



*"The voice of local law enforcement"*

# CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

SPRING 2021

**13th Annual PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball**

**POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

## Best Ball Ever

**Trump attends to highlight an unprecedented celebration**





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## COVER STORY: 13TH ANNUAL POLICE OFFICERS' BALL

### No way to Trump this



COVER PHOTO BY DAMON HIGGINS

Donald Trump took an already unprecedented 2021 PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball to unbelievable heights. In fact, the entire weekend was the best-ever law enforcement celebration which began with the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament Friday and culminated with honoring the PBA Officers of the Year from 2019 and 2020 on Saturday night.

**Go Ball-in with 12 pages of coverage beginning on page 19**

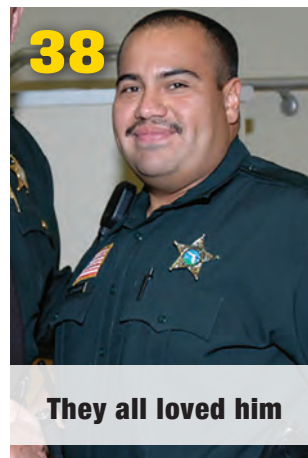
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**In Training**



**They all loved him**

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# CODE THREE

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

Main Number: 561-757-0464

Advertising: 201-880-7288

Editorial: 201-370-4082

Distribution: 201-880-7288

Email: [cops@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:cops@floridacopsmagazine.com)

Website: [www.floridacopsmagazine.com](http://www.floridacopsmagazine.com)

**MITCHELL KRUGEL**

Publisher/Editor

[mitch@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:mitch@floridacopsmagazine.com)

**GINA CROTCHFELT**

Art Director

[gina@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:gina@floridacopsmagazine.com)

**ROSEMARY AN**

Staff Writer

[rosemary@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:rosemary@floridacopsmagazine.com)

**KIMBERLY FLYNN**

**LAUREN PURCELL**

Copy Editors

**ANA DIRKSEN**

Account Executive

[ana@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:ana@floridacopsmagazine.com)

**KELLY CHARTOFILLIS**

Executive Administrator

[kelly@floridacopsmagazine.com](mailto:kelly@floridacopsmagazine.com)

**ANGELA TWOMEY**

PBA Editor

[angela@pbcpcbpa.org](mailto:angela@pbcpcbpa.org)

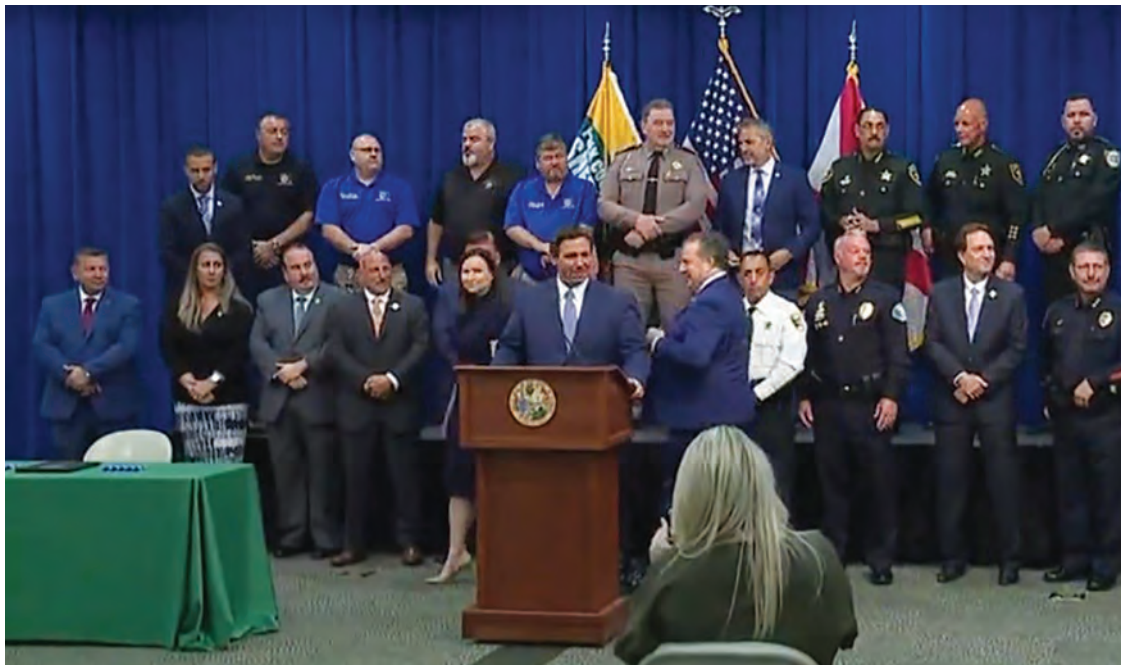
**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2**

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# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Picture Perfect



**JOHN  
KAZANJIAN**

Let me show you this picture here. My report starts with this photo because this is one of those times when a picture truly is worth a thousand words.

When it comes to our relationship with Governor DeSantis and the state's top executives, we have been talking for a while now about how hard the PBA has worked to secure a seat at the table. Ironically, our seat at the table here was confirmed by standing behind the table, as you see in the photo.

On April 19, the governor signed the anti-riot bill into law. This is the law that allows authorities to hold arrested demonstrators from posting bail until after their first court date, increases the charge for battery of a police officer during a riot and adds language that could force local governments to justify a reduction in law enforcement budgets. It also increases penalties for protesters who block roadways or deface public monuments and creates a new crime – mob intimidation.

The governor asked the PBA to stand with him when he signed the law, as you can see. Members from PBA charters and chapters across the state are standing right behind him, showing we have his back like he has ours.

Listen, when you're talking about the rank-and-file law enforcement, I think the governor confirmed that automatically what comes to your mind is the PBA. It's not those other units. It's the PBA.

At our Police Officers' Ball on April 24, another prominent government leader came to also confirm he has our backs. You may know that Donald J. Trump has expressed unconditional support for the police. Listen, when he left an important event at Mar-a-Lago to come to our celebration and speak to our group, well, you see the picture of the 45th president on the cover of this issue and know that the PBA does not just have a seat at the table. We have the one right next to the person at the head of the table.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





Accordingly, the governor offered some fighting words when he signed the law that validate his commitment to us.

"If you look at the breadth of this particular piece of legislation, it is the strongest anti-rioting, pro-law enforcement piece of legislation in the country," he said before signing the bill. "There's just nothing even close."

And if we need even further confirmation about how law enforcement is at the head of the table, check out the letter on page 5 from Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. I think you have to love the line that reads: "Florida will never turn our backs on our law enforcement heroes."

They came out and said, "You mess with the police, you mess with me." I mean, that was a huge statement. That's powerful.

I'm going to tell you, these are no-nonsense leaders. Listen, if you're at a peaceful protest, you're not going to get in trouble. So there's nothing to worry about. Why are they making a big deal about this? The rioting, the looting — that's against the law. So now if you're going to do it, you're going to jail and do double jail time.

We also had a great meeting two weeks before that with the governor to go over some of our agenda items like state corrections, appointments to the Criminal Justice & Standards Training Commission and a couple of other things. And then we were standing there along with the sheriffs, police chiefs and the cabinet at the signing of the anti-riot bill, where he recognized the PBA. Like I said, no other unions were mentioned.

I think we can take him at his word, kind of following in the footsteps of President Trump. The president spent nearly an hour speaking to us, shaking hands, taking pictures and reminding us how important law enforcement is to so many people in the state and the country.

Before the president, Fox News commentator Dan Bongino, a former NYPD officer and Secret Service agent, also gave us some words to the wise about how important your work has been. I think

our entire weekend that started with our golf outing and culminated with the Police Officers' Ball was more than a home run.

Call it a grand slam, most importantly because we raised a lot of money for our scholarship fund in honor of our angel, my beloved Kaitlin, who would have turned 34 the day before the golf outing. What a gift to have this celebration this weekend.

We also celebrated the greatness of our profession, the camaraderie and how our members really put the "B" for "Benevolence" in P-B-A. This was the first time we did the golf outing and the ball back to back, and it was a total success. We're going to do it again next year, all at Trump National. Mark the dates now: March 20-21, 2022.

I think the weekend also celebrated how strongly we continue to overcome all the garbage the media and the anti-police people are throwing at us. There's reason to be optimistic. The economy is coming back, and we're going to be able to get those good contracts again.

From the president to the governor to the way all of you came out for the golf outing and the ball shows that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Don't be afraid to get vaccinated. The quicker that happens, the quicker we get to herd immunity and we can get back to normal.

I can picture it now.

As always, stay safe!

*Kaz*

JOHN KAZANJIAN

PBCPBA PRESIDENT

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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@pbcdba.org](mailto:angela@pbcdba.org) to update your information.



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Adolf Alexandre, Appt.  
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John Rebholz, Alt.





# Government in the sunshine – the Public Records Law and related shady acts



KATIE  
MENDOZA

What exactly is considered a public record? Who is entitled to a copy of those records? When can the government lawfully deny access? All great questions that may not be so easily answered or may raise many other inquiries.

In 1909, the Florida legislature passed Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, known as Florida's Public Records Law. About 60 years later, Florida enacted its Government-in-the-Sunshine Law, which is now Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes. The Sunshine Law deems that most governmental board and commission meetings where official acts are to be taken are meetings open to members of the public. Following these changes in the law, debate arose regarding what documents are considered public record.

In 1980, the Florida Supreme Court defined a public record as "any material prepared in connection with official agency business which is intended to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge of some type." *Shevin v. Byron, Harless,*

*Schaffer, Reid & Associates, Inc.*, 379 So. 2d 633, 640 (Fla. 1980). While rough drafts of documents, tapes or notes considered to be dictation and preliminary notes used to prepare official documents may not be considered public record, documents intended to "formalize" information, as well as memoranda and communications showing the transaction of official business, are considered public. *Id.* at 640-41. The debate regarding the definition of "public record" continued, and in the 1990s, the Florida Constitution was amended to further ensure the people's right to public records and meetings. Article I, section 24 of the Florida Constitution now reads in part:

(a) Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, or persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section or specifically made confidential by this Constitution. This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities, and districts; and each constitutional officer, board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.

Fast forward to 2003, and the Florida Supreme Court held that when deciding whether a document is a public record, the "determining factor is the nature of the record, not its physical location." *State v. City of Clearwater*, 863 So. 2d 149, 154 (Fla. 2003). In other words, personal emails not made or received regarding the transaction of official business may not be public records simply because they are contained on a government-owned computer system, and vice versa (public emails on private servers should be accessible and transparent). As an example of the ways in which government officials skirt public records disclosure, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has been known to use Blackberry messages with a limited electronic record or "paper trail" to communicate about governmental matters.

Some great things to know about the Public Records Law include the following: 1) every agency that contains a public record in an electronic record-keeping system must provide the requester a copy of the public record in that system — in the medium requested if the agency maintains the record in that medium; 2) a public records custodian must respond to requests to inspect or copy records both promptly and in good faith (again, what is "reasonable" time may be arguable); and 3) if a governmental agent is claiming that a requested document is exempt from inspection, he or she must state the basis of that exemption with a statutory citation. §§ 119.01(f), 119.07(c), (e), Fla. Stat. (2021). Although Florida's Public Records Law is broad, there are some exemptions. However, the courts construe these exemptions narrowly. All in all, don't assume that your local governments will willingly disclose all public records to you upon request, and be sure to know your rights when requesting those records.



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Florida Police  
Benevolent Association



# Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 10, 2021

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Kazanjian.....X  
Ernest W. George.....X  
Rick McAfee.....X  
Lou Penque.....X  
Kevin Igo.....X  
Greg Allen.....X  
Larry Fagan.....X  
Brennan Keeler.....X  
Katie Mendoza.....EXCUSED

## Boynton Beach

Cory Herny.....EXCUSED  
Rayner DeLosRios.....X  
Jermaine Jones.....X  
Gladys Cannon.....X  
Brian McDeavitt, Appt'd Alt.....X  
Mark Sohn, Appt'd Alt.....X  
Nasim Davis, Appt'd.....X  
Aramis Grigorian, Appt'd.....X  
Patrick Malley, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

## Delray Beach

Meer Deen.....X  
Edward McCabe.....EXCUSED  
Vincent Gray.....X  
Aaron Siegel.....X  
Brian Cambell, Alt.....X  
Michael Cianciaruli, Alt.....X

## FAU

William Hernandez.....EXCUSED  
Miguel Cardona, Alt.....EXCUSED

## Highland Beach

Jeffrey Miller, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

## Juno Beach

Kevin Coppin, Appt'd.....X

## Jupiter

Scott Kimbark.....EXCUSED  
Jonathan Gentile.....X  
Salvatore Mattino.....EXCUSED  
Paul Gundlach, Alt.....X  
Jason Alexandre, Alt.....X

## Jupiter Island

Matthew Potsko, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

## Lake Clarke Shores

John Connacher.....X  
Antonio Gerena, Alt.....ABSENT

## Lantana

Shawn Johnson.....X  
Troy Schaaf, Alt.....X  
Linda Mikkelsen, Appt'd.....X

## Manalapan

Nicolbe "Colbe" Hernandez, Appt'd.....X

## MCSO - Law Enforcement

Karl Nelson.....X  
Jon Hanton.....EXCUSED  
Bradley Spencer.....X  
Michael McMahan.....X  
Kenneth Youngblood.....X  
William Weiss, Alt.....X  
James Holloran, Alt.....X  
Andrew Porcelli, Appt'd.....X

## MCSO - Corrections

Michael Trimble (RES/RET).....X  
Samuel Haidy.....X  
Edward Burke.....EXCUSED  
William Evans.....EXCUSED  
Lawrence Lutrin.....X

## North Palm Beach

## Ocean Ridge

Jimmy Pilon.....EXCUSED  
Mario Galluscio, Alt.....EXCUSED

## School Police (Palm Beach County)

Kevin O'Sullivan.....EXCUSED  
Alexander Lopez.....EXCUSED  
Michael Lynch, Appt'd.....X

## PBSO - Law Enforcement

Daniel Glisson.....X  
Carlos Ugalde.....X  
Michael Kennedy.....X  
Layford "Brandon" West.....EXCUSED  
Marlow "Butch" Altonen.....X  
Kevin Lindardos, Alt.....X  
William Gale, Appt'd Alt.....EXCUSED  
John Kazanjian, II, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Alex Nunes, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Jason Johnson, Appt'd.....X  
Cory Gray, Appt'd.....X  
Ruben Cruz, Appt'd.....X  
Michael Sasson, Appt'd.....X  
John McGuire, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Anthony Johnson, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Matt DeJoy, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Chris Caris, Appt'd.....X  
Ryan Mugridge, Appt'd.....X  
Jason LaForte, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Adolf Alexandre, Appt'd.....X  
Gary Chan, Appt'd.....X

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Michael Santoro.....X  
Melvin Cribbs.....EXCUSED  
Thomas Jordan.....X

Cheryl Melvin, Alt.....X  
Gwendolyn Wattlely, Alt.....X  
Robert Tozzi, Appt'd.....X  
Antonio Osborne, Appt'd.....EXCUSED

## PBSO - Civilians

Sallyann Josef.....X  
John Costello.....X  
Kristen Kazanjian.....X  
Amy Cisco.....EXCUSED  
Heriberto Aviles.....X  
Abby Bernstein, Alt.....X  
Janet Zink, Alt.....X  
Tequesta McKinney James, Appt'd.....X  
Kayai Graham, Appt'd.....X  
Ray Griffith, Appt'd.....X  
April Ross, Appt't.....ABSENT  
Y Diane Baker, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Lori Brillinger, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Angella Lipinski, Appt'd.....EXCUSED  
Mariam Glisson, Appt'd.....X  
Sharon King, Appt'd.....X

## Palm Beach Gardens

Randy Buntin.....EXCUSED  
Peter Reynolds.....X  
Brian Tiyaloglu.....X  
Christopher Baez.....EXCUSED  
Brian Nauss, Alt.....X  
Dorian Hawkins, Alt.....X

## Palm Springs

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

## Riviera Beach

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

## Stuart

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

## Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski.....EXCUSED  
Matthew Muniz, Alt.....EXCUSED

## West Palm Beach

Dennis Hardiman.....EXCUSED  
Michael Ferrera.....X  
Charles Branch.....X  
James Louis.....X  
Christopher Nebbeling.....EXCUSED  
John Rebholz, Alt.....EXCUSED



# Welcome, New PBCPBA Members

## FEBRUARY 2021

NAME	AGENCY
BRENDA MCBRINN	DELRAY BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
KARRIE CARRASQUILLO-BONILLA	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DARREL EDWARDS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SEAN MALYNN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GINO MARTINEZ	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WENDY METAYER	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TOMER NADLER	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EVENS PAULVIL	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
THAMARA PIERRE	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JUAN RAMIREZ	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TODD ROMIN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TRAVIS SATTERFIELD	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RAJI SMITH	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## MARCH 2021

NAME	AGENCY
KEVON CHAMBERS	BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
BRITTANY DRURY	BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
STEFAN LEE	BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHASON LANG	DELRAY BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
ERIK DAY	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DIKINGSON JUSTE	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARIO PIERRE	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ASHLEY ACERRA	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
RITA ENGELS	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
PHILIP MORGAN	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
JASON ALOTTA	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALEAH BROWN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RAYMOND CARLSON	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AMY ENOICY PIERRE	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ROBIN KARAS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MICHAEL KLETZKY	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

KAREN LAMENDOLA  
TONYA RENDUELES  
ERIC SWEENEY

## APRIL 2021

NAME	AGENCY
GEORGE ACKERMAN	LANTANA POLICE DEPARTMENT
SAMANTHA LESNIAK	MANALAPAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
KARL DORELIEN	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AUSTIN HILLIARD	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EZEQUIEL MALDONADO	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DUSTIN MILLS	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
FLORIDALMA PEREZ	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARCO PORTAL	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CHARLES RUBY	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JEFFREY TOMLINSON	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
VALENTINA WARREN	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LOUIS CHAMBERLAIN	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
JONATHAN GROSS	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
FRANTZ JEAN	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
GILBERT LOPEZ	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
OLIVIA MORRIS	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
LISA NEGRON	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
KRISTIAN PEREZ	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
EVELIN SANTANA	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
RODNEY SMITH	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
ALANA TABEL	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
JOSEPH VASTANO	P.B. COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
JILDA CUNNINGHAM	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CHAIM LIEBERMAN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JESSE PETERS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CHRISTIE BANKES	PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPT
THOMAS GORMAN	PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPT
CYNTHIA RADIOLA	PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPT
AUSTIN MCDEAVITT	PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPT

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# PBA is in the game on pension protection and other issues

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

So as halftime comes with the conclusion of the 2021 legislative session, let's check the score regarding the Florida PBA's agenda. The session that ran through March and April is only the first half of the time the union has to work on issues to protect members and improve benefits and working conditions.

The second-half clock for 2021 starts ticking in the fall, when interim committee meetings start and the important issues for the 2022 session will be targeted. The pandemic tripped up the game plan somewhat for the first half, but the PBA has great faith that its defensive posture has put some points on the board, so to speak.

"I think we came out of the session unscathed," comments Florida PBA Executive Director Matt Puckett.

His assessment that the PBA came out of the recently concluded session with some momentum is based on allaying the State Senate's continued desire to hit public employee pensions and the lack of consideration of any police reform legislation. And in this year, that is a victory.

"We just focused on the pension being the big thing and not having anything bad happen with police reform," Puckett continued. "Overall, we'll look at it and say it was one of those years that hopefully we don't face again. But no one will be hurt as a result of this session."

With regard to the pension, the PBA lobby spent much of the session executing some basic blocking and tackling. Working with Senate President Wilton Simpson, who first proposed public employee pension reform eight years ago, they discussed how to improve it rather than rolling it back. Such action exemplifies how the PBA continues to grow as a prominent presence and voice in state government.

Upon further review of the 2021 session interim committee meetings in January, Puckett joined with the president of the state's firefighters association to meet with Simpson and current pension bill sponsor Senator Ray Rodrigues of Lee County. They discussed a plan to study changes that would keep the pension healthy, including extending Drop by three years, allowing FRS members enrolled in the investment plan one more chance to go back to the pension plan and the option to retire and lock in at 25 years.

"For the new folks, he wants to see pensions go away, but he also understands that for certain public-sector jobs like law enforcement, corrections, probation officers, firefighters, the pension is something that really is of value to keep an employee there," Puckett notes. "It's not an easy job, and having a pension is a big deal."

Another proposed hybrid deal would give members the 3 percent pension multiplier for the first 20 years on the job. If they keep working beyond 20 years, they could go into a new investment plan and put 10 percent of salary into it, which employers would match. And you would get a guaranteed 60 percent of the highest five years of salary when reaching age 60.

The House did not go along with the plan, so it's being stud-

ied further. And that may lead to a discussion about changing the nature of the pension system completely.

"There needs to be a real structural discussion about whether we continue to have this gigantic FRS system with teachers and police and other workers all in one system, or do we go to a state-run retirement system just for first responders or special-risk employees?" Puckett says. "I think that's something that we're going to have to think about if we want to keep the pension."

Perhaps the biggest play the PBA made during the session was to increase its political capital with the executive branch and the state legislature, especially the members of the Senate and House that made up the freshmen class. Florida PBA President John Kazanjian has been leading a formidable statewide entourage of charters and chapters presidents in gaining presence with Governor Ron DeSantis, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Attorney General Ashley Moody and CFO Jimmy Patronis.

That led to the PBA being recognized as the prominent law enforcement labor union when the governor signed HB1, the anti-riot legislation, in April. Additionally, Puckett notes that many legislators were elected this past November by running a pro-law enforcement campaign.

Speaker Chris Sprowls, whose father is a retired NYPD officer and PBA member, has always been an advocate for the police, as has Simpson. Puckett added that newly elected Representative John Snyder, the son of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, has become a staunch ally, along with Representatives David Borrero and Alex Rizo, who represent Miami and other parts of south Florida, and Representative Linda Chaney from St. Pete, who took out an incumbent by running a very pro law-enforcement campaign.

"I think there are a lot of folks who are true believers and have a very strong desire to protect law enforcement and corrections," Puckett praises. "We have some very strong relationships and have built up a lot of political capital. And over time, we have grown to understand when you can spend it."

One place he doesn't anticipate spending it is on blocking and tackling any attempts to pass legislation that would take qualified immunity away from law enforcement in Florida. Though other states have passed such legislation, there are no points on the board for it in Florida.

"It has zero traction with Florida's legislature," Puckett confirms. "The speaker, the Senate president, they would never agree to it. Ashley Moody would fight it. The governor would fight it. I don't even know if the Democratic party would do it."

There was one significant scoring play to speak of: The governor's ability to keep the economy going amid the pandemic has created some funding which, combined with the \$10 billion in federal stimulus money the state is getting, will fuel a bonus check coming to all law enforcement officers.

It might not be a big score, but it's significant.

"That's a win," Puckett declares. "And again, it shows how much the governor and the state like law enforcement."



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# Educate yourself on the Florida Retirement System



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ISHMAEL  
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FLORIDA PBA  
TREASURER**

I always encourage all employees in the FRS to learn about their retirement benefits. According to the Division of Retirement, the FRS Pension Plan is currently the fourth largest state retirement system in the U.S., with more than 2.6 million active, retired and terminated vested and nonvested members and \$162 billion in assets. The division pays out \$11 billion a year in retiree benefits, maintains the service history, vesting and membership status records and collects nearly \$4.5 billion annually in employer and employee contributions from more than 1,000 employers for all FRS members.

According to the latest FRS membership data, as of June 30, 2020, there are 644,338 active members, consisting of

regular class, special risk class, special risk administrative support class, elected officers' class and senior management service class. There are 33,593 members currently participating in the DROP. There are also 432,258 retired members who have earned and are currently enjoying their FRS pensions. I salute the retirees for their service!

## Tough times ahead — 2021 Legislative Session

I want to encourage everyone in the FRS to monitor SB 84, which is sponsored by Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Chairman Ray Rodrigues, who is a Republican representing Estero, Florida. Estero is a village in Lee County, Florida, with a population of just over 22,000.

This bill closes the pension plan (defined benefit) to new enrollees and requires all new enrollees to participate in the investment plan (defined contribution), effective July 1, 2022. The bill does

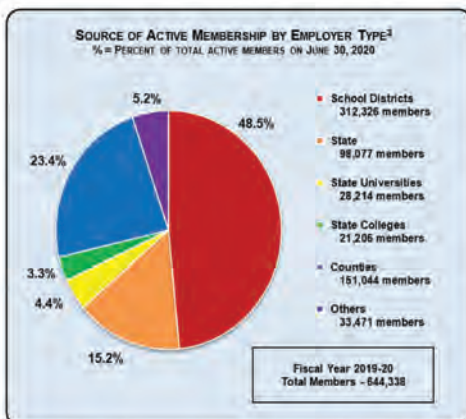
not impact the rights of any current FRS enrollees to select participation in the pension plan or the investment plan. Changes included in the bill pertain only to FRS members initially enrolled in the system on or after July 1, 2022. SB 84 is 32 pages long and can be found on the website [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). It will be very interesting to see what this bill develops into. As I stated above, stay informed with facts and do not listen to the rumors.

Please take some time to review all the information (videos, bulletins and newsletters) available to each of you about the FRS at [www.myfrs.com](http://www.myfrs.com). Please feel free to contact me at [ish@sflpba.org](mailto:ish@sflpba.org) or 305-593-0044.

*Nizam "Ish" Ishmael is a captain with the Miami-Dade Police Department and treasurer of the South Florida PBA.*

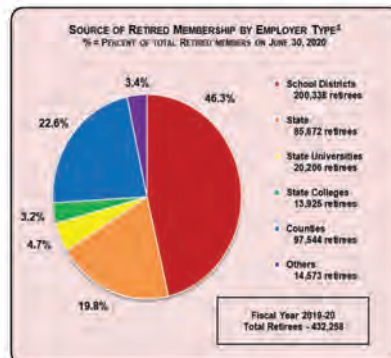
### ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DATA

ACTIVE MEMBERS BY SYSTEM/CLASS <sup>1</sup>		# of Members
FRS:	Regular Class	550,053
	Special Risk Class	75,161
	Special Risk Administrative Support Class	107
	Elected Officers' Class	2,040
	Senior Management Service Class	7,771
<b>Renewed Membership:</b>		
	Regular Class	7,691
	Special Risk Class	1,182
	Special Risk Administrative Support Class	1
	Elected Officers' Class	113
	Senior Management Service Class	209
	<b>Subtotal (FRS only):</b>	<b>644,328</b>
Teachers' Retirement System		8
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences <sup>2</sup>		2
	<b>Subtotal (other systems):</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>TOTAL (all systems):</b>	<b>644,338</b>



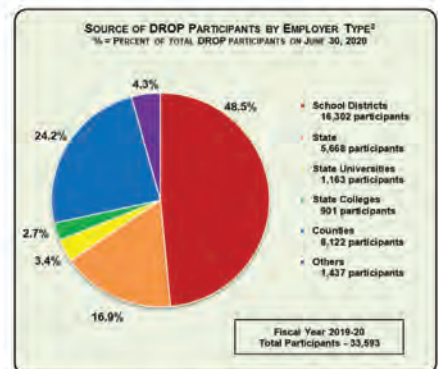
### RETIRED MEMBERSHIP DATA

RETIRED MEMBERS BY SYSTEM/CLASS <sup>1</sup>		# of Members
FRS:	Regular Class	379,766
	Special Risk Class	40,912
	Special Risk Administrative Support Class	170
	Elected Officers' Class	2,569
	Senior Management Service Class	5,204
	<b>Subtotal (FRS only):</b>	<b>428,731</b>
Teachers' Retirement System		3,129
State and County Officers and Employees' Retirement System (SCOERS)		223
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences <sup>2</sup>		175
	<b>Subtotal (other systems):</b>	<b>3,527</b>
	<b>TOTAL (all systems):</b>	<b>432,258</b>



### DROP PARTICIPANT DATA

DROP PARTICIPANTS BY SYSTEM/CLASS <sup>1</sup>		# of Participants
FRS:	Regular Class	29,233
	Special Risk Class	3,460
	Special Risk Administrative Support Class	4
	Elected Officers' Class	281
	Senior Management Service Class	615
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>33,593</b>



<sup>1</sup> Counts based on FRS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as of June 30, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Effective July 1, 2007, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences was consolidated under the FRS.

<sup>3</sup> Others include Cities, Special Districts, Charter Schools, Housing Authorities, and Independent Hospitals.



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# Get a Life Plan

## Realizing the value of the PBCPBA's new life planning benefits

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

As a PBSO deputy assigned to courtroom security, Karen Salley has seen the ugly side of legal proceedings. Too many of these have been probate matters contesting wills and estates that wind up in family fights and prolonged, costly actions.

So when Salley saw the PBCPBA had retained the services of Kevin Drummond, a PBA member, law enforcement officer and wills and estates attorney par excellence, she inquired about taking advantage of the union's newest premium benefit. She reached out to the PBA and recently updated her will and established a life estate plan that will give her the security and stability every law enforcement officer seeks these days.

"I would have to say it was the easiest thing I did in 2020," Salley quips. Not only do all officers want that security, but they want it with the least amount of hassle. Such was the residual value Salley realized in working with Drummond and his Blue Line Law Firm, which is providing a lifeline to justice for PBCPBA members.

"I would say it's important because you never know in today's society what may happen. But also working in the courts, you see a lot of things that are dragged out for years because they are not done properly," Salley continues. "Both factors made me want to make sure everything is in line. And the way Kevin did it was very efficient."

Salley added that she was impressed by the relentless effort Drummond put into getting her plan set. She wanted to make



PBSO Deputy Karen Salley executes her updated will and life estate plan that attorney Kevin Drummond helped put together as part of the PBCPBA Life Planning program.

sure her assets would not wind up in probate court and that her home passes directly and immediately to her two children when she passes. She could tell Drummond approached her work with the motivation of the law enforcement officer he is.

Most of the work was done through Skype, Zoom, text messaging through an encrypted line and emails until it was time to sign the documents. She confided that Drummond seemed to work around the clock and that she received communications from him at night, on weekends and pretty much any time of the day.

"I'm very fortunate to be able to transition to doing this full-time because as a law enforcement officer, you're so busy helping other people every day that you forget and neglect yourself," Drummond observes. "Then all of the sudden you need it. Someone dies, and you wonder, 'Will they be able to find out where your bank accounts are? Can they pay your funeral expenses? Can they pay the mortgage?' You've got to remember that."

Drummond has seen the fights Salley mentioned. He has seen brothers and sisters go tit-for-tat over power of attorney and drawn-out processes to get a safe deposit box opened. He is trying to save members' families from having to incur the costly legal fees that those situations reap.

But Blue Line Law has an even more timely lifeline to offer. With the way qualified immunity is being dripped out in a lot of states and the threat of going after officers' pensions increases, he wants PBA members to consider estate plans that include living trusts, irrevocable trusts and revocable trusts to protect the assets they have worked a long time for and risked their lives for.

"We ask the questions to flesh out all the information, like if this situation happens, is there a fail safe," Drummond explains. "It gives you time to reassess your personal life in the sense of who do you trust to take care of your affairs."

It's a simple proposition, really, according to Salley.

"Family first," she states. "In this line of work, and even outside this line of work, anything can happen with no notice. So don't leave your family stranded."

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# The Great Ball

## Trump's appearance caps unprecedented night of honor and celebration for PBCPBA members

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS

A rush came over the crowd at the 13th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers Ball even before Donald J. Trump could make it through the door. When he arrived at the event held in the grand ballroom of Trump National in Jupiter on April 25, more than 300 members, family members, guests and assorted law enforcement devotees rushed the 45th president in search of a handshake, hug, high-five or selfie.

And as Trump worked his way to the podium where he delivered 10 minutes of electric recognition and support of his BFFs in blue, he accommodated every request to mingle with the masses. Shouts of "U-S-A, U-S-A" and "We love you" reverberated as PBA President John Kazanjian used what was left of his voice to get attendees back in their seats so the show could go on.

And what a show it was. The best Police Officers' Ball ever

played like a rock concert. If that concert would have featured the Beatles, the Stones, Johnny Cash and Elvis on the same bill. This was more than a Ball, more than a show. It was a Copapalooza of dignitaries and celebrities pledging their respect, recognition and admiration for law enforcement.

"You are incredible, brave people," Trump trumpeted as he welcomed everybody to his grand venue. "I can't tell you what an honor it is to have anyone even related to the police here because you do a job like nobody else."

Trump upstaged Dan Bongino, the retired NYPD officer and Secret Service agent who is now a renowned law enforcement advocate as a Fox News commentator. Bongino upstaged U.S. Representative and U.S. Army hero Brian Mast, who first whipped the crowd into a frenzy by declaring that you don't make America great again by defunding the police.

With the lovely Grace DeLoe, a cousin of a certain PBCPBA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20





Former NYPD officer and Fox News commentator Dan Bongino relates stories to praise officers for their work.

president who came from Boston, performing a rousing version of the national anthem, the stage was set for the most prolific PBCPBA officer awards ever, two years of honorees to account for those who did not get recognition last year because of the pandemic canceling the Ball. Each of these heroes, from Riviera Beach Detective Jemel Headings to a PBSO narcotics task force that took down a gang-member drug dealer, received rock-star ovations and are duly recognized in the pages that follow this account.

The night, of course, crescendoed with Trump's appearance. It prompted so many memorable moments, not the least of which was the president bringing up Margie Kazanjian, Kaz's 88-year-old mother, to the podium to give her a hug. It culminated with the crowd once again rushing the stage after Trump's remarks, when he autographed a baseball that legendary PBCPBA sponsor Rich Tschernia provided.

One ball was auctioned off to raise money for the PBA scholarship fund. It took about three minutes for the bidding to reach \$8,500, which Jupiter physician Alexander Lenard gladly and graciously donated.

"What better cause can there be than supporting the police who protect us," Dr. Lenard submitted. "As a father with children in the community and somebody who covers our trauma center, I have seen what happens when law enforcement is not around."

Trump left a lavish event at Mar-a-Lago to come to the Ball. He explained that those patrons asked, "How could you leave us? But I told them, I'm leaving for the police. That's it."

He came to show some love, especially for Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and his officers. As he pointed to Bradshaw, he praised, "Nobody does it better. We come into this area and we always feel secure. You have always been there for me, and I appreciate it."

Trump also gave a nod to Palm Beach County Mayor David Kerner. He even paid the former police officer his ultimate compliment, which included these remarks:

"David Kerner, I know he's a Democrat, but he came out the other day with 60 Minutes – that's fake news. And as a Democrat, all he wanted to do was tell the truth. He wasn't looking to help or hurt anybody, and everybody respects you for that, David."

Trump's stay extended to greet the masses with more hugs, handshakes and accommodating photo ops for everybody who



President Trump recognizes Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw for his department's service.

wanted one. He stopped to pay his respects to Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench, who has become a mainstay at the Ball the past several years.

The warm-up for Trump was Bongino, whose monologue offered affirmation of the law enforcement mission mixed in with his unique brand of entertainment value. The one-liners from the Martin County resident worth repeating included:

"Those of you who know me, know I'm a total hermit. I don't leave my house. But I told my wife, 'For cops, I am definitely there.'"

And:

"Nobody's in this for the money. You don't put this badge on your chest thinking, 'I'm going to be a Deutsche Banker one day and start financing mergers and acquisitions. And this isn't 'Starsky & Hutch.' No one's getting a reality series for being on the streets. So if it's not for the money and it's not for the fame or notoriety, then why do you do it? Probably for the reasons I did. You just give a damn and figured you'd make a difference. It's not Aesop's fable. It's just real."

Finally, when addressing the epidemic plaguing law enforcement of not prosecuting lesser crimes, Bongino started with lines about how the guy who jumps the turnstile on the subway is the same guy who beats the crap out of someone on the train. But when he was on NYPD, they finally put a stop to that.

"It was called 'broken windows policing,'" he continued. "If we arrest people for the little stuff, they won't be on the street for the big stuff. And guess what happened? Crime dropped like 72,000 percent. It's that way in Martin County because they do a crazy thing here. They actually arrest people. And that's why the sheriff gets reelected by like 99.9 to 0.1. That one vote is his opponent."

Congressman Mast, who has received an endorsement from the PBA for each of his three terms in the U.S. House, drew his own thundering raves and cheers when he stepped up to make the opening statement. It was an opening act that is still resonating and set the tone for a Ball that would not only honor the Officers of the Year from 2019 and 2020 but fulfill the mission of the PBCPBA to serve and protect its members at every turn.

"I don't claim to know a lot, but I know this much," Mast began. "You don't defund the people who fight for you every day, every single one of you that goes out there and puts on a shield that does not protect you but makes you a target. You don't defund the ones who risk their lives on a daily basis. You don't de-



## 13th Annual PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball



U.S. Representative Brian Mast opens the Ball with an important message supporting the police.



The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard posts colors, the PBSO Pipes & Drums performs and Grace DeLoe sings the national anthem.



fund those who get shot in the face, those that pull other people out of cars, those that charge into situations that everybody else wants to pull away from. There are very few who have the courage to undertake and even less that are capable of doing it. And I salute every single one of you."

Other words appropriate for this occasion are ones that get evoked so much they seem to be trite. But it truly doesn't get any better than this. A weekend of benevolence and honor that began with the annual Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship

Fund Golf Tournament on Friday culminated with the best Ball ever on Saturday night.

It was so much of a success that even before it ended, Kaz announced the all-in-one weekend will be held again March 20-21, 2022. All the events will be held at Trump National. Word is that the 45th president will be there again if he doesn't have a previous engagement. And, judging by this year's event, he probably will even if he does.

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# 13th Annual PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball

## Award-Winning Night

The featured attraction of the 13th annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball was the opportunity to recognize the best of the best of members going above and beyond the call of duty. And it was extra-special this year. With the pandemic canceling the 2020 Ball, honors for Officers of the Year and first, second and third runners-up were presented for both 2019 and 2020.

**So read all about this award-winning night.**

**Stories by Mitchell Krugel, Rosemary An and Dan Campana  
Photography by Damon Higgins**

# He is a hero

### 2020 Officer of the Year

Detective Jamel Headings

Riviera Beach Police Department

A night – a weekend, actually – of tribute, celebration and determination culminated appropriately with a hug. Riviera Beach Detective Jamel Headings rushed to the podium to receive the 2020 PBCPBA Officer of the Year award, and he wrapped up PBA President John Kazanjian in an embrace that seemed to go on forever.

Booming applause provided the soundtrack for this ceremony, the climax of commemorating law enforcement's excellence and benevolence the past two days. Headings's heroic, just-in-the-nick-of-time, off-duty response to take out the killer of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Joseph Bullock in February 2020 truly represented the way the police uphold the rule of law above everything else.

The crescendo of this award nearly upstaged the appearance of President Trump moments earlier. But honoring Headings for the bravest of all achievements – getting a cop-killer – was the fitting way to cap off the best-ever Police Officers' Ball.

"This was a very special moment that I will never forget," revealed Headings, who has been on with Riviera Beach for 11 years. "I'm feeling very blessed."

Headings may have been at a loss for words, considering the magnitude of this evening. The former president stopping





the show as the awards were being handed out raised the atmosphere to beyond the usual fever pitch the Ball elicits.

But even thinking back to what happened on Feb. 5, 2020 is still a blur for Headings.

"It just happened so fast," he disclosed. "When I initially saw the trooper, it was hard for me to believe what I was seeing. I knew that boy was probably still in the area, and I needed to find out who the killer was."

Perhaps what made Headings's response so cathartic is that it came after an incident that started with attending to a distressed motorist and escalated into an attack on a law enforcement officer. At approximately 9 a.m., Bullock was on duty along I-95 when he stopped in the northbound lanes near mile marker 107 in Palm City to help 30-year-old Franklin Reed III.

Bullock pulled away, but an hour later a 911 report of an accident with a vehicle in the grass brought Bullock back to Reed. Bullock remained on scene with Reed for about an hour, waiting for a tow-truck driver, when the scene turned to tragedy.

The tow truck company called 911 to report that Bullock had been shot and Reed was running away down the highway shooting at the tow-truck driver. Martin County sheriff's deputies units immediately headed to the scene, where motorists trying to get to Bullock were met with gunfire.

That's when Headings drove past and stopped to respond. Wearing a clearly marked police vest, he called 911 after seeing Trooper Bullock on the ground.

"When I saw the trooper, training and God kicked in," Headings confided. "That's all there was."

According to reports, dispatchers heard Headings ordering

Reed to the ground. Gunfire broke out. Headings ordered Reed to drop his gun before more rounds could be heard.

Investigators determined Reed shot at least twice at Headings, who returned multiple rounds. One of his rounds reportedly struck Reed in the center of his chest, and the sheriff's office said it would have been fatal. But Reed, who was reportedly set off by being upset about the bill for the tow truck, turned his gun on himself.

It has become an emotional memory for Headings. He drives by the scene every day on his way to work and repeatedly sees the image of Bullock down where he found him. But this upbeat and effusive law enforcement officer, who also earned recognition as a Top Cop from the National Association of Police Organizations, still sees the incident as a blessing.

"It is painful because seeing another cop lost like that and hearing why, it was a senseless murder," he explained. "But I have a feeling of relief that I survived, and I can talk to my wife again."

Headings added how much the award means to him because of the support of his department and the PBA. He exudes the humility that is indicative of a PBCPBA Officer of the Year.

And although Headings would never call his actions heroic, there were others who did not hesitate to do so.

"I think in law enforcement we use that work a little loosely sometimes, but he is a hero," Florida Highway Patrol Major Robert Chandler praised Headings at the time of the incident. "Let's just say that the suspect who murdered Trooper Bullock couldn't hurt anyone else because of this detective."



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## Cool and collected

When Palm Beach Gardens Officer David Joy is on duty, he eats breakfast in his patrol car parked in a parking lot. On Sept. 6, 2020, he went about his usual routine — until he received a call at 10:54 a.m. about a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Military Trail and Hood Road.

There were reports of a possible ejection and arm injury, and Joy just happened to be less than a quarter-mile away from the intersection. He stepped on the gas pedal and arrived first on scene.

"There were multiple callers about the accident, so that means it's more serious," Joy recalled. "And as I was pulling up, I could just see the debris on both sides of the roadway. I had to ask for backup."

Joy rolled up to a man lying on the ground in a thick pool of blood. But his 3 1/2 years as an officer had prepared him well — he knew the man would need a tourniquet before even getting out of his car.

Joy confirmed that the crash had caused the man to be ejected from his vehicle. And upon getting closer, he saw the extent

### 2020 First Runner-Up Officer David Joy Palm Beach Gardens Police Department

of the arm injuries.

"It was going to be a partial amputation," Joy explained. "You could see his biceps, triceps and humerus. His arm was bent the wrong way and tucked into his body."

The injury to the man's arm was severe enough that Joy decided not to move him to slip the arm through the tourniquet. Instead, Joy wrapped the tourniquet around the victim's arm and cinched it down as hard as he could to stop the bleeding.

"He was awake the whole time," Joy remarked. "We applied sternum rubs to keep him conscious."

Joy calmly gave updates over the police radio and reassured the victim while waiting for the ambulance. Meanwhile, other officers who had arrived on scene escorted people out of the area and held up a



yellow blanket to prevent people from stopping to see the commotion. When fire rescue arrived, the victim was taken to St. Mary's Hospital.

For Joy's quick response, calm demeanor and cool head that helped ensure the victim's survival, he was honored as the first runner-up for the 2020 Officer of the Year award at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball.

"It's my first award," Joy exclaimed. "No one responds to a call with the intention of receiving an award — we are just doing our job. But I am thankful to the department for recognizing me and my team for our hard work."

## Teamwork works

Training, preparation and teamwork paid dividends when the pursuit of an armed robbery suspect escalated toward potential tragedy for three members of the Boynton Beach Police Department.

It happened in July 2019 when Sergeant Brian McDeavitt, along with Officers Daryn Whitefield and Officer D.J. Hall, responded to a Dollar Tree where a man threatened a store clerk with a firearm during a robbery.

The Boynton trio spotted the suspect in a nearby shopping plaza, but the man ignored commands to stop and continued to walk toward a crowded grocery store. As he did so, officers noticed the man pull a gun from his pocket. Understanding the potential for an active shooter situation at the store, McDeavitt, Whitefield and Hall opened fire to end the threat.

The trio earned a second runner-up recognition for 2020 during the Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Year award ceremony in April.

Hall, with less than three years on the job in Boynton Beach, had never expe-

### 2020 Second Runner-Up Sergeant Brian McDeavitt Officer Daryn Whitefield Officer D.J. Hall Boynton Beach Police Department

rienced an incident like this but understands what it took to keep it from reaching a much worse conclusion.

"The teamwork, honestly," said Hall, a former Marine. "Sergeant McDeavitt and Whitefield, we always debrief or go over certain situations where there could be an active shooter. And, we always go over certain situations that could lead to a success of either apprehension or taking out the threat. When the call comes out, you're not really thinking that much. When somebody brandishes a firearm... you've got to take out the threat."

Ultimately, officers looking out for each other and the trust that breeds proved to be a difference-maker when the moment



called for it.

"People just wanting to protect one another, always being a team and being there for one another — that made this a successful mission," Hall added.

Hall said the awards night provided an amazing experience to be recognized along with his peers and to have his wife and two children there to see it.

"To be representing fellow officers Daryn Whitefield and Sergeant McDeavitt, it was a true honor," Hall said.



# Never off duty

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputy Corey Reece successfully prevented the kidnapping of a 4-year-old child while he was off duty in June 2020, a feat that led him to be honored at the White House just two years into his career.

For saving the potential kidnapping victim, he was chosen as the 2020 third runner-up for the Officer of the Year award at the 13th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball.

"You don't realize the full impact of your actions," Reece explained following the incident. "I just went out there and did what's right. I just tried to fix the problem."

What started as a trip to the funeral of Reece's wife's aunt led to chaos when he heard a woman's scream coming from the hallway of a Hampton Inn hotel he was staying at in Tampa. He saw the woman clutching her crying boy while

## 2020 Third Runner-Up

Deputy Sheriff Corey Reece  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

a man stood over them, grabbing for the child.

When he separated the two, his first instinct was that it was a domestic situation — until the woman screamed that she didn't know the man. When other hotel guests came out of their rooms and saw the commotion, they started to get aggressive with the perpetrator.

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

As it turned out, someone had taken a video of the altercation and posted it on Twitter, and it went viral with more than



one million views. And almost a month later, the deputy was invited to the White House for a roundtable discussion about his actions.

"It's hard to put into words," Reece remembered. "I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that's for sure."



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# Taking down the devil

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Agent Osee Dumel recalled the day in 2019 when a joint buy/bust narcotics operation with the DEA and FBI led to a drug dealer who was a known MS13 gang member.

"I stood in the darkness with my brothers and the devil showed up," Dumel commented about the climax of the undercover operation that included PBSO agents David Kalmus Jr., Carlos Valencia and Brian Randall and West Palm Beach Police Department Agent Carlos Yermanos. "And we just took care of business."

That's about all they wanted to recall of this incident that resulted in a shootout in which they took out the dealer. When the officers gathered at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball, there was much to celebrate, beginning with receiving the 2019 Officer of the Year award.

First and foremost, they wanted to honor Kalmus, who took a bullet to the face when they moved in on the suspect. They also were humbled that the night included receiving their awards as National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Top Cops, which they were named for 2019 but did not get until now because the pandemic cancelled that awards banquet.

And they recalled an operation made good by the training that prepared this team impeccably for such responses.

"Our command is incredible, giving us the equipment we need and the training we need," Valencia submitted. "Because of the training we have, with everything that happened that day, from point A to point C, we knew exactly what to do."

While a packed ballroom at Trump National saluted the officers for a textbook performance, the officers also wanted to tip their caps to the man who made it all possible.

"Hats off to Sheriff Bradshaw because at the end of the day, it all starts at the top," added Dumel, who has worked for PBSO for 14 years. "His leadership and his vision take care of us. At the end of the day, we take care of him."

The only painful point of the operation was Kalmus getting shot. As he enjoyed the post-awards party at the Ball, Kalmus shared that he is back working in narcotics and taking it one day at a time.

Other members of the unit checked in on him repeatedly after the incident, and he noted that the camaraderie has been the best medicine for feeling better. Looking back, Kalmus, who has been on for six years, has a clear perspective

## 2019 Officers of the Year

Agent Carlos Valencia

Agent David Kalmus Jr.

Agent Brian Randall

Agent Osee Dumel

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Agent Carlos Yermanos

West Palm Beach Police Department

about what he learned from the incident.

"Just be mentally prepared," he explained. "You can't go in blindfolded. So I would definitely mentally prepare for something like that to occur because it's never outside the realm of possibility while you're doing these kinds of things. Or just any traffic stop. Or just being on the road."

The unit was definitely ready for this suspect. Valencia, who has been with PBSO since 2006, had been involved in hundreds of buy/busts, and he knew the suspect was ready to take when they had made four previous purchases from him.

Surveillance on the dealer revealed that he was alone in his care and in place for the buy. The agents moved in to take him down.

"When we made contact with his vehicle to initiate the stop, it was like seeing a deer in the middle of the night," Valencia detailed. "I could see his wide eyes looking at us as we announced ourselves, 'Sheriff's officers. Put your hands on your head.' As soon as we started the approach, he started shooting at us."

More than two years later, though, it was all's well that ends well. And that was clearly evident in how much the honor meant to Yermanos. A 14-year veteran of West Palm Beach, Yermanos was brought to the U.S. from Cali, Columbia with his mother, an illegal alien.

When he finished high school, 9/11 had just happened, so Yermanos joined the U.S. Army. As a paratrooper on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, he became a U.S. citizen.

His military experience helped Yermanos realize that the operation was more than ready. "In our minds, we were like, 'If this guy does this, we're going to do this,'" he said. And he had been in shootings before, so he knew how much it meant to have taken down this dealer.

"I am proud of the fact that I'm here right now talking to you," Yermanos exclaimed as the Ball reached its end-of-the night pinnacle. "I am living proof of the American dream."



## The bravest K-9

A split second.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies Ryan Soriano and Alexander Nunes know that the slimmest margin of time separated life from tragedy — and K-9 Cigo paid the ultimate price to make that difference for the veteran officers.

On Christmas Eve 2018, Soriano and Cigo were called in to assist PBSO's Tactical Unit agents searching for two men accused of attempted murder. The hunt led agents to a mall parking lot, where one of the men began to run from officers. Soriano, fearing the suspect would be a danger to officers and the public, released Cigo to chase down the man.

As Cigo closed in, the man opened fire, shot the K-9 and took aim at the deputies. But before he could pull the trigger again, Soriano and Nunes shot the suspect to end the threat. The deputies immediately began to perform lifesaving aid on both Cigo and the suspect. Cigo did not survive, but the deputies were able to save the life of the man who had just tried to kill them.

### 2019 First Runners-Up

Deputy Sheriff Ryan Soriano  
Deputy Sheriff Alexander Nunes  
K-9 Cigo  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

For their quick action, Soriano and Nunes were named first runners-up for the 2019 Palm Beach County PBCPBA Officer of the Year awards.

"I think one of the things that gave us a slight advantage was K-9 Cigo. He was able to throw that guy off for just a split second longer. That gave us an opportunity to go ahead and respond with the correct amount of force," 18-year veteran Soriano said.

Nunes, who has been on the job for eight years, reflected on the incident as bittersweet because the deputies came away unscathed because of Cigo.

"If the guy wasn't distracted by the dog...he could have easily fired a round at me. [Cigo] did everything he was supposed to do," Nunes explained. "It is very sentimental and emotional



for both of us, what [Cigo] did."

Through it all, tactical preparation played a key role in apprehending the suspects, Nunes added.

"Training is paramount here. When you get caught in a moment where it's life or death...only you're going to know how hard you trained — and it's going to show when stuff like this happens," he said.

## Whodunit?

Jupiter PD Detective Danielle Hirsch was instrumental in resolving what is believed to be the most heinous crime ever to have occurred in Jupiter.

In January 2017, the Jupiter PD responded to Mohawk Street about a shooting. Officers found three deceased subjects outside of the home, while another subject who resided at the residence was also shot and had sustained injuries.

While officers were handling the scene, PBSO found another subject who was shot in the Paseos Development.

### 2019 Second Runners-Up

Detective Danielle Hirsch  
Jupiter Police Department

Hirsch volunteered to handle the investigation as the lead detective.

After two months of interviews, warrants, subpoenas and other investigative methods, Hirsch was able to establish probable cause on one subject. And a few months later, the detective established probable cause on a second sub-

ject after receiving results from a DNA lab hit.

The first suspect recently went to trial, was found guilty on three counts of first-degree homicide and was sentenced to life in prison. The second suspect is awaiting trial.

Hirsch's investigative acumen and resolve brought closure to the odious crime, making her the 2019 second runner-up at the PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball.

# Putting a stop to it

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Deputies Luis Pacheco and Frederick Merkle Jr. turned a traffic stop into a drug bust in just a few weeks.

After conducting a traffic stop in the town of Magonia Park in February 2019, Pacheco arrested a male and female for possession of crack cocaine and a controlled substance. Acting with patience and compassion instead of indifference, he developed a rapport with the two of them.

That relationship led the man and woman to give Pacheco information about their narcotics supplier. And after weeks of surveillance and two trash pulls, he finally developed probable cause for a search warrant on the narcotics supplier's residence.

Merkle and his K-9 arrived on scene and located several kilos of heroin-fentanyl and cocaine. Merkle's K-9 then alerted the

## 2019 Third Runners-Up

Deputy Sheriffs Luis Pacheco and

Frederick Merkle, Jr.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

deputies that there were currency and narcotics in the supplier's storage unit.

After getting a second search warrant authorized, they were able to get into the storage unit. Inside, Pacheco and Merkle found and seized two firearms, ammunition, multiple kilos of heroin-fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, a scale, baggies, para-

phernalia and \$170,000.

With Pacheco developing a rapport with the man and woman at the traffic stop and Merkle's instrumental efforts, the two were able to take down the drug den full of narcotics, currency and firearms.

For their outstanding job in going beyond the call of duty, the two deputies were chosen as the third runner-up for the 2019 Officer of the Year award.



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# With Love

## Members, family, friends and law enforcement lovers bring it all for their Angel

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY BILLY GRAY

Happy birthday, Angel.

You continue to show us the light of the world.

How majestic that your annual golf outing to raise money for the Palm Beach County PBA Scholarship Fund had to be rescheduled this year for April 23 because of the pandemic. The day after your birthday.

Thank you for the beautiful weather.

Thank you for providing a day that PBA members and the law enforcement profession needed to celebrate each other and their ability to give back to such a noble cause. A day that shows there is no more infectious form of fraternalism than what runs through this organization. And a day that accentuates the B for benevolence in PBA.

It was a day to feel what so many people love about the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament.

You could see the love and emotion flowing through your dad. After starting the event by leading the Pledge of Allegiance with Sheriff Bradshaw at his side and calling the PBSO honor guard to post colors, he sat back and took it all in with that little smile on his face. You know the one, where he's thinking about you and is grateful for how everybody comes out to raise money to send kids to college.

Your brother, Johnny – or Jake, as Kaz and all his friends call him – might have had the biggest smile of the day. Perhaps that's



because the whole family, including many of the relatives from Boston, were together the whole week. And with so many of them having young children now, well, you can imagine how much it meant to be there for you and with you.

"The biggest thing is that we're keeping my sister's memory alive, and the foundation makes so many positive contributions to the community," Jake shared. "And just to have Kaitlin, to always talk about her, to keep saying her name every day is really huge for my family and me. She's our angel since day one. No doubt about it. And she's with us today."

Kevin Igo, the PBCPBA secretary, praised Kaz for the direction he has set with the union's fundraising. He called the day euphoric, adding, "It's an event that's bigger than us. That's what I like about it."

Certainly, you saw and sensed all the participants nodding to you on this day. As Palm Beach County Mayor David Kerner noted while playing with his father, retired Lake Worth Officer Marty Kerner, "I think she would appreciate law enforcement officers and the community getting together for a good day in the Florida sunshine."

Bringing members together ignites so much of the love that fills this day. Nobody seems to appreciate that more than Sheriff Bradshaw, who has played in every one of these golf outings.

He extends a special wish to you. It's a big day personally because he gets to see people he does not all year round because the agency is so big. And for another reward the outing provides.

"How many kids have gotten scholarships because of this event?" the sheriff reminded. "Obviously, it's great work for charity and it's been important for us to have the connection with the community. It's even more important today."

Another thank-you note comes from Ron Carhart, who has been on with PBSO for 20-plus years. His family has been the recipient of those scholarships, so even with the challenge of the



job, there's motivation to be out there with the officers who do the job because, "You always feel like you want to give back."

So look at what you continue to do for so many people. Chuck Branch, who has been on for 18 years with West Palm Beach, started off a much-anticipated weekend by playing in the outing. He was joined by his wife, Andrea, who works homicide for West Palm.

"It's like a tonic being out here today," Branch declared. "It's like a bit of a pick-me-up."

Your mission has also given public safety a day to stand strong together. Mike Arena, who has been with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue for 31 years, expressed the virtue of the mission, saying, "We need these events. We know they put a lot of effort in all year making this quite the event for everybody. It's good that it keeps going, and we look forward to an even better one next year."

And you should know how much you did this year for a profession that is hurting. If it was a day to celebrate fraternalism and benevolence, the motivation to keep the faith that spread through PGA National was similarly palpable.

Optimism permeated every foursome, and Marty Kerner described that feeling by confirming, "You can't beat being a police officer. I encourage every young person I meet to be a cop and do something so worthwhile."

Yes, Angel, it was a day to not be afraid to flaunt the presence of law enforcement. Dad's friend Jeff Andrews, who served with PBSO for 30 years and has played in the outing every year since its inception, added that being front and center today was a true gift.

"The men and women that go out there and work hard every day, they're the majority and they're not even seen anymore," Andrews articulated. "I think most of the public knows that the women and men in law enforcement go out there and risk their lives and do a great job for the community."

You will be happy to know, sweet Kaitlin, that your golf outing has become the place for PBA members from across the state to be every spring. Mick McHale, the president of the National Association of Police Organizations and the Florida PBA Senior Vice President, came from Sarasota to tee it up.

Coastal Florida PBA President Marlon Buggs added to the light the outing provides by giving fellow officers a message of reassurance that there is more support for the police out there than they think.

"The general public, for the most part, they still support us," Buggs proclaimed. "I go places where I'm in uniform and people are trying to buy lunches and dinners for us. We have a lot of people who say, 'Thank you for what you do.'"

Everybody knows how much you appreciate what they are doing on this day. That's probably why they all stopped to look at your smiling face on the banner that overlooked the course.

Broward County PBA Vice President Tom Tiberio came back to the event this year to reinforce the feeling of what keeps him going on the job.

"It's a huge stress relief to get away from the job just for one day and hang out with like-minded cops who are trying to do a tough job in this climate right now," Tiberio added. "If we could do this more often, it would be great."

A closing thought, sweetheart, comes from your beloved friend Ray Griffith, who takes great pride in his team cooking up the feast that makes this celebration. They are up at 3 a.m. and they don't finish until sundown, but it is a labor of love without question.

"We take care of our kids, and that's what it's about, our kids," Uncle Ray asserted. "And the camaraderie this brings is phenomenal. We just love doing it."

Clearly, you have given everybody such a gift.

So happy birthday, Angel.

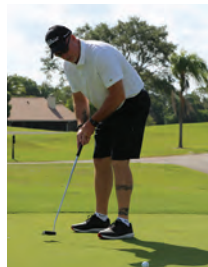
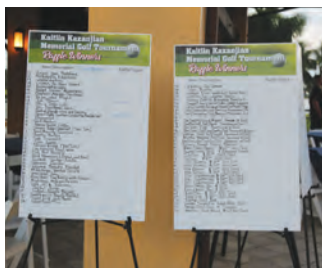




# From an Angel's eye

The sites and scenes that make the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament so precious

*Photos by Billy Gray*





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# Your Votes Counted

From helping 22-year PBCPBA member Robert Hagerty unseat an incumbent to become mayor of Lantana to sweeping races in Delray Beach, Juno Beach and almost every beach in between, union support carried endorsed candidates to victory in a heavy majority of the March 9 municipal elections. Here is a look at the newly elected officials the PBCPBA endorsed with the percentage and number of votes they carried:

## City of Delray Beach Commissioner Seat 1

✓ Adam Frankel (I) 55% 6,070  
Price Patton 45% 4,918

## City of Delray Beach Commissioner Seat 3

✓ Ryan Boylston (I) 60% 6,642  
Mitch Katz 40% 4,372

## City of Riviera Beach Council District 4

✓ Julia Botel (I) 72% 2,919  
Glen Spiritis 28% 1,131

## City of Palm Beach Gardens Council Group 2

✓ Marcie Tinsley 70% 5,124  
Rob Nanfro 30% 2,159

## Town of Juno Beach Council Seat Two

✓ Elaine Cotronakis 60% 686  
Stuart Katz 40% 451

## Town of Juno Beach Council Seat Four

✓ Diana Davis 38% 426  
DD Halpern 33% 367  
Alexander Cooke 30% 335

## Town of Lantana Mayor

✓ Robert Hagerty 59% 815  
David Stewart 41% 557

## Village of Tequesta Council Seat Two

✓ Harrison Vaughn 50% 573  
Molly Young 50% 566

## Village of North Palm Beach Council Group 2

✓ Susan Tiedemann Bickel 72% 1,844  
Colby Biggs 28% 719

## Village of North Palm Beach Council Group 4

✓ David Norris 62% 1,591  
John Frerking 38% 968

## Congrats, Sergeant Luscavich

Members of the Juno Beach Police Department gathered on March 4 to honor Road Patrol Sergeant Andrew Luscavich, who retired after 29 years on the job. Luscavich, center in the light blue shirt, began his service on Feb. 5, 1992.



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# Training Sensitivity

## West Palm Beach's Nebbeling hopes to bring his expertise to new assignment as CJSTC commissioner

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When the avalanche following the George Floyd tragedy fell on law enforcement, Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian gathered unit reps to discuss a response to the riots/protests, the news media onslaught and politicians' calls for defunding the police. What could be done to educate the masses, the media and the political candidates about how law enforcement needed support to improve and increase its ability to serve and protect?

At that meeting in June 2020, West Palm Beach Rep Chris Nebbeling submitted how a lot of people in the room believed training would be the ticket. "It's the only real way to solve many of these problems," he said at the time.

Nebbeling knows the power of training. As a high liability instructor and range master for the West Palm Beach Police Department, he has embraced the opportunity to give officers some of the tools they need to be successful on the street. He knows if they don't have the skills, then they risk reacting with whatever their lowest skill level is and how sometimes that could be bad for officers and the community.

Now, Nebbeling is embarking on a new mission to bring his training expertise to the Florida Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission (CJSTC). As a newly appointed commissioner beginning in April 2021, Nebbeling is looking forward to putting more "T" in the CJSTC.

"I think training is a core aspect for job security for a lot of officers," explains Nebbeling, who has been with West Palm with 2006 and has been a union rep since 2018. "Decision-making is all part of training. If you can't analyze the situation or if you have never been put in a situation or have any basis to fall back on, you may react in an inappropriate manner."

Before coming on the job, Nebbeling served eight years in the U.S. Army infantry. When talking about the power of training, especially with department leadership, he tends to use military analogies.

"Why the military has always been successful is because the amount of training people in the military receive," he details. "Even when you're in war, you're training for the next operation."

Law enforcement officers, he has observed, are getting less and less training the longer they are on the job. And everybody knows that when budget hardships come up in police departments, the first item that gets cut is training.

As a CJSTC commissioner, Nebbeling hopes to be able to raise awareness for causes and effects of training inequities. He cites professions of state employees that get a higher level of training than the police.

The crux of the training issue is this: Law enforcement officers have a job that can take somebody's life or take away their freedom, but the state or the department is not willing to invest in them. Especially when there is such a public, media and political calling for improvement.

"I think that's wrong," Nebbeling reasons. "They cut training, and then they're like, 'Why did you make a mistake?' Well, they don't have anything to fall back on. They just reacted because they don't have enough basis of knowledge."

When Nebbeling submitted some of his ideas at the PBCPBA round table last June, Kaz figured he would be a great addition to the CJSTC, which had an opening for one of the five commissioners below the rank of sergeant. Kaz recognized that his ideas could



West Palm Beach PBA rep Chris Nebbeling (right), who has been selected to serve on the Florida Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission, shares some thoughts with PBCPBA Executive Director Ernie George, a former chair of the CJSTC.

speak for rank-and-file law enforcement officers in the state.

Knowing that he could make a difference protecting officers from all the things that can happen to them on the streets such as doing something criminal, getting sued or even losing their lives, Nebbeling filed an application online to join the commission. Governor DeSantis reviewed the synopsis of everything he has done during his career, including the military. Kaz advocated for the selection, and he heard back from the governor.

"He said, 'Hey listen, I got word from the governor that you're getting on and I'm glad,'" Nebbeling recalls. "He told me the governor thought I would make a really good addition to the commission."

The primary job of the commission is to hear cases of FDLE members who have been disciplined, which might include having their tickets revoked and not being able to work as a law enforcement officer ever again. Nebbeling confided that there is considerable homework, reading up to 25 cases that might be heard at a given meeting.

He hopes that he will be able to bring attention to legislators and other leaders about the gaps in training and other support officers need to better do their jobs. But he clearly brings a perspective from Florida law enforcement's front lines.

"You want to get rid of people who bring a black eye to our profession, people who did something so egregious, there's no coming back," Nebbeling comments. "But we have to look at whether this police officer did this because he wasn't provided the tools. I'd like to look at some of this stuff as far as FDLE findings and say, 'Well, OK, that could have been avoided though an action by the agency.'"

Like his time in the military, his time as an instructor and his work as a union rep, Nebbeling clearly feels this is a calling. He has been selected to the CJSTC for a reason.

"I think in the overall totality of everything, it will give me a broader perspective on this profession," he confirms. "I'm there to represent the rank-and-file officers' perspective and I'm really looking forward to it."



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# The Real Deal

## PBSO mourns the loss of Deputy Carlos Hernandez, who was second to none

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Johnny Ortiz, who supervises the department's Florida Crystals contract unit, recalled the countless ways Deputy Carlos Hernandez went beyond the call of duty.

"That's why it hurts so much," Ortiz said of Hernandez's passing on April 11 due to complications from COVID-19. "He was one of those folks who was just truly a giving, selfless person. He's the real deal."

To know the depth of Hernandez's desire to serve starts with knowing how he became a deputy for the Florida Crystals contract unit. PBSO has a contract with the Florida Crystals Corporation for 10 deputies to provide security for all its properties, farms and mills.

"It's a very delicate relationship in the sense that yes, they are deputy sheriffs, but they're hired by these folks and you have to be a special kind of deputy to work with them," explained Ortiz, who has been running the unit for nearly four years. "So we look for special types of personalities when we choose people for that position — one of them being maturity."

Hernandez, 47, followed a path that showed his work ethic and resiliency. He emigrated from Nicaragua, took a job as a laborer in the fields and worked his way up until he received U.S. citizenship. From there, he enrolled in school to pursue becoming an officer and eventually a deputy sheriff for PBSO.

Then he ended up back in the fields, being one of the officers responsible for tens of thousands of acres on his shift with Florida Crystals.

"It's interesting that he almost came back full circle," Ortiz noted. "You could go from dealing with a tractor driver or sugarcane worker to Mr. Fanjul, who was the owner of Florida Crystals. So you have to be very diverse and you have to be good at [the job]."

Hernandez was so well liked by the bosses at Florida Crystals that they asked him to be stationed at their flagship farm and mill. He became the face of the PBSO during the day shift at that location.

"That's a big deal," Ortiz remarked. They loved him as much as we did."

Ortiz remembered one incident that proved Hernandez was worthy of his praise. On a Sunday afternoon, he received a call from the deputy.

"He said, 'Remember you told me, never judge a book by its cover,'" Ortiz recalled about a lecture he gave his subordinates some time ago.

The deputy told Ortiz that the sheriff's office had received a phone call about a group of Hispanics fishing on a canal bank on Florida Crystals private property. Hernandez was tasked



**Carlos Hernandez**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: April 11, 2021

with approaching the group.

With his usual calm and respectful demeanor, Hernandez explained to the group that unless they had permission to be on the property, they would have to leave.

As it turned out, the group of people were members of the Fanjul family. Had Hernandez handled the situation in another way, he could have offended the very people who owned Florida Crystals.

"Anybody else would have handled that differently, with a lot of unnecessary authority and posturing," Ortiz mentioned. "But not Carlos. That's the kind of person he was."

When he was not fulfilling his duties, Hernandez would talk about his retirement plans. He wanted to go back to Central America and buy a little house.

"He would say, 'I don't need to live like a king. I don't need a lot of money, but I want to enjoy my life,'" Ortiz recalled.

So when Hernandez tested positive for COVID in March, Ortiz thought the deputy would recover after taking some time off.

"Nobody expected for him to pass," Ortiz noted of the deputy's nearly monthlong battle with COVID. "He had no underlying issues. It's very sad."

One week before Hernandez had to be intubated, Ortiz worked with PBSO Public Information Officer Teri Barbera to create a get-well-soon video compilation for the deputy.

"[Carlos] was able to see the video before he passed," Ortiz relayed. "There were probably 15 to 20 people who participated — it was getting so big that media relations had to stop it because it was just never-ending."

Ortiz takes comfort in knowing that his friend was able to view the heartfelt messages from other officers before succumbing. For Ortiz, who has served in law enforcement since 1989, the loss of an officer is not new. But the pain stays the same, especially when losing such an exemplary deputy as Hernandez.

"These are the ones that really serve and really make a difference," Ortiz described. "And when they leave us early, it hurts more than anything."

Ortiz conveyed that if one believes in an afterlife, there is nobody more deserving of it than Hernandez, whose loss is felt by the whole department.

"I would strongly suspect that he's got his little house on the mountain and he's still with us," Ortiz affirmed. "At least that helps me sleep at night."





# Brotherly Bond

MCSO Sergeant Richard 'Ricky' Parks was a force felt by all

Martin County Sheriff's Office Deputy George Primm considered Sergeant Richard "Ricky" Parks, 54, to be more than a colleague. More than a friend. A brother.

"He had the ability to take a somber situation and turn it into a night at the comedy club," said Primm of the sergeant, who suddenly passed on March 27 following a family vacation in Orlando. "The big smile and the robust laugh — he had the type of personality that lit up a room full of people just by walking in."

Primm remembered the first time he met the sergeant. They were citing DUIs in the traffic unit, and Primm was called to a crash site that Parks was working on, where they exchanged conversation for a few minutes.

"He told me he'd be in touch and I extended my hand out, and he just turned around and walked away," Primm recalled. "And I was thinking, 'Who is this guy, anyway?'"

At their second encounter, Parks approached the deputy first and incited friendly competition between the two.

"He goes, 'There's a new DUI catcher in town, so you might want to step aside,'" Primm relayed. "So I said, 'Ha ha, time will tell.' Then when he tried to extend his hand to me, I turned away."

After the quick joke, the two shook hands.



**Richard Parks**

Martin County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: March 27, 2021

"We didn't know at the time that the handshake would turn into a relationship that's second to none," Primm noted.

In the more than 20 years that the two knew each other, their working relationship naturally turned into a brotherly one. They found that they came from the same family background, with many similarities in their childhood. Soon, the two were inseparable.

"The more we talked about things, the more we realized we were separated at birth or something," Primm explained. "It brought us closer together, and our families became close as well."

The deputy mentioned the humbling experience of being able to speak at Parks's funeral.

"It was an honor," Primm remarked. "Especially because of our relationship and the amount of time we knew and worked with each other."

Primm believes he is not the only one who had the privilege of sharing memories with Parks. The sergeant touched the hearts of many in his decades of serving as a law enforcement officer, a fact supported by the nearly 1,000 comments on the MCSO's Facebook post about his passing.

"Whoever had the opportunity to meet Ricky and get to know him should consider themselves very lucky and fortunate," Primm conveyed. "I know that I am."

# Not the end

PBSO Corrections Sergeant Marcus Janes was devoted to the call to serve

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Corrections Sergeant Marcus Janes, 49, was the sounding board and the "big brother" to anyone who needed his help.

"All the deputies and civilians that knew him will miss him dearly," noted Deputy Tom Jordan of the sergeant, who passed on April 4 after a six-month battle with cancer. "He was the most caring supervisor."

Born in North Carolina and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Janes followed in his father's footsteps and joined the U.S. Army in 1990 as a combat signaler and served in the National Guard. He was hired by the Fort Lauderdale PD in 1994 and worked as a public safety aide, corrections officer and fraud investigator.

In 2008, Janes was hired by PBSO and



**Marcus Janes**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Corrections

End of Watch: April 4, 2021

achieved the rank of sergeant while serving as a corrections officer. In his 13 years with PBSO, Janes was known to have an unforgettable sense of humor that could make even the saddest of occasions seem bearable.

"Just going to his service, it was amazing to see the people and support he had there," said Jordan, who knew Janes for eight years. "It was obvious how devoted he was to his church, family and friends."

Janes is survived by his wife, Kezia, and four children. At Broward Health Hospice, shortly before his passing, the sergeant spoke his last words to his loved ones.

"This is not the end, this is the beginning," he told them.

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# Members Only Section

Celebrating PBC PBA members and the way they serve every day

## Quilt of Honor

Delray Beach Officer Adam Whiting receives a police agency patch quilt handmade by his mother and grandmother



■ BY KAREN JENKINS

Delray Beach Officer Adam Whiting began collecting patches from police agencies in 2006. As a member of the Honor Guard with Delray Beach since its inception that same year, he has attended countless funerals for fallen brothers and sisters in blue.

Whiting began gathering the patches from the fallen officers' departments at each funeral. If he wasn't able to collect a patch, he'd go straight home to find one on eBay.

"I like to have a patch to remember each officer by," affirmed Whiting, who has 19 years on the job. "Recently, they started sending us as representatives of the agency to Washington, D.C. And when I go up there, obviously there's police officers from across the country and across the world."

When he meets those officers, he makes sure to hand out a Delray Beach patch for them to remember him, and then he tries to receive a patch back from their agency.

By July 2017, Whiting had collected hundreds of patches, which he stored in a large bag in his home. He went to his grandmother, Carol Presslein, and asked her if she could work with the patches.

Presslein makes quilts for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to give to veterans going through kidney dialysis treatments in local hospitals. When Whiting brought the patches to her, she knew exactly what to do.

"I approached her one day with this huge bag of patches, and I asked if there's anything, any way she could do something with them," Whiting recalled. "She said she would love to, so her and my mom got together, and they made the quilt."

Presslein, with the help of Whiting's mother, Debra Whiting, sorted through the patches to take out the duplicates. Then they got to the painstaking work of creating the quilt of patches,



which fits a king-size bed. With extra patches, they also made two king-size pillowcases.

The construction took six months. Presslein and Debra proudly presented the unbelievable quilt — which, of course, features a patch from Delray Beach near the center — to Whiting for his 40th birthday.

The corner features embroidery that details Whiting's career, including being a sergeant in the U.S. Marines and fulfilling a number of different roles with the Delray Beach Police Department.

"[It's] just a reminder for myself of the sacrifices from all the different agencies," Whiting said. "It's pretty cool. I'm grateful to my mom and grandmother for working hard to put together something this meaningful."



## Four-year-old buys treats for Palm Beach Gardens members

One of the smallest residents of Palm Beach Gardens showed her appreciation to her local officers on Feb. 12.

After catching the biggest fish in a family freshwater fishing tournament, 4-year-old Sunny Brotman received prize money. Instead of using that money to buy toys, she invested her earnings in special Valentine's Day treats.

Sunny then put together goodie bags with the items she bought and delivered them to Palm Beach Gardens officers, with the help of her younger sister and parents.



## A sea of pinwheels at Boynton Beach PD

To raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Boynton Beach PD decorated its front lawn with blue pinwheels. The pinwheels represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness, in a vision for children to grow in a healthy, safe environment without abuse or neglect.

BBPD partnered with Pathways to Prosperity and BRIDGES to paint the department blue with pinwheels on April 1. Both organizations aim to strengthen communities by improving and supporting safe and nurturing environments for children and their families.

## Jupiter resident glimpses future as K9 handler

Jupiter resident Joey Tracy, a 13-year-old who hopes to be a police K9 handler in the future, left a note in Officer Chad Norman's mailbox showing his support for the department. When Norman saw Tracy's note, he wanted to do something to show his appreciation for the kind words.

So Jupiter PD's K9 handlers decided to take Tracy for a demonstration with their teams on March 18. Tracy met the handlers and their K9 partners, while learning more about what it will take to become a K9 handler in the future.







## MCSO officers give a hoot for feathered neighbors

For Martin County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Officers Kim Guile and Shannon McGee, the subjects they protect and serve often have a little more fur and a lot more feathers than most.

Guile and McGee responded to Palm City for reports of an injured owl on March 2. Upon arrival, they found that a nest containing two baby barred owls had fallen from a tree. Both adult owls were guarding their babies.

Since the nest was destroyed, officers made a new one from a donated basket and pieces of the original nest. Once it was hung back in the tree, the chicks were placed inside their newly constructed home.

The two adult owls flew to the nest and were reunited with their babies. The family of four seems to be settling into their remodeled tree house nicely, which would not have been possible without the work of Guile and McGee.

## Delray Beach's Officer of the Year

Officer Damien Ferraiolo received the Officer of the Year award from Delray Beach Elks Lodge on April 9. Ferraiolo works as a homeless outreach officer in Delray Beach and assists with the department's service population advocate.



## Jupiter PD officers are recognized for their dedication

Jupiter PD officers received two awards at the Annual Town of Jupiter Employee Recognition Ceremony on March 23. The Nights 1 Platoon was deemed Team of the Year and presented with certificates, a plaque and a gift card to the restaurant of their choice. Officer John Banegas, who was presented with the Leader of the Year Award, received a recognition certificate and a check for \$400.





## Coffee and a bike ride with Boynton Beach PD

Boynton Beach PD Auxiliary Bike Unit officers joined Alpha Cycling, an amateur sports team, for their first morning bike ride on March 21. Following the ride, officers sat down on the grass for a “Coffee with Cops” conversation with the cyclists to build community partnership.

While enjoying free coffee from Common Ground Brew & Roastery, officers and Alpha Cycling members discussed more opportunities to come together and improve the safety of cyclists.



## MCSO sporting clay event supports veterans

The 2021 Sporting Clay Shoot to benefit Southeast Florida Honor Flight occurred on Feb. 27 with spirited participation from the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

The MCSO team included Major John Budensiek, Lieutenant Danny Cunningham, Sergeant Gavin Werner and retired Lieutenant Ken Pickering and was sponsored by the Palm Beach County PBA.

Southeast Florida Honor Flight is a 100 percent volunteer organization that is one of the 130 hubs in 45 states making up the National Honor Flight Network. All Honor Flight hubs are dedicated to honoring local veterans with all-expenses-paid trips to visit their respective Washington, D.C., memorials.

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561-557-1079 • rekinglaw.com  
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## Ready to Serve Florida's First Responders



- Roxie Guerrero, Realtor Associate
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# PBSO officers constantly fulfill the call to serve

When it comes to serving and protecting the community, officers of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office put an extra emphasis on "serve." From making personal food deliveries to distributing heaps of clothing to building furniture, PBSO officers know what it means to truly serve Palm Beach residents.

By the time an 89-year-old woman approached officers at a food distribution on April 6, the event was already over and officers were assisting with vaccine distribution. Wanting to help the elderly lady acquire food, Sergeant Matthew DeJoy wrote down her address and assured her that she would receive a personal food delivery.

DeJoy, along with three PBSO officers, stopped by the woman's house with boxes of food. She relayed to the officers that she wasn't expecting to actually receive food boxes, much less have it delivered by an entire squad of officers. She even wanted to write a letter to the commander to praise the officers for their help.

PBSO officers also set up tables of clothes, shoes and blankets for the residents of Colonial Estates Mobile Home



Park in Lake Worth Beach on March 30. Officers helped children and their families of all ages try on new shoes and apparel to take home.

The department partnered with In Jacob's Shoes, Spirit of Giving and Sweet Dream Makers to provide the residents with the essential items. They also brought gold star stickers, which look like the ones on their uniforms, to paste on the children's shirts. One lucky little girl even received a gold star for her green stuffed animal.

And when Glenda, a second grader from Lake Worth, entered a PBSO giveaway by making a wish to update



her furniture, officers showed up to her house with brand-new furniture on April 6. Four officers first dismantled two old beds to put outside, along with the two mattresses and a brown dresser.

Then, the officers brought in the parts to build a bunk bed for the family. Once the bed was assembled, they unwrapped two mattresses to place on top, then built a new white dresser. The officers topped it off with toys, sleeping bags and stuffed animals for the child, as well as a gift card for the family. The act of service was made possible through another partnership with Sweet Dream Makers, along with Little Smiles of Florida.



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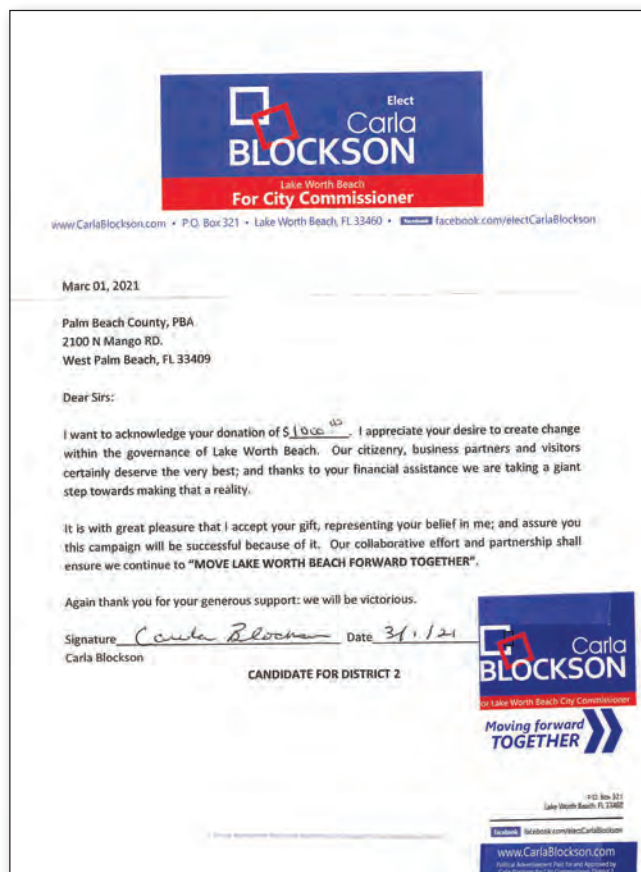
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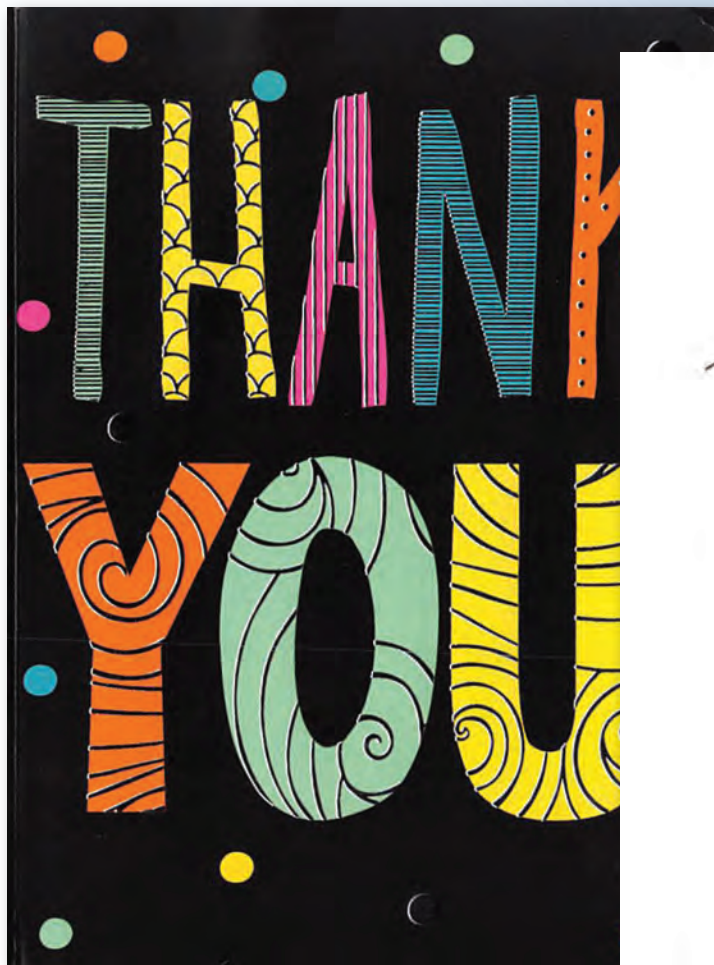
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(OFFICE) 929.600.5633 (MOBILE) 917.364.8142  
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