



Cooper City Commission Meeting Agenda Item Request Form

Commission Meeting/Workshop Date: May 11, 2021

Requesting Department: BSO, DLE

Subject: NIBRS / FIBRS

Section:

Presentation

Consent

Regular

Discussion

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Background and Recommendation (attach backup material to Item Request Form):

Since 1930, the F.B.I. has maintained various statistics, to include crime data, on a national level to assist researchers, the Criminal Justice community, and the public. The program that maintains these statistics is known as Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). The UCR Program was historically based on a Summary-Reporting-System (SRS) that collected predetermined data on a semi-annual basis. In an effort to improve crime reporting and data collection, the F.B.I. has mandated a transition of UCR to a more robust system called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) partners with the F.B.I. and will transition state reporting to a Florida Incident-Based Reporting System (FIBRS) to ensure accurate data is shared with the F.B.I. The Broward Sheriff's Office participates in crime reporting and has, therefore, transitioned to the guidelines of FIBRS.

The main comparison of NIBRS/FIBRS vs. SRS is as follows: the number of crimes being reported increases substantially; the reporting occurs monthly as opposed to semi-annually; the hierarchy rule – i.e. that only the highest crime was reported – is now eliminated. In addition, NIBRS:

- **Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses.** Not only does NIBRS look at all of the offenses within an incident, but it also looks at many more offenses than the traditional SRS does. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. In comparison, SRS counted limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported.
- **Collects more detailed information,** including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- **Helps give context to specific crime problems** such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.

- **Provides greater analytic flexibility.** Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than SRS provides.¹

Although this new system of reporting will be more accurate, it is important the city leaders and residents are aware that as a result of NIBRS/FIBRS, a false semblance that crime has increased may occur. YTD, crime in Cooper City is much lower than in 2020, and Cooper City remains one of the safest cities to live in Florida (e.g. 2020 vs. 2021, vehicles burglaries have seen a 46% reduction in Cooper City). Nevertheless, as a result of this reporting transition, there are some incidents of crime that will now be counted more than once, and other categories, such as fraud, that will be reported that previously had not.

The projected increase in categories already reported under SRS, however, should be minimal. For example, impact studies by FDLE have forecast a margin of a >3% increase in most categories.

BSO will manage this reporting on behalf of the city of Cooper City. For a time period, BSO will provide UCR stats to the city, in conjunction with FIBRS, to better account for and track whether crime has in fact increased / decreased for the next couple of years.

General Ledger Account	Account Description	FY21 Budget	FY21 YTD Activity	Available Balance
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Attachments:

1. [NIBRS-FIBRS Transition](#)
2. [FDLE Impact Study on FIBRS](#)
3. [NIBRS Impact Self-Calculator](#)
4. **Professional Study: Effects of NIBRS on Crime Statistics**
 - a. https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2014/resource-pages/effects_of_nibrs_on_crime_statistics_final.pdf
5. [Incident-Based Reporting Fact Sheet for Residents \(Educational Flyer\)](#)

Approvals:

Finance Director

City Manager

City Clerk

Joseph
Napoli

Digitally signed by Joseph
Napoli
Date: 2021.04.28
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¹ <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs> (accessed on April 23, 2021).