



"The voice of local law enforcement"

CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

SUMMER 2020



**PBCPBA pulls endorsement of State Rep. Candidate Michael Weinstein
for going back on his word to support law enforcement**

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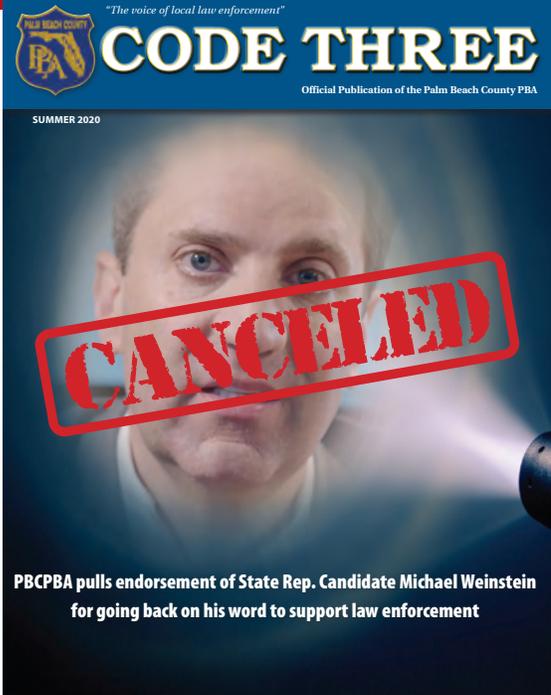
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ON THE COVER

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Words of dishonor

The Palm Beach County PBA has a zero tolerance for any talk of defunding the police and any comments that indicate a willingness to put officers' and community safety at risk. Michael Weinstein, a candidate for state representative, found out what happens when you make such comments. The PBCPBA has other responses to the talk of police reform in mind, many of which were presented during an historic roundtable discussion at the end of June.

Special Section

Make Your Vote Count: The 2020 Florida Primary

The *Code Three* voter's guide provides critical information members need when they go to the polls on Aug. 18. This special section features:

Support your local sheriff: Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw says there's still a lot of work to do, which is why he is running for a record fifth term.....**Page 21**

Candidates with destiny: Profiles of some of the PBCPBA's endorsed candidates for the primary confirm the power of the union's support**Page 23**

Vote here: A list of the PBCPBA's endorsed candidates will help members when they go to the polls**Page 24**

Corey in the House

After saving a kidnapping victim while off-duty in Tampa, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Corey Reece got invited to the White House for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share his story and meet the president**Page 30**

Honoring thy father

Riviera Beach Officer Orlanzo Douglas has made the ultimate tribute to his father, who made the ultimate sacrifice.....**Page 32**

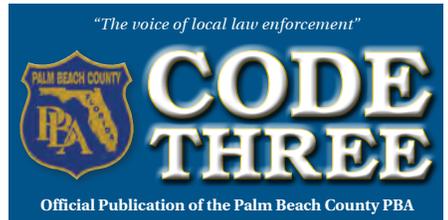
Welcome, counselor

Meet Katie Mendoza, the newest member of the PBCPBA legal team, and hear how the pro-union attorney wants to fight for members' rights**Page 35**

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Response scenarios in place



JOHN
KAZANJIAN

We have a Code Three.

Notice that we have changed the nameplate of our official magazine back to the PBCPBA's long-standing moniker. And it couldn't have come at a more important time.

We have code three, a hot response needed to address Michael Weinstein's betrayal of the Palm Beach County PBA's endorsement of his candidacy for the State House in District 81, which encompasses much of the county. When Weinstein

visited our offices to be screened for the coveted endorsement, I asked him a direct question about the ongoing narratives of defunding the police.

He replied that he did not support defunding. He responded positively about supporting what we need to do our jobs safely and effectively.

But many of you read what I did in Weinstein's answers to a *Sun-Sentinel* questionnaire about his candidacy. To the question, "In response to the killing of George Floyd and ensuing social unrest, what changes are needed, if any, to the laws that govern criminal justice in Florida?"

His response:

"From my perspective we need a three-part approach: 1. Mandatory de-escalation training. 2. Demilitarization of law enforcement. Police officers should have all the proper equipment needed to protect themselves, but that does not necessarily mean wearing fatigues and patrol officers driving unmarked cars. These things can cause distrust and are not necessary for effective law enforcement and 3. I support the idea of citizen review boards."

We believe this a lot of double talk. We feel that when Weinstein met with us, he gave us a lot of lip service. And seeing him talk out of the other side of his mouth in his response to the *Sun-Sentinel* requires a hot response from the PBA.

So we canceled our endorsement of Weinstein. The last thing we need in our state legislature at such a critical time for law enforcement officers is a representative who will go back on his word. We can't have an elected official who will say whatever he feels somebody wants to hear to get their support.

Our endorsement is too important to give to somebody who apparently cannot be counted on to have our backs. So it's a code three regarding Weinstein, which members can see on the cover of this issue.

Our response is to make sure this man does not get voted into office. Please do not cast a ballot in his favor during the primary election on Aug. 18. You don't need to read between the lines to know what he will do if he gets to Tallahassee. He does not have our backs.

The list of candidates who do have our backs is published on page 24 of this issue. All of these people have been screened by our endorsement committee, and we are convinced that they will have our backs in state, county and local government.

And we need this type of support to help navigate the unknown road ahead. We feel the PBA can be a driving force in that effort, which is why we convened a roundtable on June 24 at our offices to discuss ideas about how to respond to the ongoing calls for police reform and defunding.

First off, let me make it perfectly clear that we will not engage in any discussion about defunding. We will not endorse any candidates who want to discuss defunding. We are all for change, but we need to have a seat at any table to discuss that change, and we gathered with unit reps from agencies in Palm Beach and Martin counties to confirm what our message will be when we get to the table.

We are waiting to see what will happen with federal and state government regarding reform. We have met with some state legislators and given them our thoughts about what to do.

We know the narrative is out there about responding to too many calls, too many incidents related to mental health or other social solutions. We agree that we need to find a solution to the default of "give everything to the police, and they will handle it."

We can't, however, compromise on use of force. Let's face it, this is a contact sport. And when people resist arrest, it can get ugly. If they are resisting and you have to make the arrest, sometimes you have to use force.

We want more training. The more, the merrier. But when you get resisters, you have to take them into custody. They start resisting, and it escalates into a felony. The public, the politicians and the lawmakers need to know that if somebody is resisting, it can quickly lead to an accident or injury.

If they want us to let them go and go get them another day, the only ones who that will be good for are the criminals. We want to talk about how to do this better. But we are a stakeholder, and we need to be at the table for that discussion.

What we really need at this point is for our leaders to support us. Morale is way, way down. We need our department leaders and elected officials to show their support. Unfortunately, we have some politicians who are throwing us under the bus. They took our money for their campaigns, and then we never hear from them because don't want to be in the sights of these special interest groups.

Still, we are not wavering. No matter how hot it gets, that is our response. That is what we do.

Now, more than ever, I ask everybody to stay safe.

JOHN KAZANJIAN

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Several of our members have incorrect information on file with the PBA office. Please check with your fellow officers to see if they receive the magazine and if not, please email angela@pbcpsba.org to update your information.



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Be careful of your 'social' action



**RICK
MCAFEE
VICE
PRESIDENT**

The email comes every week from a service documenting the trouble police officers are getting into because of their social media. Highlights from newspapers across the country include 10-plus cases each week about police, firefighters and other types of public servants being fired for their posts.

A few weeks ago, an officer in the LA County Sheriff's Office was reassigned for a post that seemed to be nothing significant. But somebody in the public found this particular comment to be racist, and the officer took a hit. In Bryant, Arkansas, a firefighter was fired over a post that took a jab at Black Lives Matter.

So we have to hammer our members about their social media postings. It's the hot-button topic right now. The courts have held that police officers don't have true first amendment rights when we post. But some members don't seem to take that to heart. They are staying on social media.

Police officers must realize that everybody is reading their social media. There are watchdog groups trolling for it. Even though you think you are connecting with friends, friends might not share your political views. They might seem like-minded, but these "friends" will report these posts to your employers.

During the past couple of months, we have received information through anonymous tips about police officers' and sheriff's deputies' posts. We've had to forward those on to departments for whatever administrative action.

I know our attorneys drill us ad nauseum about this. At our board of directors meetings, they tell reps to remind members to be aware of what is going on with social media. They tell us that we cannot be political on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Even if there is nothing on your profile that indicates you are a police officer, somebody will know you are a public official. And that's all the nexus they need.

Some members aren't posting anything political; just some off-the-wall stuff like a funny video TikTok-ing in uniform. It's nothing bad or derogatory, but it's the internet and it's up there forever. Someday, that officer gets into a civil case, and an attorney twists that video just to make the case.

A lot of young officers need to realize that everything they put out there is subject to scrutiny. It's cringe-worthy, sometimes, some of the stuff I see officers do. If you don't have the self-control, get rid of your social media accounts.

I know you feel like you are posting in a group that is all police officers. You feel like you can get in there and vent to each other a little bit. But can you honestly say to the hundredth degree that it's only police officers in that group? Maybe it's one of those watchdog groups trying to lure you in. And the next thing you know, you're getting called into IA.

I have a lot of friends across the country that I communicate with through social media. Since all the civil unrest, I have made sure to keep my political views completely out of it. I strongly advise you to do the same. Otherwise, you might show up on that email I get each week.

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Communications from personal devices and Florida's public records laws



BRENNAN KEELER

Those of you who attend the PBA's quarterly board meetings know that I always end my legal update with a reminder to delete your social media. In a nutshell, the benefits of social media are far outweighed by the potential for harm to your job and career.

Protecting our members' jobs is one of our many functions at the PBA. We would not be doing our job if we did not keep you apprised of potential disciplinary hazards. In writing this article, my goal is to inform you about a potential disciplinary hazard: your personal email or mobile phone communications in the context of Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes known as the "Public Records Law."

I recently reviewed an updated mobile electronic devices policy from a local municipal police department. Within the policy was a specific section on public records. Notably, it placed officers on notice that their electronic communications regarding city business from personal electronic devices were subject to public records laws. This is not a case of an employer overstepping its authority, but rather an employer conforming to the law.

In Florida, a public official or employee's use of a private cell phone to conduct public business via text messaging "can create an electronic written public record subject to disclosure" if the text message is "prepared, owned, used, or retained... within the scope of his or her employment or agency" (*O'Boyle v. Town of Gulf Stream*, 257 So. 3d 1036, 1040-1041 [Fla. 4th DCA 2018]). This applies to electronic communications regarding agency business from personal emails as well. Accordingly, your agency should be requiring you to submit electronic communications concerning agency business from personal cell phones or personal emails to the agency for preservation. Otherwise, your employer would not be complying with the state's public records laws.

Be mindful of the consequences of using your personal email account or personal cell phone to send electronic communications regarding your agency's business. There may be something you include in your electronic communication from your personal cell phone or personal email that could land you in internal affairs, in front of CJSTC, on the local news or all of the above. Ultimately, use agency phones and agency emails to conduct agency business, and keep the content professional at all times.



As a local law enforcement officer, it's important to have an advocate who will help you find a home loan you feel great about. Whether it's purchasing a home or refinancing, I'm here to take every step of the homebuying journey with you.

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 Michael Sasson, Appt'd.....X
 John McGuire, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
 Anthony Johnson, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
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 Kayai Graham, Appt'd.... QUARANTINED
 Ray Griffith, Appt'd.....X
 Palm Beach Gardens.....
 Randy Buntin.....
 Peter Reynolds.....X
 Brian Tiyaloglu.....X
 Christopher Baez.....EXCUSED
 Brian Nauss, Alt.....X
 Dorian Hawkins, Alt.....EXCUSED

Palm Springs

Ralph Fequiere, Appt'd.....
 Sean Grant, Appt'd Alt.....X
 John Gee, Appt'd.....X
 Kristopher Kubiak, Appt'd.....X

Riviera Beach

Jeremy Summers.....X
 Nir Mordechay.....X
 Michael Brown.....X
 Kenneth Jones, Alt.....X

Stuart

David Duran, Appt'd.....EXCUSED
 Christopher Ruediger,
 Appt'd Alt.....EXCUSED

Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski.....X
 Matthew Muniz.....EXCUSED

West Palm Beach

Dennis Hardiman.....X
 Michael Ferrera.....X
 Charles Branch.....EXCUSED
 James Louis.....
 Christopher Nebbeling.....X
 Jay Donde, Alt.....EXCUSED
 John Rebholz, Alt.....
 William DeVita, Appt'd.....X

The old college try

Despite limited fundraising, PBA still gives out record number of scholarships

The tradition of the Palm Beach County PBA awarding college scholarships to children of members every June has not fallen victim to the pandemic. Another wave of community volunteers, National Honor Society members, leaders in drug prevention programs, athletes who are playing sports in college and so many other accomplished students received a boost from the PBA toward continuing their academic goals.

Despite some of the union's most prolific fundraising efforts being postponed or derailed, the PBA still awarded scholarships to 158 students this year, a record number of recipients. The awards totaled \$82,000, and every student who applied received some honor.

"Although our fundraising has been really, really slow, we know these kids still need to go to school," noted PBCPBA President John Kazanjian. "Even if they are going to school online, we at least can help them with tuition and books."

The 2020 scholarships had to make some concessions. The PBA typically awards top honors to three exceptional students. But with no opportunity to interview applicants, the PBA decided to hold off on those awards and spread the money to cover more applicants.

Still, there's no doubt that this year's winners continue the PBCPBA scholarship tradition of living up to the standards their parents have set through their careers in law enforcements. Ultimately, they will make their mark at Duke, Harvard, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Notre Dame, the service academies and other schools, as past scholarship winners have.

"These kids continue to blow me away," Kaz added. "Even though we didn't have an awards ceremony, we are still very honored to have yet another group of kids that will go on to be really successful."



Have a Ball

The 13th annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball will have to wait until next year.

Due to pandemic restrictions, the event that had been rescheduled for Aug. 15 at the PGA National Resort & Spa has been postponed. All members honored as Officers of the Month during 2019 who would have been recognized this year will be included in the 2021 event.

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News from your reps

Reports from Palm Beach County and Martin County units

Steps in the right direction for MCSO members

By Karl Nelson

Martin County Sheriff's Office rep

Congratulations to Sheriff Snyder on his re-election.

The COVID-19 season is upon us in full force. Deputies throughout the county are dealing with enhanced precautions and doing their part to handle service calls amid this pandemic. Also, special thanks to the various MCSO units that have stepped up and served where needed, above and beyond their regular duties. Like those members pictured below, many of you have worked long hours, more than your normal schedules. We are proud of each of you.



The MCSO bargaining season has started. The administration really showed support for our members last year by agreeing to approve a solid contract. That contract provides step raises throughout the length of the contract, as well as some guarantees in addition to the basic steps as outlined within the contract. Additionally, the contract provides that this year we will meet, at minimum, to discuss the long-hinted-at proposals of the master deputy program and the implementation of assignment pay for certain assignments. The conclusion of last year's bargaining session was the first step in decades toward meaningful, long-term benefit improvements and protections for Martin County deputies in decades. The reps were proud to be a part of it and grateful to the sheriff for his support and willingness to make the improvements.

As we began this bargaining session, I understood that the PBA would naturally ask for a lot (and to be honest, we did), and so it began. It is understood that here in Martin County we are and have been behind the curve of "pay and certain benefits" for some time now. We agreed last year to discuss proposals relating to master deputy and assignment pay. Master deputy is a great idea, long discussed and desired by MCSO deputies. Assignment pay is also an awesome perk to those members who would dedicate themselves to taking on added responsibilities and workloads. Assignment pay is not a new

idea; many agencies provide such a benefit for their members in various sections, units, and positions.

When we last adjourned our 2019 season bargaining session for the open contract year, we agreed to continue our discussions on master deputy and assignment pay specifically (and up to two other mutually-agreed-upon items). In 2019, we had started the conversations and just could not come to an agreement during those sessions. This year isn't going so well – either – so where are we stuck?

Here's what's up... on the creation of assignment pay. Notwithstanding the PBA's proposal, the administration's offer was to provide a \$300 monthly "assignment pay" to certain CID and SID members. Now to be clear, the \$300 was in fact a tradeoff for a \$100-a-month clothing allowance and for on-call pay (each member's current assignment would be available for up to seven days of on-call per pay period), which currently is valued at \$240 a pay period. Each member would then "net" at least \$60 a pay period. So, one could ask, "What's so wrong with that?" Well, as proposed, the SID members are all included as written — but the CID members and the detectives, not so much. By definition, even though the Warrants Unit falls under CID, currently they do not get on-call pay; therefore, the administration's proposal excludes them. Additionally, the Agriculture Unit, which for years has been considered a detective position, currently falls under the Uniform Patrol Section (they don't get uniform allowance) and was also excluded from the administration's proposal. I know the members assigned to both the warrants unit and the agriculture units; they are detectives just as much as the various SID members. There is room for discussion, but it has stalled.

Regarding the master deputy program, the administration did not even wish to discuss the proposal at first. However, kudos to them, because they did reconsider and have entered into a discussion about the creation of a Master Deputy Article. As funny as it sounds, it is the PBA that seems to want higher tenure and general qualifications to be considered for master deputy. One of the biggest hangups is the creation of a base number of deputies for the start of the program. Our original proposal sought to include every deputy qualified, but the administration countered with an approved number of deputies (approved by the administration). At this time, the administration appears to be unwilling to provide a base "floor" for the program. For example: We suggested the creation of eight master deputies on the law enforcement side and eight on the corrections side, effective Oct. 1, 2020, as a base number of master deputies. Again, there is plenty to discuss about this potential article and room to meet in the middle.

Overall, I am still optimistic when it comes to our contract modifications. We will continue to work together with the administration, and together we can create a contract that continues to evolve into one that provides attractive incentives and benefits for members now and for future members to come. In the end, both sides desire to do the best we can for the deputies.

Bargaining with the Communications Division

By Anthony Johnson

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office PBA Rep

The PBA is working with the PBSO Communications Division bargaining unit members to explore various complaints by members regarding unfair discipline, unfair labor practices, denial of compensatory time, inability to get time off, poor morale, a biased promotional process and several other internal issues specific to the Communications Division. The PBA conducted an online leadership/work satisfaction survey of the bargaining unit members assigned within the Communications Divisions ahead of meeting with members in person.

On June 23, the PBA held an open meeting at the PBA Hall for bargaining unit members assigned within the Communications Division. The goal was to isolate specific grievances and identify potential solutions for them. Bargaining unit members met with President Kazanjian, PBSO PBA President Glisson and other PBA representatives, who moderated an hour-long discussion in which specific issues were discussed and a plan of action to rectify them was formulated. During the meeting, the PBA welcomed five new PBA representatives that are assigned within the Communication Division to facilitate future needs of bargaining unit members.

PERC News

The Florida Public Employees Relations Commission issued decisions in the following cases:

Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association, Inc., chartered by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. v. Town of Manalapan, 46 FPER 299, Order No. 20E-090 (PERC 2020) [Case No. RC-2019-010].

The commission dismissed a representation-certification petition in which the petitioner sought to represent a bargaining unit of police sergeants where the issues presented in the petition had been resolved in a recognition-acknowledgement case. See *Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Assoc., Inc., Chartered by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. v. Town of Manalapan*, 46 FPER 248 (PERC 2020) (amending Certification 1721 to include the police sergeants in an existing unit of police officers).

Avrett v. Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association, Inc., chartered by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. v. Martin County Tax Collector, Order No. 20E-136 (PERC June 15, 2020) [Case No. RD-2020-004].

An employee filed a petition to revoke the certification of the union that represents a bargaining unit of supervisory personnel employed by the county tax collector. The commission dismissed the petition without prejudice because the showing of interest did not comply with Florida Administrative Code Rule 60CC-1.001. The employee's amended petition accompanied by a showing of interest was subsequently found to be sufficient.

Sterner v. Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association, Inc., chartered by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. v. Martin County Tax Collector, Order No. 20E-137 (PERC June 15, 2020) [Case No. RD-2020-003].

An employee filed a petition to revoke the certification of the union that represents a bargaining unit of personnel employed by the county tax collector. The Commission dismissed the petition without prejudice because the showing of interest did not comply with Florida Administrative Code Rule 60CC-1.001. The employee's amended petition accompanied by a showing of interest was subsequently found to be sufficient.

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Set the table



PBCPBA roundtable to discuss reform lays the groundwork for how the union will respond to any anti-police rhetoric

By Mitchell Krugel

Table talk elicited a “We must stand our ground” declaration from members representing 25 units of the Palm Beach County PBA on this late June morning. Reps gathered at the request of President John Kazanjian to address proclamations from faint-hearted elected officials, confrontational public advocacy groups and the sensationalizing news media about de-escalation and use-of-force policies, dialing back officers’ rights and the dreaded defunding of the police.

During a two-hour roundtable, PBA leaders – many of whom have an expertise in training – brainstormed ideas to formulate the union’s message on these matters. Kaz called them sound bites to give to Congress, state legislators, county commissioners, mayors, council members, reporters or anybody who wants to invite the PBA to the table to discuss opportunities to make policing better, safer and more professional.

“If we’re part of the conversation, we know what our members want,” Kaz presented as the headline of the roundtable. To

be sure, nobody minced words as the discussion showed law enforcement officers are ready, willing and best able to meet the cries for reform that have screamed out since the horrific incident on May 25 in Minneapolis.

“I think it’s definitely a good idea to get ahead of any kind of reform talk that could negatively affect us,” submitted West Palm Beach Unit Rep Chris Nebbeling, one of the knights of the PBA roundtable. “I definitely like the fact that we recognize some systemic issues we have to fix. As professionals, it’s our responsibility to do that and we are the best-equipped to do that.”

The roundtable also set the table for the PBA to deal with what might be the biggest challenge in all of this: elected officials and/or political candidates who sit at the table with union leaders and then try to turn the tables on them. The latest cover boy for the consequences of defund-raising is Florida State Representative Candidate Matt Weinstein, as you might have deduced from seeing his picture on the front page of this issue

of *Code Three*.

The PBA invited Weinstein to one of its most hallowed tables to be screened for the union's endorsement. He assured PBA leaders that he was against defunding in all its forms, apparently just to secure their endorsement. Then, in a questionnaire he filled out for the *Sun-Sentinel*, Weinstein indicated that he is a proponent of defunding measures.

Upon seeing Weinstein's comments that not only threw law enforcement officers under the bus but backed it up over them, the PBA rescinded its endorsement. First and foremost, canceling on Weinstein is an expression of how the PBA will not stand for any defunding double-talk.

"Our endorsement means a lot to some individuals, but he would say just about anything to get it," Kaz added. "Then, he talks out of both sides of his mouth and goes in front of another group and says anything to appease them. We don't want a guy like that being a bridge for law enforcement in this community."

The action against Weinstein is also a statement about what the PBA is willing to do to endure the latest rush of anti-police festering: not just defunding double-talk, but confirming which legislators really have law enforcement's back; what to do about those who don't; how to have a conversation about logical and achievable reform; protecting communities threatened by violent protests; and what officers on the front lines really want and need.

"If they want to identify improvements for policing, that's fine. Let us, as the police, identify them," Nebbeling reasoned. "It really comes down to whether they want to listen to our side and if they are going to allow us to sit at the table."



Your table is ready

The June 24 confab presumed to be an opportunity for PBA reps to lay their cards on the table. Anger could have easily overtaken the discussion, considering all the protesting during the past month following the death of George Floyd.

But the atmosphere was less twitching and moaning and more about suggestions to get past the frustrations related to how the public perceives police officers based on one incident that turned the country upside down. Suggestions, Kaz challenged, to bring both sides to the table, that both sides would find acceptable in the wake of the George Floyd incident.

When taking his seat at the roundtable, Delray Beach Rep Vinnie Gray quickly surmised the tenor of the room and what the group needed to resolve.

"Scared and frustrated," Gray confirmed about what police

officers have been feeling. "Cops have become afraid to even go after guys who resist or run from them for fear of being indicted for going hands on with somebody."

Another elephant in the room loomed with the move in Congress to eliminate qualified immunity for police officers. Qualified immunity, of course, protects officers for harm or injury that might occur when responding to an incident. If officers respond reasonably and in good faith according to the law, they are protected from being subjected to civil charges. All public servants, including members of Congress, are protected by qualified immunity.

So the roundtable had to address what could happen if qualified immunity takes a hit.

"Why would I be a police officer if I could lose all my personal assets when I acted in good faith on an incident?" Gray exclaimed. "That would cause a lot of us to get out of the business. And some considering the career would say, 'Hell no.'"

Still, the roundtable found a path to look at proactive policing. Kaz invited specific members who would speak and share their vision. And they did.

There was talk about what modifications to existing policies – including the big concern about use of force – they would find acceptable. And their discovery led to recognizing where a majority of the issues stem from.

"A lot of people in the room had some basis in training," Nebbeling shared. "It's the only real way to solve many of these problems."

Recognition of uniform training permeated much of the discussion. Policing has always found improvements in training. It's how the profession has grown from the very beginning, when somebody could show up at a police station, say they wanted to become a cop and go up to the third floor and get a badge and a gun.

It has become more professional, more education-based and the members of the roundtable proposed that's where the improvement opportunities lie. Upgrade the caliber of training at the academies, especially related to de-escalation and use of force. Make it the responsibility of supervisors to advocate for and confirm that their charges are properly trained.

Make it the responsibility of federal and state government to fund training. Certainly, a department like PBSO or MCSO might have the budget to afford the best training. But the PBA roundtable noted that the 10-member departments certainly would not have that type of funding and that the state could certainly incentivize it.

"If we don't have some type of uniformity, that's when breakdowns start to happen," Nebbeling related. "That's the uniformity we discussed that has to be in the message. We talked about how just because West Palm has a successful policy for something, that doesn't mean other departments do as well."

Another action item coming out of the roundtable suggested the value of departments picking up best practices from each other related to policy and training.

"If we're not on the same page of music, that brings more fuel to the fire," Nebbeling continued. "It's especially important at a time like this to have departments supporting each other."

Now, this might have not been a roundtable that culminated with raising a glass and toasting to future prospects. But even if there was no cause to say "cheers," the cathartic nature of the discussion elicited some good cheer.

"I thought it was productive," Gray concluded. "Coming out of it, we realized we can do something about people who are trying to dictate our future and trying to make plans to alter the course of how we enforce the laws of this country."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



SET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Off the table

Talk filling Zoom meetings that would have been echoing through the halls of Tallahassee references the “D” word to the point of exasperation for Florida PBA Executive Director Matt Puckett. That “D” has nothing to do with democracy, and when legislators bring it up, law enforcement officers really only hear “D’oh.”

“Defunding can’t even be discussed,” Puckett charged. “I don’t know what dictionary they got the word ‘defunding’ from, but that term has to be cut out of the lexicon. If they say ‘de-

fund,’ they don’t have us. We’re not going to come to the table. We can talk about reform. We have ideas we have expressed. We have partners we are working with. But it can’t just be, ‘You guys are horrible.’ It can’t just be, ‘We’re going to take all your money away.’ It has to be, ‘Here’s how we can make some changes,’ and get everybody to go along to get some buy in.”

Weinstein’s advocacy of defunding led the PBA to think of another “D” word rhyming with “plumb spit.” And there was an immediate response as to why his call for mandatory de-escalation training, demilitarization of law enforcement, taking patrol officers out of unmarked cars and citizen review boards are ill-conceived ideas.

“Taking people out of unmarked cars is essentially telling us how to do tactics,” reported MCSO Unit Rep Karl Nelson, who was at the table for many of the candidate screenings. “There are times when unmarked cars are appropriate for surveillance. And they can be used for certain types of traffic enforcement to increase public safety.”

Conversation about reform is perfectly plausible, according to Nelson, but it must include the view from the front lines. Otherwise, candidates can be construed as just talking the talk without ever having walked the walk. And that is a bad idea.

“On these types of issues, we must include the professionals,” Nelson continued. “We have learned lessons along the way about what works and what doesn’t. We are more than willing to work on ideas for improving. But we need to let the people who actually do the job make the discretionary calls.”

Defunding has been registering in the polls, according to Puckett, but probably because candidates are using it as a campaign tactic, like Weinstein. It’s not exactly a majority, though Puckett added that support for police is still polling in the high 80s and, in some locales, the 90s.



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But anybody suggesting demilitarization as a watchword – as though patrol officers are riding around in tanks – needs to have their campaign examined.

“We have some very thoughtful democratic candidates who have mischaracterized militarization as police using terrorist tactics to do community policing,” Puckett noted. “Anybody who would say that clearly shows they are not getting what’s going on.”

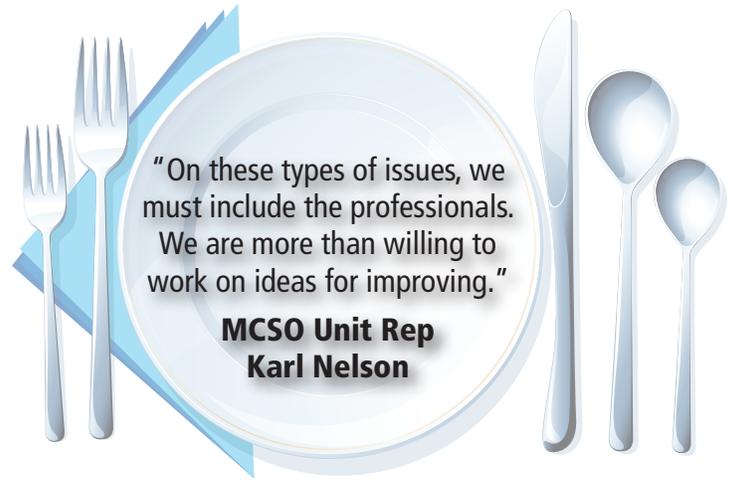
But because they are flooding the airwaves with such rhetoric in the sound-bite-centric society, law enforcement is not getting a fair shake. Talk about legitimate reform is being drowned out by knee-jerk reaction, much of it from local legislators.

Fortunately for law enforcement, those who work in the state’s executive branch do get it. Puckett verifies that Governor Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody and Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis continue to endorse law enforcement.

“Ashely was very instrumental in getting our input to the [U.S.] Senate version of the police reform bill,” he added. “She brought us in, talked with us and made sure our thoughts were conveyed.”

Reform talk certainly can start with offering more resources of non-sworn civilians to respond to social-service-related calls. Law enforcement has been on the record for years about taking measures to make sure the police is not the catch-all to address every problem in the community.

Of course, measures would need to be taken to address what happens if those responses get out of control. But if it’s not using law enforcement officers who don’t have the training to respond to something like a mental health issue, then anything that can cut down on calls is worthy of being part of talk about reform.



“On these types of issues, we must include the professionals. We are more than willing to work on ideas for improving.”

**MCSO Unit Rep
Karl Nelson**

“If it’s thoughtful, not punitive, and we can sit down and work on it where change makes sense and makes improvement, we can probably reach some agreement,” Puckett explained.

But any roundtable, any discussion, any interview would result in a warning to be careful. The public has been here before, and you don’t need to go all the way back to the 1960s or ‘70s to recall what can happen. Legislation was swirling and people were in the streets protesting four years ago. But then it stopped almost overnight in July 2016.

“That was when the assassination of five officers in Dallas happened,” Puckett reminded. “We certainly don’t want to see that again.”



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Sheriff Ric Bradshaw vies for a record fifth term with a full scope of objectives to grow PBSO's impeccable service

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Conversing, chin-wagging or bee-essing with all ranks of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office almost always culminates with a confirmation about what makes this massive organization perhaps the best in the country.

Captain Paul Vrchota, the incident commander of the sheriff's office detail assigned whenever President Trump comes to Mar-a-Lago, assessed the strategic proficiency of the operation that has been lauded by the Secret Service by noting, "We're following the lead of Sheriff Bradshaw."

When observing what enabled him to react so quickly to a man coming after him with a machete, Deputy John Ross attributed the response that made him the Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Year to, "We have a lot of good leaders, and it starts at the top with Sheriff Ric Bradshaw."

Endorsements run like liquid gold or maybe chocolate syrup during election cycles. They are valuable, coveted and tasty. But the most powerful endorsements for Sheriff Bradshaw flow like a river from the officers on the street who consider him one of their own.

Truth be told, as Bradshaw readies for the primary that could lead to his record-setting fifth term as sheriff, he still takes on the job every day like he did when working patrol in the early 1970s for the West Palm Beach Police Department. Truth be told, Bradshaw secured the endorsement of the Palm Beach County PBA even before he hinted that he would be running

for re-election a year ago. For as President John Kazanjian confirms, "He always takes a stance for the women and men in green, and I will tell you that goes a long way."

In its editorial announcing the endorsement of Bradshaw, the Sun-Sentinel praised the sheriff as a career cop who, even in such a powerful post, retains the beat cop's wish to protect the neighborhood. He has accumulated many laurels to rest on, including developing training to include a "tactical pause" designed to de-escalate confrontations and leave more distance between the deputy and the suspect, an initiative that has helped shootings decline significantly.

But apparently this is no time to rest.

"We have some projects that aren't finished, and I'm still loving the fact that we can make an impact on the community," Bradshaw reasons when assessing his bid for re-election that, if successful, in 2023 will make him the longest sitting sheriff in county history. Bradshaw confided that he did not know such a landmark was on the horizon. Time certainly flies when you are making an impact.

Job one for another term, he says, is expanding the mental health unit PBSO began six years ago that includes a deputy teaming with a social worker. The department has seven teams in the field, but Bradshaw wants to double that number.

"It keeps people out of jail that don't need to be in jail and de-escalates some really bad situations," he extols. "It's be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

come more than we ever imagined, and I want to expand it to keep us ahead of the curve.”

As chair of regional homeland security, Bradshaw has spearheaded PBSO’s development of the Southeast Florida Fusion Center that aids in stopping threats of terrorism, crime prevention and resolution and supporting first responders during manmade and natural disasters. The center is an intel hub built on the latest technology.

The next technological frontier he wants to embark on during the next term is instituting the use of body cameras for all deputies. Certainly, body cams will help increase officer accountability, but they will be a great advantage on the street in terms of gathering evidence and confirming the high percentage of occasions when law enforcement officers evoke the absolute correct response.

It’s a \$19 million project he has been working with county commissioners to fund, and “It will put us right where we want to be as the most technologically advanced agency in the Southeastern U.S.,” the sheriff contends.



Negotiating with Sheriff Ric Bradshaw has always been productive for the PBCPBA. Says PBSO Unit President Daniel Glisson, “It’s so much easier negotiating with someone who has been there.”

The Sun-Sentinel detailed that in his interview with the newspaper’s editorial board, Bradshaw “did not exaggerate that the department he took over 16 years ago was ‘pretty much in shambles.’” There had been three sheriffs during the previous eight years.

Supporters have praised Bradshaw for returning the sheriff’s office to a crime-fighting focus. He has become known for cracking down on gangs, pill mills, child predators and synthetic marijuana manufacturers. The PBSO budget has grown 68 percent since 2005.

Consequently, he has gone from being elected in 2004 with 56.7 percent of the vote to being re-elected with 89.1 percent in 2008, 78.5 percent in 2012 and 65.7 percent in 2016, when he took on three challengers.

“We had no stability, and this job creates enough stress without the organization putting additional stress on its officers by having them wake up tomorrow and not know who is here or what to expect,” Bradshaw articulates. “Anything that comes our way, from the president coming here to the pandemic to demonstrations, our deputies know how to respond, adjust and make it work. They are a well-oiled machine, and it’s a thing of beauty to watch.”

Bradshaw has earned the reverence of his charges by doing exactly what they have said: leading from the top. He particularly extols his leadership team that makes him secure in not having to be the smartest guy in the room.

“Many leaders are afraid to have people around who are smarter than they are because they are afraid of losing their jobs,” he adds. “It didn’t take me long to identify the brightest,

most skilled and most articulate leaders and surround myself with them. I am not afraid of losing my job. I’m afraid of not doing the right thing. This team makes sure we have the right information to make the right decisions for the safety of our deputies and the community.”

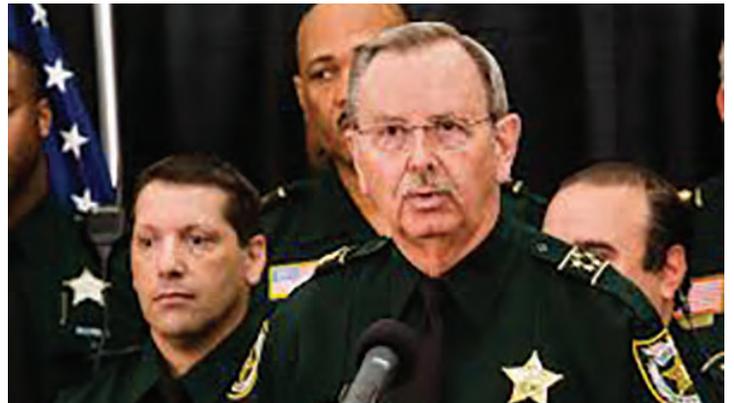
No greater endorsement of Bradshaw’s leadership seems to have emerged than when meeting PBA members at the bargaining table last fall. In a few hours, the sheriff and the PBA negotiated a 3 percent cost of living increase for the coming fiscal year. And for the second time in his tenure, Bradshaw used a budget surplus to offer members a 1 percent salary bonus.

As an expression of the relationship members have built with the sheriff, PBSO Unit President Daniel Glisson recognizes, “Negotiations are never cut and dried, but it’s so much easier negotiating with someone who has been there.”

Bradshaw proudly asserts he is still a dues-paying member of the PBA and has seen the impact of working with the union ever since he became a police executive almost 25 years ago.

“Look, we both want the same things,” he declares. “The best organizations want the best benefits for members. We have learned how to disagree in a professional manner and have always found a way to keep an open dialogue. If something is bothering them, they express it. Whether you have been in this job five minutes or 50 years, you never want to forget what it’s like to be the guy on the road. I think my relationship with the PBA has flourished because I realize that I want to treat my people the way I wanted to be treated as a young patrol officer.”

It’s the deputies on the road and officers serving in every aspect of the department who Bradshaw credits for being in a position to serve a fifth term. His pride in the department has never been higher than the past few months when, in the midst of a pandemic and dealing with demonstrations, PBSO has elevated its efforts to organize food drives, bring citizens to testing sites and answer every call.



Sheriff Bradshaw is known for standing up for the women and men of PBSO. “Our deputies know how to respond, adjust and make it work. They are a well-oiled machine, and it’s a thing of beauty to watch,” he says.

He hopes to have earned their votes, and he hopes to stand on the record they have enabled him to generate.

“I think deputies can be like carpenters. If they are going to build a house, they need the best tools. Deputies cannot provide outstanding service if we don’t give them the best tools money can buy,” Bradshaw emphasizes. “I’m going to continue to provide everything to give them the best possible working conditions which will give the citizens the best possible service. This is not the time to be switching gears. We can’t afford to have somebody who is learning on the job. We need the most qualified and experienced individual to run the fifth-largest sheriff’s office in the nation.”

A guide to make your vote count

Stories by Mitchell Krugel

The PBCPBA endorsement screening process has become renowned among political candidates for the unequivocal stamp of approval it renders. Federal, state, county and local candidates have learned the value of the endorsement that can lead to tens of thousands of votes.

And those who are formidable enough to be endorsed know the responsibility it carries to affect policy that supports law enforcement officers. *The Code Three Magazine* 2020 Primary Election guide features profiles of candidates who understand the importance of the PBA endorsement.

Members can expect more than campaign promises, more than just candidates talking out of both sides of their mouths to get the endorsement. As they read on, they will hear messages they can believe in.

“It’s time for people to start coming forward and speaking up,” declares Rick Roth, the incumbent endorsed for Florida state representative in District 85. “People’s lives are being threatened, cops are being burglarized and it’s only going to get worse if nobody speaks up.”

Members will read comments from candidates like John Snyder, the son of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, who has been endorsed for state senate in District 81 that the task at hand is protecting law enforcement against changes that “are trying to neuter cops.” They will be impressed by pledges from candidates like Mike Caruso, endorsed for state senate in District 89, that safety is the No. 1 responsibility because “everything is built on the platform of safe communities.”

And these profiles should confirm that endorsed candidates back the blue like Maria Sachs, endorsed candidate for Palm Beach County District 5 Commissioner, who is moving from the state legislature to work on sending aside funding to make sure first responders are protected.

“The PBA endorsement is a matter of great pride,” Sachs submits. “With that comes a great commitment to our men and women in blue.”

Meet some candidates who have that commitment

‘I know what good government is’

State Rep. Roth has no interest in politics.

“As an elected member of the Florida House of Representative, my primary duty is policy,” explains Roth, who has been serving in the state legislature since 2016. “When people elected to public office care more about their reputation than their responsibility to the people they serve, that’s politics. And it’s time to vote them out of office.”

As a farmer by trade, Roth feels a kinship to law enforcement by providing a service to the community. His is to feed the community. He knows that cannot happen without law enforcement being there to protect the community.

Roth advocates enabling officers to do their jobs better by giving them body cameras. He would like to incentivize every county and local law enforcement agency to provide body cameras.

And he is also in favor of legislation that would maintain the protection of police officers. Yes, that would include more ac-



RICK ROTH
State Representative
District 85
Republican

countability and taking the appropriate discipline. But it would also provide the necessary supervision and training. Roth believes a serious increase is needed to the approximately \$85 allocated per year per officer for training.

“We are a country of laws, and our system of laws calls us to do better,” Roth adds. “People feel like our country is at a crossroads, but I don’t think it is. Law enforcement officers need to know that the public is with them. We’re always with them.”

If Roth had the opportunity to meet with PBA members, he would share the reason they should vote for him.

“I know what good government looks like,” he asserts. “I remember when liberals and conservatives could work together to pass good legislation. We need to get

back to that form of government when we don’t use an issue to highlight a problem. We should highlight what we have done to solve a problem.”

'It will be on the backs of legislators'

Law enforcement needs representatives in the state legislature who focus on the bottom line, and that is Mike Caruso. As a certified public accountant, he has spent most of his professional life improving the bottom line.

The bottom line on his representation is ensuring that first responders have the support to maintain the level of safety all citizens expect and desire.

"This means having the proper number of staffing, proper equipment, safeguards and protocols that protect our first responders," Caruso states.

As a big believer in home rule, Caruso puts the responsibility on local government to account for proper staffing, equipment and the like. But he is counting on local elected officials to do their jobs and not let their municipalities turn into New York, Portland and other cities that have withdrawn support for law enforcement only to see public safety go up in smoke.



MIKE CARUSO
State Representative
District 89
Republican

"If cities enact protocols that put those individuals at risk, then I would strongly support legislation which would prohibit them from doing that," Caruso pledges. "If there are certain mayors or county leaders who are not exercising responsible home rule, then it will be on the backs of legislators to make sure they maintain civility within our communities."

Caruso's financial expertise notes that if communities don't maintain civility the economy will crumble. Jobs will leave town. Social

services will suffer. Everything disappears.

So if re-elected to a second term, he knows what he can bring to the legislature to counter such an occurrence.

"I want to bring common sense to state government," he details. "I don't believe in big government. I don't believe bigger is better. I want to bring common-sense solutions to the problems we wake up to every day."



CARUSO



FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mike Caruso, Republican, for State Representative, District 89.

PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Candidate	Office	Location
Omari Hardy	State Representative	District 88
John Snyder	State Representative	District 82
Mike Caruso	State Representative	District 89
Rick Roth	State Representative	District 85
Matt Willhite	State Representative	District 86
Maria Marino	County Commission District 1	Palm Beach County
Doug Smith	County Commission District 1	Martin County
David Kerner	County Commissioner District 3	Palm Beach County
Maria Sachs	County Commission District 5	Palm Beach County
Gary Bradford	County Commission District 4	Pasco County
Wendy Link	Supervisor of Elections	Palm Beach County
Anne Gannon	Tax Collector	Palm Beach County
Kelli Glass Leighton	Property Appraiser	Martin County



Anne Gannon PBC Tax Collector

'I will have their backs every single time'

If he doesn't answer formidably to his constituents in law enforcement, John Snyder will have to answer to his father.

He is the son of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, who started his law enforcement career in the late 1970s and served in the state legislature before being elected to lead MCSO. John's brother is also deputy with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

"Being raised under the roof of career law enforcement, I have seen the exceptionalism that makes up the men and women who wear the uniform," confides Snyder, who wore the uniform himself for five years while serving as a U.S. marine. "I know their commitment to honesty and integrity and their courage to stand up to for those less fortunate. And law enforcement officers need to know that as a policy maker in Tallahassee, I will have their backs every single time."

Snyder plans to do so by meeting the talk of defunding the police with strong words. He challenges municipal leaders



JOHN SNYDER
State Representative
District 82
Republican

who are advocating such lunacy to halt law enforcement for a day and see what happens.

"We cannot expect to put a muzzle on our sheep dogs and expect to be kept safe," Snyder charges. "They say militarization of police is so bad. But when you're dealing with hardened criminals and organized gangs, we have to put every tool law enforcement needs in the toolbox to fight these bad guys."

Snyder's connection to law enforcement might not be the only reason to vote for him, but it's one that will serve PBA members well.

"Being able to turn to the law enforcement experts will help me get the job done in Tallahassee," he reasons. "I know policy is needed to crack down on burglars, to get more funding for training and more pay. The list goes on, and I have the mindset to provide officers what they need."

Candidate	Office	Location
Barbara McQuinn	School Board Group 1	Palm Beach County
Alexandria Ayala	School Board Group 2	Palm Beach County
Bill Bathurst	City Commission Seat 2	Delray Beach
Shirley Johnson	City Commission Seat 4	Delray Beach
Jean Enright	Commissioner Group 3	Port of Palm Beach
Edward Galante	City Commission Group 3	Stuart
Troy McDonald	City Commission Group 4	Stuart
Tom Bakkedahl	State's Attorney	19th Circuit
Myra Koutzen	Mayor	Palm Beach Shores
John O'Connor	City Council Seat 3	Westlake
Robert Gottlieb	Town Council	South Palm Beach
Raymond McMillan	Town Council	South Palm Beach
Philip Aridas	Town Council Group 2	Lantana
Edward Shropshire	Town Council Group 3	Lantana
Jeffrey Gillen	Judge	Circuit Court Group 16
Henry "Quinn" Johnson	Judge	Circuit Court Group 16
Caryn Siperstein	Judge	Circuit Court Group 30
Debra Stephens	Judge	County Court Group 12



Debra Stephens County Court Group 12 Judge



Barbara McQuinn Palm Beach County School Board



Jeffrey Gillen Circuit Court Group 16 Judge

'I'm going to be a voice for them'

When the Florida State Legislature considered passing a bill to make mental healthcare coverage for first responders part of worker's compensation, an advocate stepped on the floor of the House who made people listen. Matt Willhite spoke up. Serving as a firefighter in Palm Beach County for 25 years, Willhite knows what he's talking about.

As a two-term incumbent, Willhite has passed 14 pieces of legislation to benefit first responders. Captain Willhite was the first active-duty first responder elected to the state legislature.

Whether it's articulating the reality of how PTSD affects first responders or talking about police reform, Willhite has become one of the most trusted voices for law enforcement in the state.

"In 25 years as a firefighter, I work hand-in-hand with law enforcement, so I think I have a good idea of what they're dealing with and what they do," Willhite explains. "They know that when I say something in the legislature, I'm not making it up. When they ask me my opinion or how I'm voting, they know it's because I deal with it every day."

Willhite has also become a paragon for being able to cross



MATT WILLHITE
State Representative
District 86
Democrat

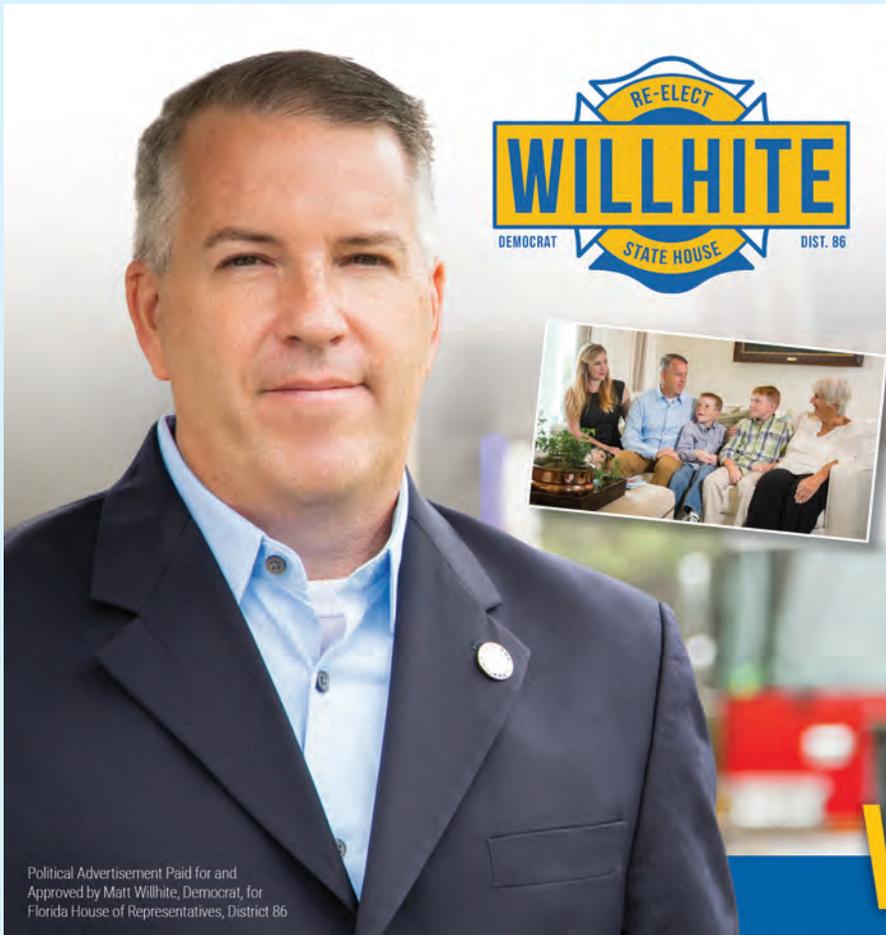
party lines. As a moderate Democrat in a Republican state, he has had great success in driving issues to be non-partisan. That's another way he has brought the first responder mentality to serving in the legislature.

"When somebody calls 9-1-1, the dispatcher does not ask what party you are," he adds. "We don't ask. We don't care. Whether Democrat or Republican, we are all doing the same job."

As a result, Willhite has also become known for hearing from first responders whenever they have an issue. He notes that he doesn't have an open-door policy. He has a no-door policy and his sisters and brothers can walk into his office without an appointment.

That desire to reason with them to come up with the best outcome for the community is a big reason why PBA members should once again vote for Willhite.

"They know I'm going to be a voice for them," he reminds. "My relationship with other legislators is paramount to their needs. They know I can offer a logical answer and back it up with first-hand experience."



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Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Matt Willhite, Democrat, for Florida House of Representatives, District 86

'Running is to make things better'

As the challenges of running county government become more unprecedented, Palm Beach County would certainly benefit from the hand of a more experienced governor. Maria Sachs sensed she could give the county the experience it needs, so she has come home to lend a hand.

Sachs served in the Florida Senate from 2010 to 2016, representing parts of Palm Beach Counties. Previously, she served two terms in the Florida House of Representatives. But now she has a new mission.

"The whole idea for me running is to make things better," she reports. "I've been able to do a lot for citizens from Pensacola to Jacksonville to Orlando. I want to bring that experience and those contacts to make our county government the very best it can be."

Sachs cites the governing priorities of procuring funding to make sure the county's first responders are protected, bringing communities back together, rebooting the economy and ramping up preparation if the pandemic spikes again. But it's not what she said in her interview with the PBCPBA that necessarily



MARIA SACHS
County Commissioner
Palm Beach County District 5
Democrat

won the PBA endorsement. It's what Sachs has done.

"The men and women in blue who know my background know that I have always been a proponent of community policing," she details. "I also want to make sure we have funding for additional training for our officers and work with social services and the mental health community so we can better handle the mental health issues our law enforcement officers face every day in the streets."

She pledges to make sure law enforcement has a seat at the table to work on all of the above. But Sachs' experience has taught her to go above and beyond the table, a way of governing that she believes will compel members to vote her onto the county commission.

ing that she believes will

"I've learned over the years that I'm pretty smart, but not that smart, so the first I do is listen to the stakeholders," Sachs reasons. "I don't have any preconceived ideas. I like to listen and learn, then study and review it. If I believe in it, I'm going all the way to fight for those issues."

MARIA SACHS
FOR COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 5
PROSECUTOR . STATE SENATOR . COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
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Paid for and Approved by Maria Sachs, Democratic Candidate for Palm Beach County Commission District 5.

'This is our way of life'

Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartory Link and her staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty preparing for the Aug. 18 Florida Primary.

Polling locations will have Plexiglas shields. Poll workers' and voters' temperatures will be taken before they enter each of the 425 locations in the county. Poll workers will wear face shields and gloves. Those who want to vote by mail will have prepaid postage for the first time. Those who want to take advantage of early voting have five extra days with the period running Aug. 3-16.

Link knows what's at stake on Aug. 18, and she is inspired by the PBCPBA endorsement to give back to law enforcement in a very substantive manner.

"There are the local races on the ballot, and there are the candidates who are going to be making decisions specific to Palm Beach County," Link explains. "These are the decisions that are going to affect your day-to-day life."

Under Link's leadership, the county purchased \$15 million in



WENDY SARTORY LINK
Supervisor of Elections
Palm Beach County
Democrat

new voting equipment to speed up the tabulation process and handle a bigger volume of ballots. In addition, her office also purchased a secure server that will be monitored by the Department of Homeland Security to protect sensitive voter information.

It seems that her attention to detail would rival that of any detective.

"The reason we are working so hard is that this is our way of life," Link adds. "If we can't have people continue to feel that way then we stand to lose the basis of how our democracy works."

Link believes in protecting the integrity of her office the way law enforcement

protects the well-being of the community. And she brings another element to the job that echoes the perspective of law enforcement.

"I'm focused on the integrity of the office because we need to have accountability for all our actions to best serve the public," she emphasizes. "It takes a lot of energy and a lot of long hours, but we are dedicated to putting in the time."

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SARTORY LINK
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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Paid by Wendy Link, Democrat, for Supervisor of Elections

'Education is our bridge'

Meet a rising star in Palm Beach County politics and government.

This year, Alexandria Ayala is running to become an elected member of the Palm Beach County School Board. In the years to come, well, it's entirely possible that Ayala will be serving as an elected official in Tallahassee. Or beyond.

Her resume only culminates with serving as a legislative aide to Palm Beach County Commissioner Robert Weinroth. She has worked on gubernatorial and state representative campaigns. She has been a campaign manager. She has worked as the community engagement director for the Florida Democratic Party.

But Ayala is embarking on her career as an elected official in the place that is nearest and dearest. Her father moved his family to Florida from Puerto Rico for the promise of education. Ayala lost her father at a young age, so she has made good on his promise.

"It's the opportunity to achieve the dream," she says. "Education is our bridge to anything we want to accomplish."

The PBA endorsement channels a path for Ayala that makes it even more powerful. It's not just about having the backs of law enforcement officers but inspiring a way of serving that works for the community.

"I felt that vibe from everyone in the room during the interview I had with the PBA," Ayala recalls. "What I took away is that these are organized, intelligent, prepared folks who are no-nonsense."

Ayala is equally organized, intelligent and prepared for the school board. Her platform starts with preserving the standard of achievement for students who are most at-risk in the digitally driven learning environment, including those with disabilities and for whom English is a second language. Safety, of course, is paramount to making sure the schools have protocols in place to deal with the coronavirus.

"And to make all that happen, it's about the budget," she asserts. "We want to avoid going to the taxpayers for any more. We have to find the efficiencies and work with our community partners and stakeholders on fundraising ideas."

All roads lead to a way of serving and leading that will make an impact on the school board and perhaps the state someday.

"As someone who works in government, I want to make people feel heard," she adds. "I want to make them feel important."



ALEXANDRIA AYALA
School Board District 2
Palm Beach County
Democrat

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House Guest

PBSO Deputy Corey Reece honored at the White House for saving a 4-year-old kidnapping victim

■ BY KAREN STAHL

Kismet turned Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Corey Reece's attendance at a family funeral in Tampa into a seat at a table with President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

Reece knew that rubbing elbows with Washington's finest on July 13 was something he could not have anticipated. He looked out at cameras, administrative staff and interns as the president himself addressed the deputy. Trump locked eyes with Reece, and a small nod from the president accompanied by a smirk indicated the deputy's turn to speak. Reece, a two-year member of PBSO, said his time as a guest of honor was indescribable.

"It's like, you see it all on TV and then you're just all of a sudden there," he said. "It's something else."

Reece thanked the president, vice president and attorney general for welcoming him to the White House before immediately diving into the story that brought him there.

While staying at a Hampton Inn in Tampa on June 13 for the funeral of his wife's aunt, Reece heard a woman's scream coming from the hotel hallway. As the sound got louder and closer to Reece's room, he heard the distress, which led him to go check out the scene.

He walked out his door and saw a woman clutching her crying 4-year-old boy. A man stood over them, grabbing for the child.

"My first reaction was, I thought it was a domestic situation," Reece recalled.

But when he separated the two, the woman screamed that she didn't know the man. He was trying to take her child.

Hotel guests began pouring out of their rooms to see what had caused all the commotion. The offender stammered as Reece attempted to question him while waiting for Tampa law enforcement officers to arrive on the scene.

"There were some people [in the hallway] that were trying to get pretty aggressive with him and charge on him,"



PBSO Deputy Corey Reece sits at a roundtable discussion at the White House on July 13 and shares his story of stopping a kidnapping in Tampa a month earlier.

Reece noted. "So it was one of those things where we don't need to make a bad situation worse. I kept everybody separated and calm until the Tampa police arrived."

Reece alerted his brothers in blue that he was an off-duty PBSO deputy and filled out a witness statement for them. And after his part of the response, he went back into his hotel room with his wife. Adrenaline was still pumping. He thought it would be the last he would hear of it.

But a video that someone had taken of the altercation was posted to Twitter, and it went viral with more than one million views. The next day, Reece and the incident were all over the news and social media.

With a day of fame for his potentially lifesaving efforts under his belt, Reece returned home with his wife and thought little of the event. And then, almost a month later, the deputy got the call. He was invited to the White House for a roundtable discussion because of his actions in Tampa.

"It all happened very, very fast," Reece said. "I was pretty humbled. It wasn't anything that I expected to have happen. As first it was pretty overwhelming, but then I did my best to kind of settle into it and go with the flow and do my best to represent everybody."

The Palm Beach County native felt honored to be the face of his home and agency, as well as carry on a law enforcement legacy. Reece idolizes his father, Douglas Reece, who retired from the PBSO as a captain after 30 years of service.

For Reece, who's on patrol, being a deputy is a childhood dream come true. And as he sat on the plane with his wife on the way to Washington, his mind raced while thinking through what he would say to the president as a law enforcement representative.

"I didn't write anything down, but I was anticipating some questions and some answers," Reece mentioned. "I didn't really know what to expect until I got there."

The next day, he pulled up to the



President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and a woman holding her rescued 4-year-old son clap for PBSO Deputy Corey Reece at a White House roundtable discussion about positive law enforcement interactions on July 13.

White House for the roundtable discussion with individuals who have been positively impacted by law enforcement officers. Reece was escorted by interns into the East Wing, where he reunited with the woman and child he had saved a month earlier — a family he'll likely be

connected to for the rest of his life.

"It's kind of a hard thing to grasp," Reece said. "You don't realize the full impact of your actions. I still don't think I fully realize the impact I've had, because to me, I just went out there and did what's right. I just tried to fix the

problem."

And as the president addressed him, the deputy can barely recall what he said at the table, but he remained calm and expressed his gratitude for the invitation. Within an hour, the roundtable discussion about the president's pro-law enforcement administration was finished.

Reece took a photo with Pence following the event while Trump left for another press conference. He mingled with the woman and child he saved before being escorted out of the East Wing through a tunnel underneath the Oval Office.

And, in an instant, Reece was back outside and having dinner with his wife while the sun hit his face. He basked in the mind-blowing reality of being a PBSO deputy who had rescued a child and had just been honored by the president of the United States.

"It's all amazing. I never would have ever thought that I would have this experience at two years in," Reece said. "Some people go their whole lives without having any experiences like those. It's hard to put it into words. I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that's for sure."



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The thin blue line from NYPD to Riviera Beach

RBPD officer follows his calling and carries on his father's legacy



■ BY AMBER RAMUNDO

For nine years, a desk in the New York Police Department Fugitive Task Force Unit has been unoccupied and untouched. The desk remains just as Detective Fermin Sonny Archer, Jr. left it the last time he sat there before the beloved NYPD officer was involved in an automobile accident that ended his watch on July 13, 2011.

There's hardly any question why the NYPD would leave Archer's desk intact for so long, occupied by his family photos, patches and jotted notebooks. Archer embodied the exemplary law enforcement officer, exuding pride in his service and humility on the job. After 28 years on the job, the man never once called out of work.

The level of high regard officers have for Archer is evident in the many awards and honors that the officer earned, including the Medal of Honor he was awarded by President Barack Obama in 2011 as a testament to his outstanding service.

Despite the awards and recognition, it is his untouched assignment desk in the NYPD that speaks volumes to Archer's son, Orlanzo L. Douglas.

"Just the fact that his desk has stayed the same for nine years day in and day out — that's the ultimate testament to the commitment to the brotherhood that (officers) have," Douglas remarks.

Though years have passed since the cubical buzzed with Archer's diligent mindset and steadfast spirit, the legacy of his service continues to shine brightly in his son.

"To know that I'm doing things that he was doing in a different place, it's a good feeling," shared Douglas, who has served with Riviera Beach Police Department (RBPD) for five years. "I'm furthering my legacy along with his."

It wasn't just his father's success that led Douglas to fill the shoes of service. The Brooklyn native was destined for the career path since growing up in a household where both his father



Detective Fermin Sonny Archer, Jr.
End of Watch: July 13, 2011

and mother, Amanda Degeneste Archer, worked the thin blue line.

"As a young man, I got to see and understand the responsibility and dedication (of law enforcement) firsthand," Douglas explained. "Both of my parents were strategic in all of their day-to-day decisions. They were very tactical, and those tactics that they showed us when we were quite young have been useful today in my profession."

Subtle lessons given by his parents, such as noting the exits in any building, reading body language and identifying aggressive behaviors, were sprinkled like breadcrumbs throughout Douglas' upbringing, guiding him to the job he'd take on naturally. Nevertheless, Douglas believes that law enforcement was a career that chose him.

“My mother always told me that being a police officer was a calling and I could hear God calling me into this profession,” Douglas insisted. “Being a police officer is not a job, it’s a lifestyle. Once I take off the uniform, I’m still a police officer — I still represent Riviera Beach Police Department.”

Douglas’ father knew that he wanted to serve as an officer before the tragic accident took his life. Truth be told, Archer wanted something better for his son and advised him of the hardships of being an officer.

“He said that sometimes police officers aren’t really valued, the same thing as what’s going on right now,” Douglas admitted. “It’s a tough job dealing with other people’s problems, along with your own, and everyone wasn’t always on law enforcement’s side.”

Despite finding all of these hardships to be true, Douglas exudes the same humble pride for the job that his father lived by. Even in the toughest of times, Douglas can feel his father’s energy supporting him every step of the way.

On this past July 13 — the ninth anniversary of losing Archer — Douglas crossed paths with his father’s legacy at the NYPD Fugitive Task Force Unit. Douglas visited his father’s desk wearing his Riviera Beach PD dress uniform. NYPD members, and many of Archer’s colleagues, gathered to pay tribute to the officer they lost, and their brother in law enforcement who has proudly and humbly followed in his footsteps.

“You wouldn’t think that people separated by so many miles would be able to maintain a relationship,” Douglas mused. “What keeps me motivated are the brothers and sisters who I work with and my mentors at NYPD who keep me grounded. I also appreciate the support from my family. They love the fact that I’m successful in filling my own shoes at another agency.”



Riviera Beach Police Department officer Orlanzo L. Douglas stretches the thin blue line from NYPD to the Palm Beach County PBA.

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Committing to Justice

Strong union advocate Katie Mendoza is the legal team's newest member

■ BY KAREN STAHL

Sitting in PBCPBA President John Kazanjian's office during her interview to become part of the union's legal team, Katie Mendoza saw the reality of the life she was about to embrace.

Nationwide civil unrest over the power of policing continued to increase. The pandemic had weakened the economy to the point of members worrying about making ends meet. The economic fallout would also impact officers' opportunities to fair compensation. Stress from all of the above further threatened their mental health.

Suddenly, the definitive question, "What are you doing here?" echoed through Mendoza's mind. But she remembered struggles that her firefighter husband and his coworkers faced that were resolved by their union, and inspiration supplanted trepidation.

Mendoza wanted to devote herself to fighting for members' rights and livelihoods — especially with the dire circumstances they now face.

"[PBCPBA members] are really under attack today, and they really need somebody to have their back and have a voice out there," she says. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to be a part of that voice."

Her experience in the legal profession serves as an undeniable asset to the job. Mendoza has a bachelor's degree in Criminology and English from the University of Florida. She followed her undergrad work by studying law at the University of Miami Law School and graduated in 2017.

After law school, she took a two-year clerkship with Judge Martha Warner at the Fourth District Court of Appeal, working in the judge's chambers and assisting with the caseload. That clerkship taught Mendoza how to work with criminal, civil and administrative cases.

For the past year, the experienced legal counsel has been working in Stuart with the law firm of Ross Earle Bonan and Ensor, P.A. in general litigation, with her partner working on some labor law.

And the taste of labor law was all Mendoza needed to spur her desire to take the experience to the next level. When a position with the PBCPBA opened up, she felt inspired to work with a union — almost like a calling.

"[Union work] has always been something that's interested me," Mendoza says. "My husband has been a firefighter for 10 years down in Hollywood, and their union's done a lot for them. I have a firsthand viewpoint of how important unions are for the work. And especially with today's climate, everyone forgets that officers do have rights."

Mendoza interviewed for her new position on the heels of civil unrest across the country. In the wake of protests and riots, she knew that the rights of officers were being threatened — and as the newest member of the PBCPBA legal team, she wants to help set the record straight.

"With everything going on today, I think [law enforcement officers] are under attack, and it's not just in our state, it's nationwide," she says. "They really need somebody to have their back. And I think being a lawyer and being part of a union is a cool way



to contribute to that effort to make sure that they stay our heroes and they're respected."

During her first week on the job, Mendoza sat in on an internal affairs investigation, a pre-disciplinary meeting and a collective bargaining meeting. The family environment within the PBCPBA is an important aspect to Mendoza and one that will aid her negotiation style.

As a thorough legal counsel who loves to research and write, contracts will be safe in the hands of the newest staff member. Writing up a brief for arbitration? Mendoza is ready. Talking to the representatives to determine the biggest necessities? She knows how to determine a hard no and a hard yes.

She says her negotiation style is to take cases as they come, understanding that every agency and every city is unique and has a specific set of needs — needs that Mendoza will try her best to meet.

"You have to really talk to your reps and understand what they want," she says. "You really want to push for more for all of them, and I know that you have to take it as it comes."

Mendoza is excited to get involved with the union and be part of the hardworking team to improve the lives of members. Spending every summer break interning at the state attorney's office during her undergrad years bolstered Mendoza's unique ability to view cases individually.

And though she understands the work of the PBCPBA as a whole, the legal counsel knows that a unit is only as good as the sum of its parts.

"I think it's going to be really rewarding to put a face to the case and work one on one with different officers, because what they do is more than just a job," Mendoza shares. "It is helping the union and its overall goals, as well as serving these individual people and their livelihoods and how the public perceives them and treats them. So I think it'll be very rewarding to help and have their backs."

And that's exactly why members should be excited to welcome Mendoza into the PBCPBA family. She is a pro-union powerhouse who is unwavering in her devotion to backing members.

"In law school, you're kind of the minority in a lot of ways when you're pro-union and pro-law enforcement," Mendoza says. "But you just have to be constant for law enforcement so they get to have a voice. It is kind of like a calling, and you see how a lot of young people have certain viewpoints pushed on them, but you have to see what actually happens in the real world."

As Mendoza brings her tools of thoroughness, empathy and tenacity into her first month as part of the PBCPBA legal counsel team, members can be assured that she is passionate, sincere and enthusiastic about improving the livelihoods of every person she meets.

"Now is the time, more than ever, that members do need help, and they do need backing," Mendoza says. "They're good people, and I'm looking forward to it. I think that's what people forget, it's they're good people just trying to do their job, and doing it earnestly."

Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

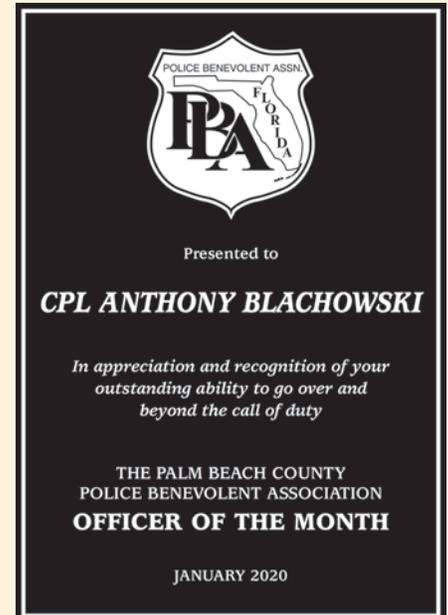
January 2020

Sergeant Anthony Blachowski Martin County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by Karl Nelson

A woman and her dog were driving along when, suddenly, a wild hog jumped out into the road without warning. The woman swerved to miss the hog, but she lost control of the car and ended up in a canal. As the car began to fill with water, the woman regained consciousness. She was trapped by a partially open window.

Sergeant Anthony Blachowski located the vehicle and immediately jumped into the dark water of the canal. He broke one of the side windows and freed the woman. Once he got her to safety, Sergeant Blachowski returned to rescue the dog. Sergeant Blachowski's quick, decisive actions demonstrated selfless service to the community.



February 2020

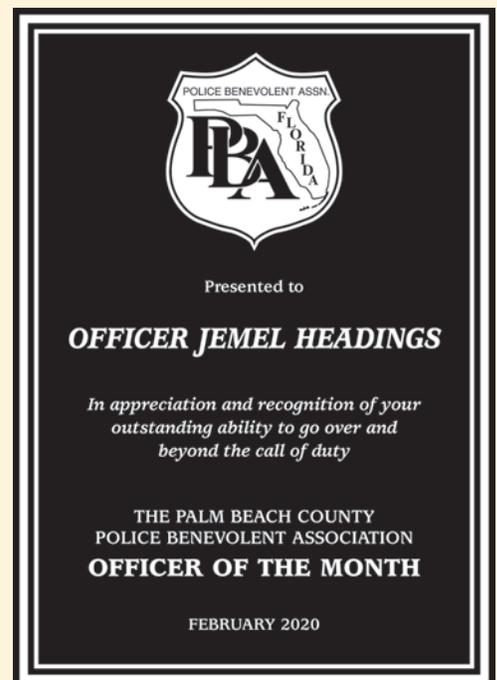
Detective Jemel Headings Riviera Beach Police Department

Nominated by committee



We are recognizing the heroic, off-duty efforts of Riviera Beach Police Detective Jemel Headings. Detective Headings was driving south on I-95 on his way to work. A tow truck driver in the median started waving his arms to get the detective's attention. When he looked over, he saw an FHP trooper lying on the ground. Detective Headings was in plain clothes and off duty, but he put on his Riviera Beach PD vest.

As he approached the truck, a suspect exited a disabled vehicle and fired several rounds at Detective Headings. The detective immediately returned fire and killed the suspect, who had just killed Trooper Bullock and had attempted to kill the tow truck driver as well. Detective Headings did not just drive by when he saw someone asking for help; he put his own life at risk and displayed the true courageous qualities of a great police detective. We are all safer because of his amazing bravery.



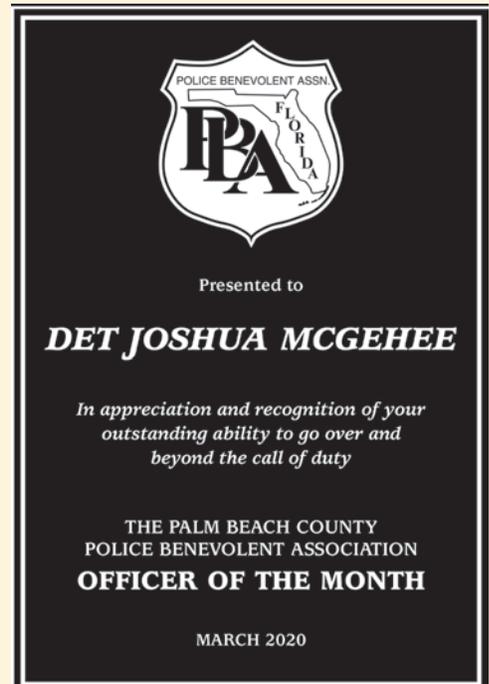
Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

March 2020

Detective Joshua McGehee Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Nominated by Lieutenant Carlos Ugalde

Detective Joshua McGehee has been making a difference while assigned to the Violent Crime Division Gang Unit at PBSO. In one instance, he was monitoring a social media account and noticed that a gang member was posting videos of himself displaying firearms. An investigation by McGehee discovered that the gang member was a felon and likely a suspect of an attempted murder. Thanks to McGehee's surveillance in developing this case, numerous search warrants yielded the seizure of multiple weapons as well as a confession by the suspect to the attempted homicide.

In another instance, his knowledge of the main gang members allowed him to quickly identify two of the assailants responsible for a shooting just outside of a high school. Both suspects confessed when confronted with the intel that Detective McGehee obtained.



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Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

April 2020

Officer John Gee
Palm Springs Police Department
Nominated by Detective Sean Grant



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OFFICER OF THE MONTH

APRIL 2020

While off duty on his way to work in his patrol vehicle, Officer John Gee noticed several people on the side of the road trying to flag him down. He then observed a vehicle that had crashed into a retention pond near the roadway. Officer Gee immediately ran into the retention pond to rescue the unconscious victim

Once she was out of harm's way, he returned to confirm that no other occupants were trapped in the vehicle. The officer waited for MCSO Fire Rescue to respond, and the victim was airlifted to the hospital.

Officer Gee's instincts immediately kicked in as he took control of the scene and began the rescue effort.

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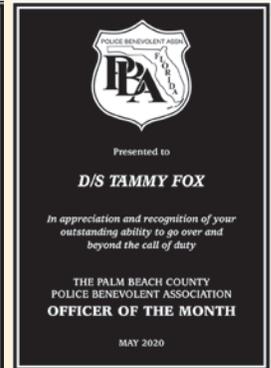
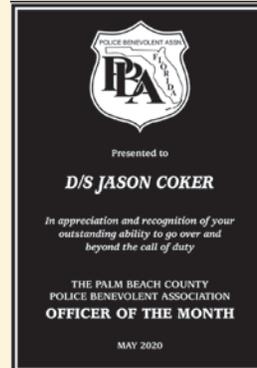
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Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

May 2020

Deputy Sheriffs Jason Coker and Tammy Fox Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by Lieutenant Nichole Addazio



Deputy Sheriffs Jason Coker and Tammy Fox are assigned to Community Policing, responsible for covering four low-income areas. Both have proven to be generous and selfless as they serve these communities.

Deputy Sheriff Fox has hosted, at her own expense, an annual holiday toy drive for the underserved community she serves. Last year, she was able to deliver 60 toys and 50 pairs of shoes to kids in need.

Fox and Deputy Sheriff Coker "adopted" a family in need and helped

provide that family with more than \$2,000 in toys, gift cards and much-needed household items.

Both deputies coordinated Toys for Tots, Sand and Sea Toy Delivery, and Shop with a Cop. Their time and efforts resulted in more than 800 children receiving toys during the holiday season. Their attention to underprivileged children has a positive impact on the community they serve, and they act as role models to vulnerable youth.

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Members Only Section

Celebrating PBC PBA members and the way they serve every day

Martin County Sheriff's Office helps rescue immigrants at sea

Martin County Sheriff's Office marine units, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and Border Patrol, assisted in the rescue of a boat spotted several miles offshore on July 3.

Nine men, three women and a 4-month-old baby were recovered from the boat. Upon further discussion, officers discovered that they were a group of refugees coming out of Haiti. The baby and one of the women were suffering from dehydration and received immediate assistance from the

marine units.

The refugees gave little information about their dangerous journey to the United States — only that they were seeking better lives. They had been sailing for about a week, but the boat lost power and was afloat for an unknown period of time.

All passengers were turned over to the Coast Guard to help with the next step in their journey.



Riviera Beach Police Department bridges the gap with community

Officer Cherise Phillips knows that positive community relations are best fostered with smiles, laughs and intentional efforts toward connection. A commitment to those she serves is why Phillips was one of the stars of the first episodes of “The C.O.P.,” released as a three-minute Facebook video by the Riviera Beach Police Department on June 15.

The episode, which is the first in a series of videos intended to bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement, plays on a number of popular trends from the video app TikTok. In addition, the video chronicles members getting out and talking to individuals.

“This is Ms. Marie Davis, who’s been partners with us since the whole COVID-19 shutdown,” Phillips relays in a voice-over as the officers walk into a restaurant and meet with a woman sitting at a table.

Davis is involved with the Community Officers’ Association of Singer Island and the Singer Island Civic Association. The officers then walk out of the restaurant with boxes of Styrofoam food trays to deliver to residents.

In a quick cut following the videos of food deliveries, the camera pans to a Riviera Beach junior officer, Andrew, exchanging blows from his whistle with another officer during a birthday celebration for K-9 Chloe.



For the episode’s grand finale, Phillips, along with Justin Borum and Walter Terrell, can be seen with all smiles on treadmills, stationary rowing machines and stationary bikes at a local gym.

With a cliffhanger ending, the officers

created suspense for the next episode of the video series that highlights how Riviera Beach Police Department members are bridging the gap between the community and law enforcement.

A touching gift exchange in Boynton Beach

When young Boynton Beach resident Matthew saw Vladimir Adea on July 4, he felt the need to show his appreciation in the most giving way possible.

Adea pulled into Matthew’s neighborhood, and the young boy caught the officer’s attention. He then ran to the vehicle, clutching something shiny in his small fist. Matthew showed the officer that he was holding a medal that he got from karate, and he wanted to give it to Adea to thank him for keeping their neighborhood safe.

The gesture touched Adea deeply. Less than a week later, on July 10, he figured out how to repay the young boy. He pulled up to the family’s house, precious cargo in tow.

Adea stepped out of his car to meet Matthew in the front yard. The officer let him know that he had hung the karate medal on his passenger headrest.

“I want to thank you again for giving me this medal,” Adea said. “I want to give you a bracelet that was given to me, that meant a lot to me — and I’d like to give it to you. It’s a bracelet that my mother gave me to wear when I first became a police



officer. So I wanted to give you that.”

And Adea and Matthew shared a hug, with the big, black bracelet that Adea received after his 2016 swearing-in ceremony hung around Matthew’s wrist, creating an unforgettable moment for both.

Delray Beach members give it up

A ticket to ride

Members in Delray Beach pulled up to houses on June 19 with brand-new bicycles for deserving children in the community. With these generous gifts, children can now cruise through the summer heat with their new sets of wheels.



Conni Gibson, CPA

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Putting shirts on their backs

With the ongoing pandemic affecting every aspect of family life, residents Pierre and O'neisha Laurence have been struggling to keep up amid reduced hours at both of their places of work — Carrabba's and an elderly care center, respectively.

When the couple and their daughter recently had their clothes stolen from a laundromat in Delray Beach while leaving to buy more detergent, they filed a police report. Ronald Brown took the report and stayed in contact with them.

On July 10, he gave a helping hand to the family. The officer bought the family a \$100 Amazon gift card to help them buy new clothes and replace what was taken — and while he felt it wasn't enough, he hoped that it helped ease even a little of the family's burden.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office get kids on the right foot

On July 10, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office held another shoe donation drive with the nonprofit In Jacob's Shoes, which was formed in memory of Jacob Zweig and provides shoes, backpacks, school supplies and athletic gear to South Florida children in need.

The 10-year partnership between PBSO and the public charity is a relationship that will continue to make the community a healthier and safer place.



Stuart Police Chief Joseph Tumminelli receives local NAACP award

During the July 13 City Commission meeting, Stuart Police Chief Joseph Tumminelli received a local NAACP recognition award from Jimmy Smith, the president of the local NAACP.

Tumminelli received the award for his efforts toward racial equality in the community and his continued discussions with Smith and the local NAACP.



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Homemade thank-you cards for every member in West Palm Beach

A resident in West Palm Beach named Olivia stopped by the station on June 22 to hand-deliver thank-you cards for every member of the West Palm Beach Police Department.

The notes read: "My name is Olivia and I along with the support of many people in our community, wrote this letter to thank all of you for your service. During this time, we thank you for keeping all of us safe and maintaining peace within our communities. We recognize the sacrifices you have made for all of us and we thank you for putting your lives on the line every day!"

By hand-delivering each note into the individual mailboxes of members, Olivia showed that personal appreciation goes a long way in West Palm Beach.



My name is Olivia and I along with the support of many people in our community, wrote this letter to thank all of you for your service. During this time, we thank you for keeping all of us safe and maintaining peace within our communities. We recognize the sacrifices you have made for all of us and we thank you all for putting your lives on the line every day!

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Gifting food across Palm Beach County PBA

As the battle against COVID-19 rages on, members have found that food is a crucial resource for all those facing insecurity during an economic and public health crisis.

Throughout the pandemic, officers have ensured that civilians have enough on the table for their families, and

now community members are giving back to make sure that members' stomachs are full while on the job as well.

From meal drives to food pantries to simple dropoffs, officers and community members alike have spared no expense in providing food and treats to help others survive and thrive through this difficult time.

Boynton Beach



Officers in Boynton Beach got a treat on July 2 after a community member called to tell the department she was coming by with cookies. But when she showed up, she had enlisted a small army all with full hands to help with the delivery. The Cookies for Cops initiative brightened Boynton Beach as the donation demonstrated immense — and sweet — support for law enforcement officers.



Jupiter



Cookies and barbeque filled members' stomachs on June 26 at a community-led event. A group of resident volunteers set up a barbeque smoker in the parking lot of the Jupiter Police Department and served up delicious meals for all the patrol shifts, as well as fun treats for the furry and four-legged K-9 officers. Later, two women surprised officers with appreciation cookies to top off the fun day.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office



Members passed out popsicles to residents on July 8 to help beat the summer heat. The community was able to cool off and see the support of their deputies through a generous partnership with Publix.

Stuart



A Helping Hands event in Stuart on June 20 offered drive-through COVID-19 testing, barbeque, take-home perishable and non-perishable food, school supplies and voter registration. Members got to give back to residents during the celebration coordinated by the local NAACP in an effort to bring the community together.



West Palm Beach



In a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and nonprofit Living Hungry, the West Palm Beach Police Department was able to deliver meals on July 16 to community members. Lifting boxes gave volunteers a hefty workout while helping those in need.

Thank-You Notes

TO THE PBA

PALM BEACH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RIC L. BRADSHAW, SHERIFF



June 1, 2020

Dear Police Benevolent Association:

On behalf of Sheriff Bradshaw and the men and woman at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office I would like to thank you for your support of the recent PBSO Covid-19 Food Drive.

While they work daily to ensure the safety and well-being of those they serve, it was the first time many in law enforcement were able to work closely with families throughout our county who are hungry and in need of assistance. Many of the families we were able to help have no means to reach other county locations giving out free food, making this food drive even more crucial. I am truly grateful to report to you that as a result of overwhelming support from organizations and individuals alike, the Sheriff's Office was able to provide over three thousand (3000) local families with food purchased and/or donated.

As you know, this pandemic is unlike any experienced in our lifetimes, but it has proven that when the need is apparent -- no matter where people are from -- we all come together as Americans do and help one another. This type of kindness is what makes our country great, and Palm Beach County residents and business always come through and shine.

Teamwork and partnerships are important! Thank you for your continued support of the men and women in law enforcement that work tirelessly to keep those who live, work and visit our county safe. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 561-688-3007.

Very truly yours,

Colonel Tony Adujo
Law Enforcement Operations

3228 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, Florida 33406-3000



Dear Police Benevolent Association,
Thank you so much for your generous scholarship to me. I can't tell you how much your funds and support mean to me. Knowing I have a great organization like yours behind me, motivates me even more to be the best student and person I can be.
Thank you again, Claire Keane

**JOHN
SNYDER**
Republican for State Representative • District 82

Dear PBA,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting my campaign for the Florida House.

I promise to work with every thing I have to support the men and women of Law Enforcement. If you need anything from me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best Regards,



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William D. Snyder
— Sheriff —

June 9, 2020

John Kazanjian and my friends at the PBA,

Thank you very much for your formal endorsement of my candidacy for another term of Sheriff in Martin County. I do not take your support for granted and will do everything I can to continue earning your trust and confidence.

Warmly,



William D. Snyder, Sheriff

Alexandria
Ayala

for PALM BEACH COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 2

Thank you so much for your trust and support. I look forward to working together.

All the best,
Alexandria

July 9, 2020

Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association
2100 N. Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Police Benevolent Association,

I am writing to thank you for your generous PBA scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

I am a Mechanical Engineering major, focusing on design and structural analysis. I plan to pursue a career in the defense, aerospace, or biomedical industry upon graduating from Georgia Tech. I am currently a senior, and I plan to graduate in the spring of 2021. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to my goal of achieving a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

By awarding me a PBA scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Alexis Feder
Candidate for Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology



PALM BEACH COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



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