



**City of North Miami Beach**  
17011 NE 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

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**For Immediate Release**

## **The North Miami Beach Police Department will Launch the Autism Acceptance Decal Program and will Unveil a new Autism Acceptance Vehicle**

**North Miami Beach, FL – April 19, 2022** – Under the leadership of the North Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners, Interim Police Chief Harvette Smith will launch the Autism Acceptance Decal Program and unveil the new Autism Acceptance Vehicle on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event will be held in front of City Hall (located at 17011 NE 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North Miami Beach, FL 33162).

Since April is Autism Awareness Month, the North Miami Beach Police Department (NMBPD) created the Autism Acceptance Decal Program to alert police officers and emergency responders when a person with autism is in the home or vehicle they are approaching. The Autism Acceptance Decals enable NMBPD officers to draw on their autism training and understand that a person in the home or vehicle may not speak, respond to, or comply with verbal commands. Instead, the individual may hide, wander off, or have no awareness of danger. NMBPD is committed to the safety of all residents. The more information officers have when they respond to calls for service, the better they will be able to meet the needs of residents.

The Autism Acceptance Decals will be free of charge to City of North Miami Beach residents. Residents will be encouraged to place the decals near the front door of their homes or in the rear window of their vehicles. The goal is to allow law enforcement officers to become aware of an occupant with autism. If a resident registers for the program but does not wish to affix the decal to a home or vehicle, they must complete the application form and request zero decals. This will enable NMBPD to flag the address in the dispatch system. The system will alert arriving officers to make them aware that a person with autism lives in the home or is traveling in the vehicle.

The event at City Hall is free and open to the public. To request a decal application form, contact NMBPD by emailing [PDCrimePrevention@nmbpd.org](mailto:PDCrimePrevention@nmbpd.org) or calling 305-948-2955. To request an interview with Interim Chief Smith, email Susset Cabrera at [susset.cabrera@citynmb.com](mailto:susset.cabrera@citynmb.com).

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### **About City of North Miami Beach**

Truly at the “Crossroads of South Florida,” North Miami Beach is located midway between Miami and Ft. Lauderdale and adjacent to the Golden Glades Interchange where I-95, Florida’s Turnpike, and the Palmetto Expressway meet. The central location, easy access, and major arteries including

West Dixie Highway, Biscayne Boulevard, and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, have transformed North Miami Beach into one of South Florida's best known regional destinations for dining, shopping, and business ventures. The City is operated by 460 full-time employees and 10 departments. For more information, visit [www.CityNMB.com](http://www.CityNMB.com).