



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 25-111**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *AW*

**DATE:** July 10, 2025

**SUBJECT: Fort Lauderdale Police Department Operation Viper**

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As shared during the City Manager's Report item at the June 30, 2025 City Commission Conference meeting, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department participated in Operation Viper in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

Operation Viper is a regional, intelligence-driven operation executed in May 2025, with the goal of identifying and apprehending violent offenders, recovering illegal firearms, and disrupting organized criminal activity in high crime neighborhoods throughout South Florida. The operation brought together federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, including the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD), for a unified effort.

Within Fort Lauderdale, the operation took place over three days (May 21-23), and involved personnel from our Gun Intelligence Unit (GIU) and Strategic Investigations Division with support from the FBI. Officers executed proactive enforcement actions focused on violent and narcotics-related crime, specifically in Zones 40, 50, 51, and 52 within Police Districts 1, 2, and 3, and City Commission Districts 2 and 3.

### **Key Outcomes in Fort Lauderdale**

- 16 Arrests were made in Fort Lauderdale alone for crimes including:
  - Armed Robbery
  - Burglary
  - Grand Theft
  - Narcotics trafficking
  - Possession and delivery of controlled substances
  - Warrants for felony offenses including fraud, forgery, and auto theft.
  
- Enforcement locations included, but were not limited to:
  - NW 31 Avenue & NW 19 Street
  - 1000 block of NW 5 Avenue
  - 1300 NW 6 Street

- 101 NW 1 Avenue (BCT area)
  
- Notable enforcement actions:
  - Felony vehicle takedown using the grappler device during an occupied residential burglary investigation.
  - Coordinated arrest of international suspects involved in an armed robbery. Suspects were wanted on a nationwide FBI alert and were later charged with fraud, forgery, and grand theft.
  - Joint armed robbery investigation where suspects were tracked using digital evidence. GIU and Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Aviation units located the suspects' vehicle, which was stopped, and all occupants taken into custody. The victim's phone was recovered.
  - Narcotics investigations and buys resulted in multiple arrests for delivery of alpha-PVP, cocaine possession, and parole violations. A documented gang member was among those arrested.
  - Targeted presence and patrols in historically high-crime corridors resulted in additional vehicle stops, persons of interest detentions, and deterrence of gun violence.
  
- Recovery of stolen property and narcotics as part of an ongoing burglary and drug trafficking investigations.

### **Regional Context**

According to the FBI, Operation Viper resulted in 65 total arrests across South Florida with 21 firearms recovered, including two that were illegally modified to operate as fully automatic weapons. Of those arrested, 60 face state or local charges, and 5 face federal prosecution.

FLPD's contribution accounted for nearly 25% of all arrests during the operation's concentrated enforcement window, and focused on violent, repeat offenders and organized criminal activity directly impacting our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Fort Lauderdale's role in Operation Viper reflects the effectiveness of strategic enforcement and strong interagency collaboration. The targeted arrests and sustained presence during this operation disrupted criminal activity, enhanced public safety, and demonstrated the value of regional partnerships in addressing violent crime.

For any additional information, please contact Chief William Schultz at 954-828-5590.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney  
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