



PALM BEACH COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

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August 26, 2009

Dear Board Members,

As the bargaining unit representing the Officers of the School District Police Department the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) respectfully requests that you vote against the change of health insurance providers from United Health Care to Blue Cross Network.

Informal polling of our members has determined that they are unanimous in their opposition to a change in our health insurance provider. As we research deeper and compare United Health Care to the Blue Cross Network it appears that the coverage is not the same as earlier reported. Availability of doctors and specialists, co-payments for certain prescriptions may be more, out of state coverage are all lacking as are some other services. It appears that any savings that are taking place is due to the fact that the Blue Cross plan does not offer the same services and is deficient when compared to United Health Care. In essence, it is a cheaper plan because it is not as good as the United Health care plan. Any savings realized by the district is done on the backs of the employees in the form of reduced benefits and medical services.

During these difficult times another financial blow to the Officers of this department and all district employees in the form of reduced benefits is simply wrong and unacceptable. The Officers of the School District Police Department have done so much more with so much less this past school year. We are currently down approximately 24 Officers at this time with two more possibly retiring before the Christmas break. These positions will not be filled due to the hiring freeze. Several high schools in Boca Raton have become one Officer assignments and our elementary unit is down to just a few Officers and Sergeants have to cover elementary schools while supervising their zones. An additional cut to benefits during these demanding times will only further demoralize the Officers of our department and place an additional financial burden on our hard working and dedicated membership.

In conclusion we respectfully request that you vote against the proposal to change insurance carriers and keep United Health

Care as the insurance provider for our members and all school district employees.

Sincerely,

Sgt. William R. Lammie, Jr.

Sgt. William R. Lammie, Jr.
PBA Representative