps over time, and support long-term workforce sustainability.

**Budgetary Discussion Item: Body-Worn Cameras**

At the request of the City Council, a discussion on the potential use of body-worn cameras will be provided.