

*The voice of local law enforcement*



# Florida COPS

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

JULY 2016

## Ric Bradshaw

Career Lawman





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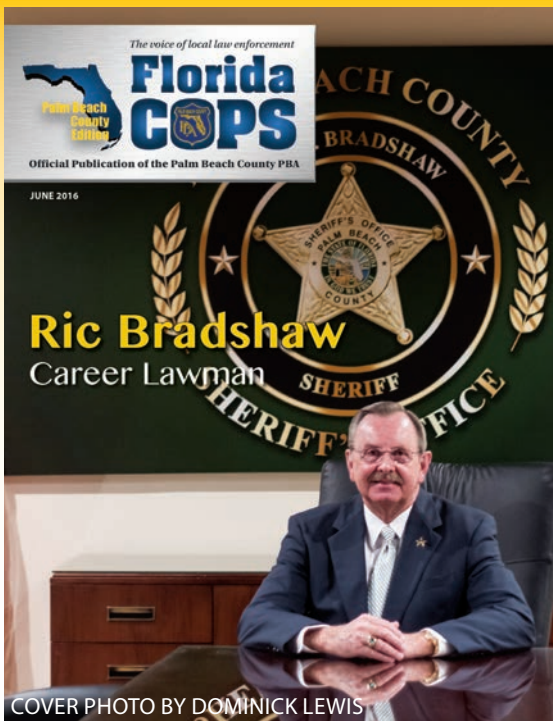
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## 17 HE'S YOUR LAWMAN

Meet the new sheriff. He's the same as the old sheriff, so you know exactly what kind of leader and dedicated public servant Ric Bradshaw will continue to be as he seeks his fourth term as Palm Beach County Sheriff. Get to know the lawman behind the badge; read how his accomplishments the past 12 years have made a difference for all officers in Palm Beach County; and let him tell you about his plans for the future.

### Back to have his back

PBCPBA President John Kazanjian returned to the podium to declare solidarity with Palm Beach Gardens Officer Nouman Raja following his indictment for murder..... **Page 15**

### Having a Ball

The 9th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball brought together the law enforcement community for a night of exuberance, as well as a chance to honor the Officers of the Year who went above and beyond the call of duty. The party started with a one-of-a-kind clambake the night before the Ball and culminated with awarding PBC Sheriff's Deputy John Ross Officer of the Year. And in one of the most stirring moments, the PBSO Honor Guard presented a memorable and emotional flag-folding ceremony.

**Exclusive coverage begins on page 20**

### Primary Focus

As PBCPBA-endorsed candidates get ready for the August primary, some took a timeout to show their support for members. This special election spotlight section provides insight into those who will be representing you..... **Page 28**

### And don't miss...

- Scholarships awarded to Palm Beach County PBA's college-bound brightest..... **Page 34**
- Lake Worth high schoolers get an early start in law enforcement .... **Page 36**
- Behind every good cop is a great LEO Wife ..... **Page 38**
- Month-by-month, these officers go above and beyond ..... **Page 40**

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**MITCHELL KRUGEL**

Publisher/Editor

mitch@floridacopsmagazine.com

**DAN RAPPOPORT**

Sales Director

dan@floridacopsmagazine.com

**GINA CROTCHFELT**

Art Director

**JOSHUA SIGMUND**

Managing Editor

joshua@floridacopsmagazine.com

**JENNIFER TRATTLER**

Editorial Assistant

jennifer@floridacopsmagazine.com

**STEPHANIE JONES**

Copy Editor

stephanie@floridacopsmagazine.com

**DEANNA HUNTER**

Director of Operations

dee@floridacopsmagazine.com

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# CODE THREE

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# We will no longer walk the walk



JOHN  
KAZANJIAN

If the sheriffs, chiefs and other agency administrators want us to take a walk-through, we're telling them to take a hike.

That, of course, is my way of phrasing the feelings of the Palm Beach County PBA regarding the practice of conducting video walk-throughs at officer-involved critical incidents. On May 6, I sent a letter to Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw on behalf of the PBA Board to inform him that we have chosen to discontinue the practice of conducting video walk-throughs.

Similar notices have been sent to other sheriffs and chiefs. As I wrote in the letter:

"After careful consideration, legal review and recent events, the Executive Board of the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association has chosen to discontinue the practice of conducting video walk-throughs at officer-involved critical incidents. This decision is being made in the best interest of our members. In lieu of a statement by the officer, the attorney responding will proffer a statement to criminal investigators in an effort to assist your agency with its investigation."

For the past two years, we've been on the fence with these walk-throughs pretty much because of the technology. With the cameras everywhere and with everybody having a cell phone, there are so many images available for investigators to analyze every angle.

We feel that an hour or two after the critical incident our women and men are not going to remember everything, every detail. With all the videos out there, the opportunity for investigators or attorneys to take the statements from the officers during a walk-through then have a situation with, "Didn't you say this?" and then something else shows up is too much of a risk.

The risk has become even greater with the three-way exposure for officers involved in a critical incident. We know about the administrative end and confirming that you didn't violate any general orders or policies with your response. And then there is the criminal aspect to make sure you didn't commit any crimes in the incident. But now we're also facing a civil challenge with more officers being sued civilly.

They are using these walk-throughs for civil suits, so we're not going to let them walk all over us. And if you do a video walk-through, one of the other possibilities is that it winds up on the six-o'clock news. No thanks.

I've met with Sheriff Bradshaw to let him know we will co-

operate by giving a statement. We also discussed each incident being handled on a case-by-case basis.

We also met with the State's Attorney. He told us if we did not do a video walk-through, the case would automatically go to the Grand Jury. When I got hired 30 years ago, every shooting went in front of the Grand Jury. We don't mind going to the Grand Jury. We just want it to be fair.

What happened to Nouman Raja wasn't fair. They did a video walk-through with him and still brought it to the Grand Jury. They never even brought in the lead investigator from the Sheriff's Office.

This is the way it's going to be: Outside sources are going to determine whether to charge a law enforcement officer, whether you have a weapon or not, whether you are fearing for your life. So with all the cameras on you, with all the outside influences, the video walk-through cannot lead you to a good place. Let's not go there.

We have a Florida Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights that protects us if we don't give a statement right at the scene. Some studies show that an officer needs up to two sleep cycles to remember what transpired at the scene. And if you follow the Officers' Bill of Rights, we are entitled to look at the complete investigation, all the witness statements and all the video before we have to make a statement. So if the administrators and agency heads want to go down the video walk-through road, they risk violating the Officers' Bill of Rights.

During Police Week in May, we were at the National Association of Police Organization (NAPO) Board meeting, and we addressed many people representing numerous agencies across the country. There wasn't one who said they do walk-throughs. In fact, it was just the reverse. They asked us, "Why do you do walk-throughs? We've never heard of that."

God forbid you should get into one of those situations where you say the suspect had a silver revolver, but the video shows it was a black Glock. Don't get caught in something like that. Follow our lead and walk away.

Stay safe! ♥

Kaz

JOHN KAZANJIAN, PRESIDENT

# PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA

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# New policy with Officer Involved Critical Incident statements



LOU  
PENQUE  
TREASURER

For the past 20 years we have always provided criminal investigators with a voluntary statement from the involved officer(s) immediately after critical incident. Some 15 years ago, when I was a detective, this process worked in Palm Beach County. As a detective it was extremely helpful to get that statement from the officer at the scene. It really assisted me with my investigations.

Nothing lasts forever. Today, with the negative public sentiment toward police, proliferation of surveillance cameras and expert research in human dynamics post-deadly force encounters, we have determined it would not be beneficial for our members to provide that statement immediately after a critical incident.

Instead, we will proffer a statement to the detective. The involved officer will provide a statement to detectives at headquarters 48 to 72 hours after the incident. This will allow the officer to get the rest he/she needs, which is the latest recommendation coming from Force Science. It will also give time for those surveillance videos to surface, and allow the officer to explain any perception issues in his/her initial statement.

This process was not received very favorably by our current State Attorney's Office. Although I was not at the meeting, I was told the message was, basically: Give a statement at the scene or go to the grand jury. Coercion? Sounds like it to me.

I do expect some growing pains with this new policy, but those too shall pass. We recently attended a NAPO (National Association of Police Organizations) conference attended by union representatives from New York City to Los Angeles. We brought this issue to the Board for discussion, and could not find one agency that follows our 20-year-old video/audio walkthrough process. Most of the agencies were more aligned with our new policy.

In a recent local union meeting, I was asked by a member if an officer would have lawyer representation if he/she decides to provide a statement against the attorney's advice. Initially our answer was no, but that since has changed and, currently, the PBA will provide you an attorney even if you decide to provide a statement against his/her advice. But I caution you; not knowing what was captured on video can be very detrimental to you and your case. If there is even the slightest variation of perception between what you say in your walkthrough video/audio statement and what is captured on your body camera or some surveillance video, be ready for an attorney to ask, "Are you lying now, or were you lying then?"

In years past, these videos did not exist, but now they are everywhere. Your current State Attorney will not even let you view video evidence to give you the opportunity to explain any differences between your perception and what the camera's angle showed. This is not a favorable position to be in, as a law enforcement officer.

In conclusion, I will tell you changes are forthcoming. The basis for any changes will be in the members' best interest and

## Resolution to the new vehicle issue


Do not complain about an issue without a solution.

This is a motto I always use when there is some sort of grievance to present to management or the city administration. Recently, there were multiple issues brought forward regarding the new Ford sedan vehicles being purchased by the City of West Palm Beach that I discussed in the last issue of *Florida Cops*.

I'm pleased to announce we have resolved the issue. After lobbying several department heads and members of the city administration, including the mayor, and providing them with the research supporting our issue, the mayor agreed that until there is a better solution, all future vehicles purchased by the city for patrol will be the Ford utility vehicle.

I would like to thank our city administration for working with us and understanding our multiple concerns. ♥

your best interest only. It is not about ego, it is not about who is in charge, it is about you and you only. Be safe out there, and watch your and your partner's back. ♥



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-John Kazanjian

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Larry Fagan, Legal Counsel ..... ✓  
Rick King, Legal Counsel ..... ✓  
Angela Barbosa, Legal Counsel ..... ✓  
Brennan Keeler, Legal Counsel ..... ✓

## REPRESENTATIVES

### Boynton Beach

Henry Diehl, Sgt ..... Unexcused  
Daniel Dugger, Sgt ..... Excused  
Toby Athol, Det First Grade ..... ✓  
Doug Gilbert, Appt., Officer ..... ✓

### Delray Beach

Gary Ferreri, Officer ..... ✓  
Edward McCabe, Officer ..... ✓  
Brian Cambell, Officer ..... ✓  
Vinnie Gray, Lt. .... ✓  
Meer Deen, Alt., Officer ..... ✓  
Paul Weber, Alt., Sgt ..... Excused  
Scott Privitera, Appt., Lt ..... ✓

### FAU

Miguel Cardona, Sgt ..... ✓  
Bill Hernandez, Alt., Officer ..... Excused

### Juno Beach

Michael Graham, Officer ..... Excused

### Jupiter

Jason Vansteenburgh, Detective ..... Excused  
Jason Alexandre, Officer ..... ✓  
Sal Mattino, Officer ..... ✓  
Paul Gundlach, Alt., Officer ..... Excused  
Jonathan Gentile, Appt. Officer ..... ✓

### Jupiter Island

Steve Bona, Appt., Officer ..... Excused  
Nick Dicicco, Appt., Officer ..... Unexcused  
Scott Logsdon, Appt., Sgt ..... Unexcused  
Andrew Savikas, Appt., Sgt ..... Unexcused

### Lake Clarke Shores

William Howell, Sgt. .... Unexcused  
Brandy Rodgers, Alt., Officer ..... Unexcused

### Lantana

Troy Schaaf, Officer ..... ✓  
Chris Decker, Alt., Sgt ..... ✓  
Janice Brinkman, Appt., Dispatch ..... Excused

### Manalapan

Jose Fernandez, Appt., Officer ..... Unexcused

## MCSO - Law Enforcement

Karl Nelson, Sgt ..... ✓  
Brian Tison, Deputy ..... ✓  
Wayne Trocan, Deputy ..... Excused  
Jon Hanton, Deputy ..... Excused  
Andrew Porcelli, Deputy ..... Excused  
William Weiss, Alt., Deputy ..... ✓  
James Holloran, Alt., Deputy ..... Excused  
Jake Sirmans, Appt., Deputy ..... Excused  
Kenneth Youngblood, Appt., Deputy ..... ✓

## MCSO - Corrections

Samuel Haidy, Deputy ..... Excused  
Dean Mihalko, Deputy ..... ✓  
Tommy Randazzo, Deputy ..... ✓  
Lawrence Lutrin, Alt., Deputy ..... ✓  
Rui Dutra, Alt., Deputy ..... ✓  
Michael Trimble, Appt., Sgt ..... ✓  
Edward Burke, Appt., Sgt ..... ✓

## North Palm Beach

Joseph Yungk, Appt., Detective ..... Unexcused

## Ocean Ridge

Mario Galluscio, Officer ..... ✓  
David Kurz, Alt. Appt., Officer ..... ✓

## Palm Beach County School Police

Kevin O'Sullivan, Officer ..... Unexcused  
Ronnie Williams, Officer ..... Unexcused  
Alex Lopez, Officer ..... ✓  
Brian Qualters, Appt., Officer ..... Excused

## PBSO - Law Enforcement

Paul "Roy" Vrchota, Lt ..... ✓  
Daniel Glisson, Sgt ..... Excused  
Mike Kletzky, Lt ..... Unexcused  
John McGuire, Sgt ..... ✓  
Chris Caris, Sgt ..... ✓  
Ray Griffith, Alt., Sgt ..... ✓  
Carlos Ugalde, Alt., Sgt ..... ✓  
Butch Altonen, Appt., Sgt ..... Unexcused  
Dan Burrows, Appt., Sgt ..... ✓  
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Grant Henderson, Appt., Sgt ..... ✓  
John Kazanjian, II, Appt., Deputy ..... ✓  
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Brandon West, Appt., Deputy ..... ✓  
Jay Gallagher, Appt., Sgt ..... Unexcused  
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Mark Lozano, Appt., Deputy ..... Unexcused  
Billy Gray, Appt., Deputy ..... Unexcused  
Josh Leheny, Appt., Deputy ..... Excused  
Matt DeJoy, Appt., Deputy ..... Excused  
John Pedone, Appt., Deputy ..... Excused  
Brandon Aultman, Appt., Deputy ..... Excused  
Cory Gray, Appt., Deputy ..... ✓

## PBSO - Corrections

Vivian Lawrence, Cpl ..... ✓  
Will Pinto, Lt ..... ✓  
Ernie Bussey, Lt ..... ✓  
Brian Ronk, Sgt ..... Unexcused  
Brenda Smith, Alt., Lt ..... ✓  
Thomas Jordan, Appt., Alt., D/S ..... ✓

## PBSO - Civilians

John Costello, Manager ..... ✓  
Kim Wilson, Unit Manager ..... ✓  
Mark Gish, Section Manager ..... ✓  
Kristen Kazanjian, LEA ..... ✓  
Tequesta McKinney-James, Corr Support Personnel ... ✓  
Kara Bannon, Alt., Analyst ..... Excused  
Omar Felix, Alt., Sr Forensic Sci ..... Excused  
Eddie Aviles, Appt., Civilian ..... ✓  
Kayai Graham, Appt., CSP ..... ✓

## Palm Beach Gardens

Greg Allen, Officer ..... ✓  
Randy Buntin, Sgt ..... Excused  
Dorian Hawkins, Officer ..... ✓  
Randall Anderson, Agent ..... Excused  
Brian Nauss, Appt., Dispatcher ..... ✓  
Michael Means, Appt., Dispatcher ..... ✓

## Palm Beach Shores

Blasé Pfefferkorn, Officer ..... Excused  
Steve Langevin, Alt., Lt. .... ✓

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Darrell Diez, Officer ..... Excused  
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Louis Collura, Appt. Sgt ..... Unexcused

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## Stuart

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## Tequesta

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Chuck Branch, Officer ..... ✓  
Jay Donde, Officer ..... ✓  
John Rebholz, Officer ..... Unexcused  
Michael Ferrera, Alt., Officer ..... ✓  
Eric Evrley, Alt., Officer ..... Unexcused  
Troy Marchese, Appt., Lt ..... Unexcused



# The union holds the right to arbitration



LARRY  
FAGAN

While typically any issue can be grieved – as long as it falls within the four corners of your individual agency's Collective Bargaining Agreement – not every issue will end up going to a “binding” arbitration before a neutral third party. This is an extremely important concept to recognize as a PBA member. Simply put, the PBA Executive Board, and only the Board, decides which particular matters – from the grievances that may have been filed at 24 different agencies – will be heard on their individual merits at arbitration. The paperwork that members sign at the outset of their particular issue spells out that practice completely. Grievances may be filed in an effort to preserve the matter for the Board's eventual determination whether or not it ultimately will be arbitrated; having your grievance filed does not guarantee that the matter will be arbitrated.

The filing of the grievance is a necessary step to determine eligibility for arbitration; it is a formality in the process toward arbitration, but the filing of one doesn't guarantee it will, in fact, go to arbitration. It is kind of a fine point, but it comes up all the time, and members need to be aware of how the process works.

Matters that get arbitrated can be expensive and time consuming, with no guarantee of positive results. So, the decision of whether to arbitrate is not taken lightly. Moreover, it is unreasonable and financially impractical to arbitrate every grievance that gets filed.

Success at arbitration can depend on multiple variables: the facts, the arbitrator selected by the parties, the witnesses, the opposition and so on. Further, depending on your Collective Bargaining Agreement, most closing arguments at arbitration get submitted 30 days after the hearing in the form of a written brief, after review of which, the arbitrator makes his/her decision, typically after yet another 30 days. Therefore, the very fact that a matter is selected for arbitration in no way assures a speedy resolution. In fact, often, the outcome is quite the opposite. In one rare case, we waited 19 months for a decision by an arbitrator.

So, life goes on while we wait for a decision – a word to the wise, no one wants to rush an arbitrator, lest he rule against you. Usually, though, decisions come back long before that 19-month outlier – typically 30 to 45 days is a good rule of thumb. And, depending on the agency, arbitrator awards typically need to be implemented by the next pay period (if we win, of course).

While Florida Statute 682 governs arbitration proceedings and enforcing arbitration awards, not every matter that's grieved goes the distance. So, the big picture is that filing a grievance doesn't guarantee arbitration, going to arbitration

doesn't guarantee a win and prevailing at arbitration isn't something that happens overnight.

Note: Please do not confuse the arbitration process with the impasse process that may occur at the bargaining table. That is, there is a separate process known as impasse, whereby a neutral magistrate entertains Collective Bargaining issues that can't get resolved between parties. Arbitrators' decisions (awards) are binding on the parties and only can be vacated in very narrow circumstances. Magistrate decisions at impasse are not binding on the parties. Magistrates at impasse issue a non-binding report and recommendation that your individual town councils are free to reject.

Understanding these differences is essential to advising members on what options may exist, whether they have contract or disciplinary issues. ❤

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 LEWIS WEST SR. .... PBSO  
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 RYAN BECKFORD ..... PBSO  
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 KATHERINE BERISH ..... OCEAN RIDGE  
 JOSHUA JOSEF ..... PBSO  
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 NICOLE ARMSEY ..... PBSO  
 HAROLD ALLEWELT ..... PBSO  
 JASON ANTHONY ..... PBSO  
 AMANDA BLAKLEY ..... PBSO  
 JONATHON BRYANT ..... PBSO  
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 ASHLEY CARSENI ..... PBSO  
 JACKIE CISSON ..... PBSO  
 AMANDA CONNER ..... PBSO  
 JUSTIN DORFMAN ..... PBSO  
 TYLER EVES ..... PBSO  
 LOUIS FABIEN JR. .... PBSO  
 DEMERTIUS FERGUSON ..... PBSO  
 CATHY FITZSIMMONS ..... PBSO  
 JULIANA FORESTAL ..... PBSO  
 LISA GARCIA ..... PBSO  
 BRIAN GARCIA ..... PBSO  
 ROBERT GUZMAN ..... PBSO  
 CODY JACOBS ..... PBSO  
 DASHAWN JOHNSON ..... PBSO  
 QUINCY JOSEPH ..... PBSO  
 LINVAL LINDSAY ..... PBSO  
 AMADEO LOPEZ ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL MILLER ..... PBSO  
 FABIENNE MIOT-CEGAR ..... PBSO  
 TREVOR MOCK ..... PBSO  
 ANDREW MOREIRA ..... PBSO  
 GLENN PALMER III ..... PBSO  
 DENESE PEART ..... PBSO  
 SHELDON PERRY ..... PBSO  
 HAROLD PRITCHARD ..... PBSO  
 DOMINIQUE SAINT JUSTE ..... PBSO  
 RYAN SANDERS ..... PBSO  
 THOMAS SANFILIPPO ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL SASSON ..... PBSO  
 ALEXANDER SINNOTT ..... PBSO  
 REUBEN TUR ..... PBSO  
 RAYMOND WALLS ..... PBSO  
 ERIKA WILCOX ..... PBSO  
 GARY WOZNICK ..... PBSO  
 JOHNNY YOUNG ..... PBSO  
 SABITA KHANAL ..... PBSO

## FEBRUARY 2016

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 MARY BRYANT ..... PBSO  
 DIANA HAYES ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 ERIC LAMPE ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 DANIELLE WAGNER ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 RICHARD ERMER JR. .... OCEAN RIDGE  
 DANIEL BUMGARDNER ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 DANIEL RAMOS ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 JERVIS DALEY ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 JENNIFER HARDIMAN ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 JOEL RIVERA ..... PBSO  
 BELINDA VELASQUEZ ..... PBSO  
 IAN SITZ ..... DELRAY BEACH  
 MICHAEL DELAI ..... PBSO  
 TASHA TOPPIN-DAVIS ..... PALM BEACH  
 RICHARD REITANO ..... PBSO  
 DREW PATTERSON ..... MCSO  
 THOMAS GROB ..... PBSO  
 JARRETT SWABY ..... MCSO

## MARCH 2016

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 LEAH FEINGOLD ..... PBSO  
 ILEANA VIDAURRE ..... PBSO  
 BILL VANDERMEEREN SANCHEZ DELRAY BEACH  
 SCOTT MARTIN ..... PBSO  
 DEBRA SCHWARZ ..... PBSO  
 DONALD JOSEPH ..... MCSO  
 MARK-ANTHONY MALDONADO .....  
 ..... PALM BEACH GARDENS  
 CHRISTOPHER FANDREY ..... JUPITER  
 KEITH GRIESER ..... NORTH PALM BEACH  
 ROBERT GAUMOND, JR. .... RETIRED  
 KENNETH CRAWFORD ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 KIMBERLY GARCIA ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 DREW NOEL ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 MICHAEL GARGAN ..... MCSO  
 SUZIE PIERRE ..... PBSO  
 JACLYN WATTS ..... PBSO  
 YAGO BRITO ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 MICHELLE MALAVE ..... DELRAY BEACH  
 CHRISTOPHER CAUDILLO ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 EDWARD MALONEY ..... MANALAPAN  
 GILBERT GILBES ..... PBSO  
 SAMUEL KIMMEL ..... MCSO  
 PHILLIP LEJEUNE ..... NORTH PALM BEACH  
 ROBERT RAY ..... MCSO  
 RONALD GLASS ..... MCSO  
 SUPRISHA PHILLIPS ..... MCSO  
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## APRIL 2016

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 BIKENDY TURENE ..... MCSO  
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 DANIEL ROBITAILLE ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 ERNEST LOWMASTER ..... PBSO  
 KETURIA WEAVER ..... WEST PALM BEACH  
 ANDREW JACKSON ..... PBSO  
 SONIA CINTRON ..... PBSO

MARVIN WILLIAMS ..... RIVIERA BEACH  
 ROBERT SWISS ..... ASSOCIATE MEMBER  
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 CHRISTOPHER APPLE ..... PBSO  
 JESICA BAILON ..... PBSO  
 JULIA BEMBRY ..... PBSO  
 JEWEL BEMBRY ..... PBSO  
 TROIANA BETHEL ..... PBSO  
 JOSEPH BLACKMAN ..... PBSO  
 GEORGE CAMPBELL II ..... PBSO  
 JODY CERTAIN ..... PBSO  
 KYROV CHARLES ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL COLLURA ..... PBSO  
 KIRK COOK ..... PBSO  
 BERNARD CUNNINGHAM ..... PBSO  
 DEANDRA DACOSTA ..... PBSO  
 LESLIE DAY ..... PBSO  
 DASHELLA DEBOSE ..... PBSO  
 STEVEN FECTEAU ..... PBSO  
 JOHN FRESNEDA ..... PBSO  
 AMANDA GARCIA ..... PBSO  
 SHARON GENTRY ..... PBSO  
 JAMES GIUMENTA ..... PBSO  
 JORGE GOMEZ JR ..... PBSO  
 CHRISTINA HATTER ..... PBSO  
 ROBERT HENTZE ..... PBSO  
 JONATHAN HERNANDEZ ..... PBSO  
 JASMINE HESTER ..... PBSO  
 ALEXIS HUNTER ..... PBSO  
 LAYETTA JONES ..... PBSO  
 JIMMY KRAUSE ..... PBSO  
 CAROL LEFTON ..... PBSO  
 SHAYNA MATTHEWS ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL MCCLAY JR. .... PBSO  
 TYLER MCCULLOUGH ..... PBSO  
 KENDALL MITCHELL ..... PBSO  
 CLINTON MURRAY ..... PBSO  
 HOREB OTHELLO ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL PERARD ..... PBSO  
 MICHELLE POORE ..... PBSO  
 DAYRON RAMIREZ ..... PBSO  
 JAIME RAMIREZ ..... PBSO  
 TEDDY REARDON ..... PBSO  
 LORRAINE RODRIGUEZ ..... PBSO  
 SAMUEL ROMAN ..... PBSO  
 AMY SCHAVOLT ..... PBSO  
 STEVEN SEPTIEN ..... PBSO  
 ANDREW SILVERBERG ..... PBSO  
 CHARLENE SPURLOCK-MCGOWAN ..... PBSO  
 KEVIN STANFILL ..... PBSO  
 LOMAR STEVENS ..... PBSO  
 WILLIAM STROPP ..... PBSO  
 MARK SWANSON ..... PBSO  
 ANTHONY SWIGERT ..... PBSO  
 TARA TAYLOR ..... PBSO  
 ALBERT TEJADA ..... PBSO  
 JACLIN THOMAS ..... PBSO  
 LASHAWN TURNER ..... PBSO

ELCO VALLIER ..... PBSO  
 JONATHAN WALKER ..... PBSO  
 MICHAEL WALLNER ..... PBSO  
 DEBBIE WELLS ..... PBSO  
 NIKOLAS WESENICK ..... PBSO  
 SYRETTA WILLIAMS ..... PBSO  
 SABRINA WILLIS ..... PBSO

## MAY 2016

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 JARVIS HOLLIS ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 CRAIG YOCHUM ..... JUPITER  
 MARCUS BEESLEY ..... LANTANA  
 MARCOS BLANCO ..... LANTANA  
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 KAYLEE SALGUERO ..... DELRAY BEACH  
 SHAWN SKINNER II ..... DELRAY BEACH  
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 ANGEL LOUIJUSTE ..... MCSO  
 LORI VICKENS ..... PBSO  
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 NICOLE CRISTOFORO ..... MCSO  
 DARYN WHITEFIELD ..... BOYNTON BEACH  
 AARON POSSET ..... RIVIERA BEACH  
 TYLER CARMAN ..... PALM BEACH GARDENS  
 DARCEY KNEVELLBAARD .....  
 ..... PALM BEACH GARDENS  
 JANISSA DAVILA-RENDUELES ..... PBSO  
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## No speeding in school zones!



Palm Beach County School District Police Department officer Adams was called out to Eagles Landing Middle School on June 19 to a report of a gator on campus.

## Palm Beach County PBA Wants You!

Tell us about your military service. If you or any PBA member has defended our freedom we are looking to tell your story and recognize your service. Send your name, branch of service and years of service to Angela at [Angela@pbcpsba.org](mailto:Angela@pbcpsba.org).

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**24-27**

**July 24-27**

### NAPO's 38th Annual Convention

Eau Palm Beach Resort  
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The National Association of Police Organizations 38th Annual Convention will bring leaders of law enforcement associations from across the U.S. to Palm Beach County for three days of great information and great activities. Among the scheduled speakers is Bobby Smith of the Louisiana State Police who tells his story of recovering from a shotgun blast to the face during an encounter with a drug offender.



## Email Blasts

All members, especially AOL users, need to add [mail@pbcpsba.org](mailto:mail@pbcpsba.org) to their address books to receive email blasts. If members haven't received an email from the PBA in more than 30 days they have either opted out of the informational blasts, do not have an email address on file with us or their email is bouncing due to not having [mail@pbcpsba.org](mailto:mail@pbcpsba.org) saved as a contact. Members can email Angela at [Angela@pbcpsba.org](mailto:Angela@pbcpsba.org) directly with changes or go to [www.pbcpsba.org](http://www.pbcpsba.org) to update their contact information.

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# 'You always have to have your thinking cap on'

After pushing through the mid-life mark some might call their early forties, people tend to reflect on what they already have accomplished, and what they hope to begin. At 50, PBC PBA Legal Counsel Larry Fagan, Esq. feels fortunate enough to have achieved his two greatest goals: becoming an attorney and becoming a father.

"I've always wanted to help people with their problems, and guide them through the difficult periods of their lives," says Fagan, who has been with the PBC PBA for 13 years.

Working nearly nine years as a public defender before joining the PBA legal team, Fagan internalized the importance of compassionate action early in his career – a vital component for being both a successful parent and a formidable litigator.

"You need to know the nuts and bolts and the framework of the law, but there is no substitute for the humanistic strength," says Fagan, who believes public relations and social work go hand-in-hand with delivering the letter of the law.

"You have to have compassion to get to the solution," he continues. "(Officers) are very easy to represent because they're used to listening. They'll listen, but they have to trust you first."

More than two decades of practicing law has equipped Fagan with the necessary tools for successful work with such varied backgrounds and personalities that comprise the PBC PBA community. Valuing experience in addition to education, he focuses on the needs of the individual, which may evolve considerably depending on the situation.

"You need to have the experience to get (the clients) to the other side," he says. "They don't just seek counsel because they slept on duty. They come because they had a fight with their spouse, because they're going through a divorce and their spouse said they hit their kid."

Handling every situation that arises from a client who's facing an Internal Affairs investigation into an officer-involved shooting to one who's facing disciplinary action for using a work computer to log onto Facebook, Fagan has seen, heard and defended it all. When he decided to become an advocate for the PBA, what made the switch so alluring was the idea that each day would be different.

"Looking at crimes from the other side keeps the work interesting," he says. "Because the police are public employees, this (type of work) is the perfect balance of public work and private litigation – it's kind of in between."

Whether he views any given case from the perspective of public defender or private litigator, Fagan takes the work seriously.

"You always have to have your thinking cap on because you



## Meet Larry Fagan

**2003 - Present:** PBA Legal Counsel

**What I love about working for the PBCPBA:** the family-type environment

**What I love about my job:** the ability to help people

**What it takes to work with police officers:** the ability to be firm, and have a no-nonsense approach with an educated compassion

have to think on your feet," he reasons. "You're the one who decides whether your client is going to give a statement when there's a shooting involved."

Fagan's dedication comes with the understanding that, more often than not, he is his client's singular defense in a desperate situation.

"Many times, I'm their only lifeline to know what's happening or how to help them," Fagan pledges. "As an attorney, you have to have the ability to deal with people on a personal level, despite what charges they're facing."

According to Fagan, three attributes critical to working as legal counsel for the PBA include people skills, trial skills and writing skills.

"These help with the day-to-day affairs," he says, noting how often he finds himself tête-à-tête with a judge or an arbitrator, or handling a brief.

As is the case with many professionals who dedicate themselves to such strenuous – at times, depleting – services, Fagan has his own special way to celebrate success:

"I go to MacDonald's," he quips.

In more than a decade of work as an advocate for the Palm Beach County PBA, Fagan has experienced both heart-stopping challenges and adrenaline-coursing successes. And that appears to be what keeps him going.

"It's extraordinarily interesting work," he says. "You have to have the people skills; if you can run a restaurant and be a trial lawyer, it contributes greatly to your success." ♥



# Law enforcement: always welcome at Trump estate



**GARY  
FERRERI**  
DELRAY  
BEACH

On March 11, David Shiner from the Shiner Law Group in Boca Raton who serves as the General Counsel for the Republican National Party in Palm Beach County invited his brother, Delray Beach Police Officer Michael Shiner, and me, to be his personal guests at the Lincoln Day Dinner at Mar A Largo, Donald Trump's Palm Beach Estate. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Trump's staff, attended a cocktail hour where Dr. Ben Carson, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, senators, member of congress from both the state and national level and local elected officials walked around and sipped cocktails just like anyone else. David Shiner, being the branding expert that he is, ensured that both Mike's and my nametags clearly expressed that we were law enforcement officers.

David proudly introduced us to his high-powered friends who were intrigued by our stories of what we all do every day as law enforcement officers. Mike and I had an opportunity to speak candidly to these local, state and national leaders, and share our views on how we often feel abandoned by our elected leaders who prefer appealing more to certain groups. Mike then met one-on-one with Trump, at which time Mike handed him a Delray Beach Police Challenge coin and Delray Beach Honor Guard patch, which the presidential candidate graciously accepted. Mike thanked Trump for publically supporting law enforcement and for not jumping on the bandwagon with many other elected officials to gain support from special interest groups.

As the night progressed and David continued to proudly introduce his brother and me as law enforcement officers, several elected officials began to ask us how we think they can better their relationship with law enforcement. We suggested a few simple ideas such as meeting their local officers and asking them what they need to be able to do their jobs better and more safely, refusing to answer to the loud small minority of people that hates us no matter what we do and to encourage the quiet majority to speak up in support of law enforcement, doing a ride along or two to observe what we do every day instead of assuming and, lastly, leaving our benefits alone unless they intend to make them better.

The night ended with David sitting at Trump's table with Bondi and other honored guests, where he continued to boast about his brother and his relationship with law enforcement. David offered Mike and me an experience that was second to none, but more importantly promoted all law enforcement to our local, state and national leaders better than any civilian I've seen do it before. David is not only an exceptional civil litigation attorney, but also someone who has proven himself to be a friend of law enforcement and I thank him for that. ♥



Delray Beach Detective Gary Ferreri (right) abandons mingling for a moment to pose with Dr. Ben Carson and Delray police officer Michael Shiner.



Donald Trump accepts Delray Beach Police Challenge coin and Delray Beach Honor Guard patch from Officer Shiner.



Left to right: Presidential candidate Donald Trump, State Attorney General Pam Bondi and General Counsel for the Republican National Party David Shiner enjoy a photo op over dinner at Trump's Palm Beach estate.

## Inside job: We must look out for each other?



**JOE HERB**  
WEST PALM  
BEACH PBA  
PRESIDENT

In today's society, we have numerous "groups" that are anti-law enforcement. From the Black Lives Matter movement to Cop Watch to the federal government itself, everyone seems to be jumping on the bandwagon and blaming law enforcement for everything. We have armed civilians pointing guns at police officers and when the officers defend themselves and the suspect is shot, there are riots, protests and the overall desire to put the officers in jail even though they did nothing wrong but do their job. That being said, I always held the belief that no matter what and how society feels about us, there is one group I felt would always have my back. Us. The police. My brothers and sisters in blue (or green). Oh how wrong I was.

Now we have police officers who find it necessary to arrest another brother in blue for nothing more than a minor infraction of the law. Before anyone gets any ideas, I will preface this sentiment by saying that I understand that police officers make mistakes. I understand that there are consequences for some of those mistakes. I also understand that if and when possible, we do what we can to help each other out. One of the greatest powers we have as officers is officer discretion. Did I miss the memo where we – the police – have officer discretion when it comes

to the general population but not when it comes to each other? When did some become the "moral police" and feel it is their job to police the police? Last I remember, we have a unit for that and it's called Internal Affairs. However, some feel it necessary to take it upon themselves to put a fellow brother or sister in jail for nothing more than something they would give the average citizen a "break" for doing – on countless occasions no less. Why, you ask? I have no idea.

One officer has a history of this type of behavior; the other, as I remember very well, is one who himself had been done wrong (in his opinion) and was paying the price. I listened day after day as he whined about how bad the "system" was, and how he was being "targeted." After this union stepped up and got back what he had lost, why does he now feel it is his duty to put other officers into that type of situation? You would think he would be the first person to do whatever it takes and use some of that "officer discretion" to keep other officers out of the very situation he bemoaned. Boy, were we wrong.

I will conclude by saying there is no reason anyone can give me that justifies this betrayal. I also can say that, as the President of the West Palm Beach Police Benevolent Association, the majority of the membership feels the same way. And as far as these so-called officers are concerned, you made your bed. You can lie in it. ♥

## embrace local law enforcement officers

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### About Kevin

Embrace Home Loans is proud to have Kevin P. Coleman as a part of our team. Kevin is a go-getter; he is always up for new challenges and finds it very rewarding to help people become a new homeowner or refinance with an excellent loan. His responsibilities include mortgage origination and gaining new business through realtors and personal referral sources in the state of Florida. Kevin loves being a helpful and reliable source to his team and loyal customers. His goal as a loan officer is to gain a mortgage client for life. 100% of his current mortgage business is from realtor/client referrals along with being a preferred mortgage lender for law enforcement as well. Kevin has been in the mortgage industry for over 9 years. Kevin graduated from the University of Central Florida with his degree in Finance and learned the mortgage process working in Operations and Underwriting for the first year of his mortgage career. He moved to the mortgage origination side and has always been a Top Senior Originator ever since. Due to all his hard work, Kevin has been awarded numerous awards throughout the years for being a Top Producing Loan Officer and Account Executive. Kevin promises to give every potential buyer superior customer service and help them achieve homeownership or help them refinance to a loan that will benefit his client's long term success with their home finances in life.



# Speaking out for the cause

## Press conference confirms PBA's unwavering support for Palm Beach Gardens officer Nouman Raja

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL AND JOSHUA SIGMUND

There was no time to lose.

At 3 p.m. on June 1, the Grand Jury decided to charge former Palm Beach Gardens Police Officer Nouman Raja with culpable manslaughter and first-degree murder for the October 2015 shooting of Corey Jones. By 11 a.m. on June 2, Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian had gathered a media mass at the PBA Office in West Palm Beach to vehemently deliver the message that one of their own had been wrongfully charged.

"After reading the probable cause affidavit...if I presented that probable cause to the state's attorney, they would tell me to come back with real probable cause," Kaz asserted. "That's how weak it is. But, then, their investigator wrote it."

It didn't take long for the PBA to come up with the information to illustrate how improbable the state's attorney's cause appeared to be. He gathered the PBA brain trust that included PBA Executive Director Ernie George, PBA Counsel Rick King and attorneys Richard Lubin and Scott Richardson and quickly crafted bullet points Kaz used to educate the media and explain why the union is standing by Raja – including paying his legal fees – even though the city of Palm Beach Gardens fired him.

"We are very sympathetic to the Jones family because we know this is a tragedy. There were some mistakes made on both sides but this was no crime," Kaz reinforced. "So we're going to fight this vigorously because this could happen to any law enforcement officer in any agency out there."

In stating the case on behalf of Raja, Kaz referred to the recording from AT&T roadside assistance in which Jones can be heard saying, "huh?" He brought this up to address the contention that Raja, who was in plain clothes and driving an unmarked vehicle, did not identify himself as a police officer

when he made the stop after seeing Jones' car broken down near the southbound exit ramp from I-95 at PBA Boulevard on Oct. 18, 2015.

"Obviously we're all intelligent grown adults," Kazanjian prompted. "Something must have been said when Mr. Jones said 'huh?' So, officer Raja is not lying – he was telling the truth when he said he identified himself as a police officer."

Elaborating on why Raja – who had been with the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department for six months – was not wearing his marked tactical vest, Kazanjian drew on his own experience as an undercover officer, attesting, "You take off your vest, whether it's hot or whatever and he did."

Kazanjian criticized Raja's supervisors at the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department for assigning the rookie cop undercover duty in an unmarked vehicle. He also voiced frustration at the department for not being immediately "transparent" about the shooting and said he had to push the chief to "get out there and confront the public" as he feared that riots and protests would break out in Palm Beach County as they had across the country after other recent police shootings.

Kaz also expressed disappointment at the State's Attorney's Office in its post-incident reaction. He proclaimed the case presented to the grand jury was "one-sided" because the lead investigator from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office was not invited to testify. Further, Kazanjian emphasized that outside forces such as the national focus on police shootings determined whether Raja was going to be charged or not, and noted that he will talk with Raja's attorney, Richard Lubin, about whether Raja could get a fair trial in Palm Beach County.

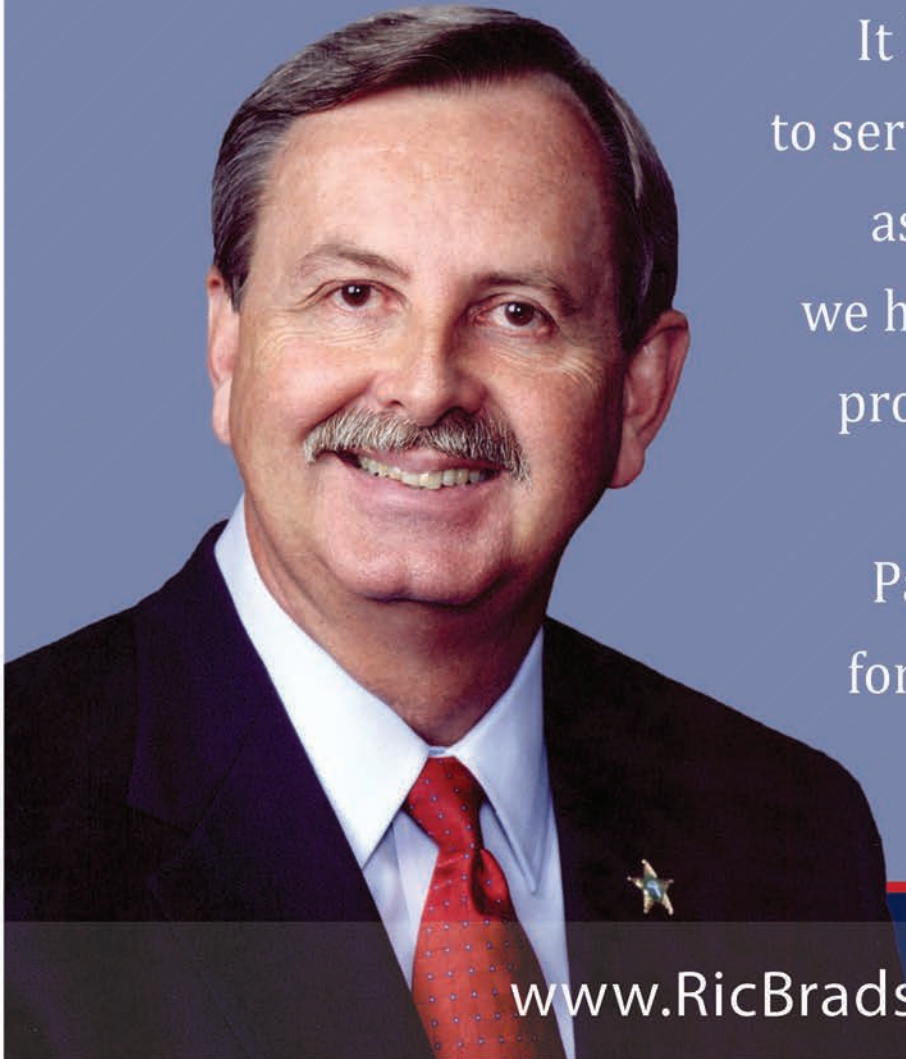
"Fears about those outside groups and protest worked against Raja," Kazanjian stated, "and those outside forces could hit any officer." ♥



Surrounded by members of the Palm Beach County PBA board of directors during a June 2 press conference, President John Kazanjian proclaims the union "stands firmly behind" former Palm Beach Gardens Police Officer Nouman Raja.

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# Support your local sheriff

By Mitchell Krugel



Working his way up from patrol through the ranks, Ric Bradshaw has dedicated a 40-plus-year career to serving and protecting Palm Beach County and building the Sheriff's Office into one of the best in the country.

Ric Bradshaw stirred the troops – on this June 4 night that would be the nearly 500 who gathered for the 9th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officer's Ball – with a message that no doubt echoed to the more than 4,000 officers in his Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Combining the oratorical impact of MacArthur, John Wayne and even the Old Ball Coach from his days at Florida, Sheriff Bradshaw introduced officers from his honor guard who presented a dramatic flag-bearing ceremony that resonated the magnitude of the stars, the stripes and the shape of its folding.

"I'm having a special presentation box made for this flag to be displayed at the PBA with a gold inscription on it that's going to say, 'Remember who you are,'" Bradshaw announced. "Because the only way we're going to keep law enforcement officers doing what they need to do is for them to

be proud of what they do. And we have the responsibility as leaders to back them up, to stand behind them."

The officers, active and retired, family, friends and law enforcement supporters assembled at the PGA Resort immediately rose to their feet, applauded, cheered and appeared pumped up enough to follow the sheriff into battle. They were feeling the power of Bradshaw, the fervor that has made his one of the pre-eminent Sheriff's Departments in the entire country. And from this charged ballroom radiated the confirmation that even 43 years into his storied law enforcement career, Bradshaw is as vibrant, as passionate and as dedicated as ever to take a fourth term as Palm Beach County Sheriff.

"I still have a lot of gas in the tank," Bradshaw quips about why he's running for re-election. "People who know me



***"I think he's a good leader because he is a straight shooter, and he knows the job because he did the job."***

**- PBC PBA Executive Director Ernie George**

know I'm not the kind of guy who sits back and takes it easy. This is one of the most dangerous times in U.S. history, and it's not the time to turn this agency over to somebody who doesn't have the qualifications, who doesn't have the finger on the pulse of the community to keep the people safe."

From starting out working the streets of West Palm Beach on patrol to working nearly every detail to becoming chief for nearly 10 years, Bradshaw has made law enforcement his profession, his expertise and his career. Since coming out of the Marine Corps in 1973, he has never held any other kind of job. Protecting and serving has been his livelihood and what sounds like a campaign promise is really statement of dedication when Bradshaw says sheriff is the last job he will ever hold.

"He's a real police officer," declares PBA Executive Director Ernie George who worked as a patrolman for Bradshaw when he was promoted to sergeant and later as a road lieutenant. "He came up by working the street, working as a detective and then he became a boss and never forgot where he came from. I think he's a good leader because he is a straight shooter, and he knows the job because he did the job."

### **Career Officer**

If there was a resume template or quintessential career path for being sheriff in Palm Beach County, or any other county in the U.S., it might read like Bradshaw's record. When he says that every job he held in the West Palm Beach Police Department prepared him to be sheriff, well, the proof is in the putting.

The resume begins with being a graduate of Lake Worth High School, and being a native of Palm Beach County has bred a responsibility to provide for the safety and security in his hometown. It seems as though he envisioned a life in leadership when obtaining a Bachelors of Science in Human Resources Management – with honors – from Palm Beach Atlantic University and a life in law enforcement leadership by getting a Masters of Science in Administration with a specialization in Emergency Management from Lynn University.

Now, if you're scoring at home, how many of the positions in the department did Bradshaw not work during a career that included road patrol officer, detective sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, assistant chief of police and chief of police? Dispatcher, maybe? Custodian?

"I think the best training I've had is the number of years I've had in command positions," explains Bradshaw, who has also been a SWAT team commander and leader of other specialized units. "You learn from each step and take the experience and knowledge with you, so I feel I had a lot of insight into being a law enforcement executive before taking over this large agency."

Since taking over that large agency, Bradshaw has become chairman of the Florida Sheriff's Emergency Task Force and chairman of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, both for Florida Region 7 which encompasses Palm Beach County, Dade County, Broward County and the southeast section of the state.

Before taking over the agency or even running for sheriff, Bradshaw bounced the idea off longtime colleague Robert Van Reeth who worked with him at the West Palm PD and now heads Internal Affairs and several other departments for the PBSO.

Bradshaw told Van Reeth that he was going to retire from the police department and spend a year essentially fact-finding while running for sheriff. He showed up at various meetings as what he called a concerned citizen, and to Van Reeth that exemplified what Bradshaw had learned climbing the ranks.

"He formulates a plan and puts it into operation," Van Reeth comments. "And he's successful."

### **Career Opportunities**

The mandates on Bradshaw as sheriff read like the words that scroll across the bottom of the screen on CNN or similar news channels.

...Elected sheriff in 2004 with 56.7 percent of the vote, re-elected in 2008 with 89.1 percent and again in 2012 with 78.5 percent...

...Supporters praise him for returning the sheriff's office to a crime-fighting focus...

...Known for cracking down on gangs, pill mills, child predators and synthetic marijuana manufacturers...

...PBSO budget has grown 68 percent since 2006...

When money was tight for law enforcement across the country, Bradshaw worked to keep public safety a top priority for county officials.

"Sheriff Bradshaw wants us ready for any challenges that come up. He knows something like what happened in Orlando can happen at any time, anywhere" testifies PBCPBA President John Kazanjian who calls Bradshaw the best of the five sheriffs he has served with in 30 years.

"He takes a stance for the women and men in green, and I will tell you that goes a long way. If somebody makes a mistake, he's going to serve out some discipline, but the way he protects and stands up for the women and men far outweighs that."

Because he is all about the women and men, Bradshaw is not one to grandstand his qualifications. He merely asserts that the PBSO is on top of its game, and as the ninth largest sheriff's department in the U.S., it's not the type of agency that can be turned over to a law enforcement veteran who doesn't have the three terms of experience. Or any experience with an agency this size.

"If you're a person lying in a hospital needing open-heart surgery and there are three doctors to pick from to do the



operation, who are you going to choose?” Bradshaw asks. “Do you want the doctor who has never done one or the one who says, ‘I think I can do it,’ or the one who has done it for 25 years?”

### The ripple effect

To get a true sense of Bradshaw’s work ethic, it’s probably best to ask those who have worked for him. Van Reeth has been one of the sheriff’s charges for more than 25 years in two agencies, and he describes his relationship with Bradshaw as all business.

When Van Reeth made assistant chief running IA in West Palm Beach, he had been used to interacting with Chief Bradshaw on a daily basis. But other than meetings, that contact waned. The chief was probably mired in doing chiefly things, but just to make sure there were no problems Van Reeth decided to ask if anything was wrong when running into Bradshaw in the hall.

“He said, ‘If you are doing something wrong, I will let you know.’ Then he walked off,” Van Reeth recalls. “In this business, there are lots of bosses who have a choker chain around you. But he’s not going to tell you how to do your job. If you have a problem, he wants you to think about a solution. You have to let him know you are processing, and you get the benefit of his experience. That’s how he develops you.”

Through his decades of leadership, Bradshaw has become known for some almost idiosyncratic tendencies that resonate throughout the ranks. He can usually be seen in the office carrying a legal pad on which he is always making lists of pros and cons. When prompting his people to implement solutions, he asks them to consider “the ripples when you throw the stone into the pond.”

And if you have been in a meeting with Bradshaw to discuss deploying a tactic, strategy or solution, there’s a good chance you have heard that there is no crystal ball with all the answers. And that’s why, Van Reeth, believes, the sheriff cultivates people who are not afraid to speak their minds.

“He’s not one for the knee-jerk reaction,” Van Reeth assesses. “We were having some conversations about the number of shootings and he asked what we might be doing wrong. It led to a tactical de-escalation with the understanding that officers are expected to handle dangerous situations, but that doesn’t mean they need to rush into dangerous situations.”

Others have said they can sometimes see Bradshaw’s mind switching on and downloading ideas like a computer printing out a series of documents. Or they have said he would make a great chess player because he is usually thinking five moves ahead. Van Reeth submits another metaphor to surmise Bradshaw:

“When changing course on a boat, you give a gentle nudge on the rudder and stand back and watch. Then you give another nudge and watch,” he explains. “Sheriff Bradshaw sets a course and says, ‘We’re sailing this way.’ What more can you ask for?”

### A man of his people

This would be the time when Bradshaw would have the floor to send up thoughts that underline why he’s the PBA-endorsed candidate for Palm Beach County Sheriff. Don’t expect something MacArthur-like or even Spurrier-esque. He knows only one way to steer the ship.

“You provide your officers with the best possible equip-



ment to do the job,” he begins. “You make policies and procedures they can understand, so they don’t put themselves in a bad position. You provide proper supervision out there because they are young women and men. And finally, you give them the best training possible. You don’t have to get up and say everything’s perfect. But you provide them those things so they know you can count on them and they can see you are behind them.”

George contends that Bradshaw subscribes to one simple demand that makes him a man of his people: “As long as they tell the truth, he will stand behind them,” he says.

And here’s what happens when you stand behind your officers: Following the rousing flag ceremony Bradshaw presented at the PBA Ball, the PBA announced its Officer of the Year Awards. PBSO Deputy John Ross earned the Officer of the Year Award with his response to the gruesome incident detailed further in this issue. When asked to reason why he was able to react so quickly and successfully to this incident, Ross did not hesitate.

“Our leaders,” he said. “We have a lot of good leaders, and it starts at the top with Sheriff Ric Bradshaw.” ♥



# ***Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball 2016***





# Monster Ball

Record attendance, the presence of dignitaries and celebrities and emotional tributes made the 2016 PBA Ball an event nobody will ever forget.

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY JENIVEVE BOWHALL

When Master of Ceremonies Allan Ortman commenced the 9th Annual Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association Police Officers' Ball, his first order of business introduced the dignitaries who came to the party. Ortman went on for several minutes presenting sponsors, elected officials, PBA leaders from across the state and even the president of the National Association of Police Organizations.

The introductions on this Saturday night extended so far that when the one celebrity in the PGA Resort ballroom – Baseball Hall of Fame Catcher Johnny Bench – took the podium to make some remarks, he captured the moment as it deserved. “Anybody who has not been introduced, please stand up,” the two-time National League MVP and 14-time Cincinnati Reds All-Star quipped.

Clearly, anybody who was anybody attended the Ball. The nearly 500 people who did attend reveled in a weekend of honor and courage and tribute and memoriam and brotherhood and above and beyond the call of duty and laughter and history and beauty and fashion and prizes, all of which stamped this as one of the most prestigious law enforcement events of its kind.

“Listen, the venue was excellent. We had so many of our community leaders attend, from mayors to county commissioners to the (Florida) Senate President (Joe Negron), and, of course, Johnny Bench,” exclaimed Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian. “Other than maybe our first one, this was one of the best ever.”

If there was a measure of the intensity and electricity that underlined the entire weekend, consider that by Saturday afternoon Kaz had nearly lost his voice. Still, when he stepped to the podium for his address at the ball, Kaz raised the roof by announcing that with sponsorships, donations and ticket sales to the Ball, the PBA Charity Fund was now topping \$2 million.

Enough food to feed a small village highlighted the Friday night event that took on the feel of a rehearsal dinner and spread the camaraderie that makes the PBC PBA so unique and impacting.

And so it went as laughter gave way to charity and honor Saturday night, beginning with a reception that featured Pete Tartaglione's amazing silent auction and its many extraordinary gifts and sports memorabilia. With some of the vacation opportunities, day trips, autographed jerseys and photos from sports legends and items from Tartaglione's beloved New York Yankees.



Then, applause thundered through the ballroom when Ortman began introducing the honored guests. On the sponsor side, he tipped the hat to longtime PBA friends such as Rich Tschernia of Freedom Mortgage; Gary Sullivan of Trustmark; Richard Snyder of Mass Mutual; Dan Doherty of Embrace Home Loans; as well as Star & Shield; the law firm of Bichler, Oliver, Longo & Fox and several other businesses and organizations.

The appreciation grew louder when Ortman gave some of the elected officials a bow. Palm Beach School Board Member Frank Barbieri; Palm Beach County Commissioners Mary Lou Berger and Paula Ryan; Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith; West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio; Florida State Representatives Irv Slosberg and Dave Kerner; State Senator Joe Abruzzo; U.S. Representative Patrick Murphy and, of course, Senate President Negron were each recognized for their support of the PBA and contributions to law enforcement. The longest and loudest ovation came with the introduction of Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who would later present perhaps the most dramatic part of the program.

The last introduction might have been the most important, when Ortman confirmed: “And the glue that holds this ceremony together, PBA Vice-President Rick McAfee.” Working with Kaz as the Ball Committee chairman, McAfee led a team that included PBCPBA Executive Director Ernie George, Treasurer Lou Penque, Secretary Kevin Igo, Sergeant-at-Arms Greg Allen, Tartaglione, Ortman, Ray Griffith, Bobby Brown, Billy Gray, Bill Gale, Teri Barbera, Christine Christofek-Weiss, Andrea Branch, Wendy Coleman, Robert Cresswell and Elizabeth Moya that offered this monster Ball.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



In addition to some more comic relief, Bench, who recently moved to Jupiter, paid tribute to law enforcement when he told a story about how he took some Indian beads from an abandoned house where he grew up Oklahoma. He was seen leaving the house, and a state trooper eventually showed up at his house to tell Bench he committed a federal offense and he was going to take him down to the police station.

"I don't jaywalk until this day," Bench concluded. "So I want you to know I support all of you and I can't say enough about all you officers out there. I just wanted to come here tonight and tell you how much I love you."

Kaz, naturally, did a little stand-up, too: "We have many dignitaries in the room, and because of that, you might have noticed some of the waiters dropping some plates," he mused. "Those are the undercover agents, so don't yell at them."

The President concluded his presentation by bringing Igo, Brown and Griffith up to the podium and surprising them with awards to honor their recent retirements. And he presented a special farewell video that words cannot do justice to; so go to the pbcnpa.org to check it out.

Sheriff Bradshaw then sent up an inspirational and motivational speech that any presidential candidate – let alone anybody running for Palm Beach County Sheriff – would have envied. That led to the introduction of two members of the PBSO Honor Guard, who presented a flag-folding ceremony few had ever seen.

In setting the stage to break down the ceremonial 13 folds of the flag that are done when it is taken off a casket of a fallen soldier or officer, one of the officers explained, "There is no



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greater symbol of our nation's values and principles than the flag of the U.S. Chosen by the Continental Congress in 1777, it continues to exemplify the profound commitment to freedom, equality and opportunity made by our Founding Fathers."

For the significance of each fold of the flag, see the accompanying story here. When folded, the flag was presented to be displayed at the PBCPBA so all members who see it will, "remember who you are and what you represent," Bradshaw emphasized.

In perhaps keeping with the theme, the PBA ratcheted up the tributes by presenting the flag that had been flying over its headquarters in West Palm Beach to the family of PBCPBA founding father and its first president, Ron Sowers, who passed away in December.

Oh, and then, the PBA presented its Officer of the Year Awards. Not that the night needed any more bursts of emotion, but the efforts from Officer of the Year PBSO Deputy John Ross, First Runners-Up West Palm Beach Officer Travis Limauro and Detective Brittany Tatum; Second Runner-Up Agent Rey Paniagua of the PBSO; and Third Runner-Up PBSO Detective Chad Booth authored a final series of standing ovations. (For full stories on each of these officers, see pages 24-27.)

With that, the party really got going. And there might still be people on the dance floor waiting for the 10th Annual Ball that will no doubt be bigger and better. ♥

## Capture the flag

The ceremonial 13 folds of the flag as they were presented at the PBA Ball and what they represent:

1. Faith in God almighty.
2. An emblem of unity, power and purpose as a nation.
3. Where our heart lies: We are one nation, under God and indivisible.
4. In the words of Daniel Webster, God creates liberty only for those who love it and are willing to defend it.
5. Motherhood and fatherhood in tribute to their faith and loyalty.
6. We're all Americans: An immigrant nation, we reflect the best and the brightest of all who reach our shores.
7. Happiness and blessings of family, friends and loved ones.
8. A tribute to our armed forces: Alongside our comrades we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
9. Victories: From the battles of Guadalcanal to the battles of Tripoli, from the jungles of Vietnam to the desert sands of Kuwait to the streets of Baghdad to the mountains of Afghanistan, we have served together so others can live in peace.
10. All POWs and MIAs: We celebrate those who have returned and are with us, those who remain unaccounted for and those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom. They are gone but not forgotten.
11. A new day of infamy: Sept. 11, 2001. Let us not forget.
12. President Ronald Reagan once said: "There is no finer purpose than preservation of freedom."
13. The future of our nation. For generations to come, the U.S. will remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.



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**Officer of the Year**

**John Ross**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

# A response on the cutting edge

## PBSO Deputy rises up from 'gruesome' incident

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy John Ross saw the machete slicing toward his head. Amidst the darkness of the night of Oct. 7, 2015, Ross described the zing of light reflecting off the knife like something out one of those slasher movies.

"In that ambient light, I could see it was the sharpest machete I have ever seen in my life," Ross detailed. "I remember the way it was coming at me. It wakes me up sometimes."

The incident that resulted in Ross being honored as the Officer of the Year at the 9th Annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers Ball and as a "Top Cops" by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) could easily make for one of those horror movies. One of those horror movies that would not only wake you up in the middle of the night but make you sleep with the light on.

Ross had been discussing with his zone partner where to take their dinner break when a call came in of "non-eventful" fight breaking out between neighbors. As it turned out the fight was over dog poop.

Yes, dog poop.

Amado Lago apparently didn't take kindly to the poop, pulled a two-foot-long machete and attacked the man and woman who lived in the house next door. Three minutes and three seconds after getting the call, Ross responded to find the man with his head fileted open like a melon from the top of his head to his neck. The woman had two of her fingers chopped off and had locked herself inside the house, where Lago was trying to break in.

"We stumbled on to a bloodbath," Ross recalled. "Blood was sprayed all over the driveway and all over the walls. It was very gruesome."

Lago came charging around from the back side of the house to find the Sheriff's deputies. While Ross attended to the man lying on the ground, his partner shouted verbal commands to drop the knife. That's when the woman emerged from the house shouting, "He's trying to kill us."

Ross thought Lago had been distracted by the commands and the commotion, so he continued to provide aid. But as the dying man breathed his last breath, Ross saw the knife swing-



John Ross (center) receives the Palm Beach County PBA 2015 Officer of the Year award from PBCPBA Vice-President Rick McAfee (left) and President John Kazanjian.



ing at his head. He pulled his gun and ended the threat.

"I shot like I was always taught," Ross explained further. "After it was said and done, it was crazy that this whole incident started over dog poop. I actually had to take somebody's life over dog poop."

From rising up from the dung heap to ending up covered in blood, it's no wonder the incident still wakes up Ross from time to time. The fact that full-blown Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has not affected him more is perhaps a testament to his strength, which he says comes from a pretty powerful source.

"I have four little girls and I knew I was going to go home," he confided. "I can only think about that."

When Ross was honored at the NAPO Top Cops banquet during National Police Week in Washington, D.C., along with 39 other officers from Arkansas, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Federal and International agencies, he was obviously overwhelmed to be among so many heroes. By the PBA Ball on June 4, he had come to terms with where he fit in among the pantheon of law enforcement officers who all say they are just doing their jobs every day.

"Somebody taught me how to do this," Ross attributed. "We have the best training. We have a lot of good officers and a lot of good support. I owe it to all of them to just keep my head aware and above ground."

When a machete is slicing toward your head, it might have an impact on how you think about the job and how not to lose your head when it matters most. Ross believes that the incident, and what has happened since, has made him a bit more methodical, a bit more thorough and a bit more aware.

"It makes me think about things a little bit further; the next step because the course of action we take everybody is looking at, everybody is scrutinizing," he submitted. "So it will take that extra step before I make a decision to look around and make sure." ♥



## Officer of the Year

First Runners-Up  
**Detective Brittany Tatum**  
**Officer Travis Limauro**  
West Palm Beach Police Department

# West Palm Beach officers earn high honor for saving life

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

Extra-duty detail at Renegades Country Western Bar usually involves handling trespassing complaints, watching out for vehicle burglaries and, occasionally, breaking up a fight among patrons.

One July night in 2015 was far from typical for West Palm Beach Police Detective Brittany Tatum and Officer Travis Limauro, the latter of whom called the bar one of his “regular OT spots.” Their life-saving actions that night recently have earned the pair recognition as first runners up for the Palm Beach PBA Officer of the Year award.

Limauro and Tatum had been outside Renegades for about an hour when a patron approached to tell them a woman, perhaps drunk, was on the floor. The officers, who both have spent six years with West Palm Beach, headed inside to figure out the situation.

“A lot of things are going through your head. It was a really busy nightclub. You don’t know exactly what you’re walking into,” Tatum said. “It is an immediate adrenaline rush.”

Limauro agreed, saying he began to prepare himself mentally for what he expected to be a fight. What they found instead was indeed a woman who had fallen down, but the severity of the situation quickly became clear.

“It wasn’t just a drunk lady who fell,” Limauro recalled.

The middle-aged woman had no pulse and wasn’t breathing. An off-duty firefighter/paramedic who happened to be nearby performed CPR. Tatum stepped in to clear the woman’s airway by tilting back her head. Limauro called for backup and medics to get to the bar as “fast as hell,” before he went to his vehicle to retrieve an Ambu bag.

He returned to help Tatum and the paramedic with several rounds of breaths and chest compressions. Limauro spent five years in the Marines, so performing in high stress situations doesn’t faze him.

“All eyes are on us. I don’t want this lady to die,” he said.

The woman vomited and had shallow breathing after five rounds of CPR. Her breathing steadied following another five rounds. Medics arrived and transported the woman to a nearby hospital where it was determined she collapsed because of a “bad reaction” to alcohol mixing with her prescription medication, Tatum said.

“I did check in on her (at the hospital),” Tatum, who works as a special victims investigator, explained. “I felt kind of an attachment to her.”



Limauro recalled how several bar patrons stood around the collapsed woman as if nothing had happened, which drove home the gravity of what could have occurred.

“If we weren’t there, she probably would have died,” Limauro said.

Limauro and Tatum earned Officer of the Month awards and the story received local media attention, but neither thought about being recognized for doing what they considered to be just another part of their jobs.

“We just stepped up to the plate...I didn’t think we’d get any attention for it,” Tatum shared. “It’s an award knowing she lived.”

Limauro called it “cool” to be honored, as the pair has been several times, while also acknowledging intense moments like these are what come with the territory for police officers. He did mention that it was nice to go through the experience with Tatum since the pair went to the academy together and were hired at the same time.

“Brittany did a great job. We didn’t expect that to happen in the first hour of the four-hour shift,” Limauro said, adding they had not worked the Renegades detail together previously.

And, in the end, Limauro walked away with another key thought. “It made me realize the training we do is important,” he said. ♥



## Officer of the Year

Second Runner-Up

**Agent Rey Paniagua**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

# Picture Perfect

## A behind-the-scenes look at breaking up a Mexican cartel cocaine connection

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Let it be known that Rey Paniagua came to the Palm Beach County PBA Annual Ball dressed impeccably in a snazzy tuxedo, a true picture of elegance. When he accepted his award as second runner-up amongst the PBCPBA's Officer of the Year honorees, he flashed a smile beaming brighter than any light in the PGA National Resort ballroom.

Nobody outside the room will see this, of course, because Paniagua is assigned to the DEA Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force representing the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division, and because he is undercover, he is not allowed to have his picture taken. This, as much as the award and the incident that earned him the honor, is a testament to the traditional ways of policing that led Paniagua and his partner through an investigation that took 17 kilos of cocaine coming to Florida by way of a Mexican cartel off the streets of Palm Beach County.

"I think on this particular investigation we were successful because part of it was that administration within both the Sheriff's Office and the DEA allowed us to do some true, traditional police work," explained Paniagua, who has been with the DEA Task Force for eight years. "I think, all those drugs were coming here into Palm Beach County, so by us being able to identify this drug organization linked to a Mexican cartel directly and stop the flow of cocaine, I hope we were able to make an impact within the community and for the citizens."

The setting for blowing open this investigation begins with one of those former-gang-member-turned-informants being fit with a wire to go into a meeting. Again, without the benefit of pictures, imagine something out of *Carlito's Way* or some such movie.

The infiltration came because the Diaz/Alvarez drug-trafficking organization that had been smuggling large quantities of cocaine from Texas to Palm Beach County since 2009 thought that the police cooperator had something to do with a shipment being stolen. It was a high-risk operation, to be sure, but think about the upside?

"I commend both administration from the Sheriff's Office and the DEA administration for allowing us to have this meeting, not knowing whether the cooperator was going to make it out alive," Paniagua revealed. "We were able to gain so much evidence from that meeting, which really solidified our investigation. We were able to charge all the members of the drug-trafficking organization, so I think that was the turning point to all of this."

Based on the traditional investigative techniques, agents executed eight federal arrest warrants which helped seize \$1 million in assets, 15 firearms and a grenade launcher. To date, \$3 million has been seized.

To call this sting the biggest bust of Paniagua's 16-year career to date might not give it the proper perspective. The virtue of it, he said, was how it impacted the Palm Beach County community.

And that's a perspective Paniagua formed when he first came to the Sheriff's Office and was assigned to the Western community, where he noticed big drug problems on the street. He also noticed some veteran officers combatting those drug problems as part of the Narcotics Division.

"It sort of grew on me, seeing what these guys were doing and triggered my interest in going into a specialized unit, which was narcotics," he added. "From there, I really fell in love with the job."

The Sheriff's Office sent him to several training classes to get more experience in drug enforcement. And after being assigned to narcotics, he was given the opportunity to become a task force officer with the drug enforcement administration.

While working with a gifted DEA investigator to bust up the flow of coke from a cartel to the county is an outcome Paniagua is so proud of, that's not all of what he pictured when he got the chance to work narcotics.

"I think it happens more toward the end, once you are able to seize the drugs, seize the money, charge the individuals and then get their convictions," he confided. "I can tell you one of the defendants in this case received a sentence of 25 years, so to me, that's what it's all about." ♥





# Cell phone...

## ...Or phone call from a prison cell leads to dismantling drug and theft ring

■ BY JOSHUA SIGMUND

Imagine closing dozens of burglaries across multiple counties, recovering stolen firearms, shutting down a multi-state crime organization and putting the bad guys behind bars, all with just a few telephone calls and some solid detective dot-connecting.

That's exactly what Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Detective Chad Booth was able to do in May 2015 after he received a call from a confidential informant regarding the whereabouts of a prolific armed burglary suspect. And it's what earned him the Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Year Third Runner-Up Award.

"When I got the 3 a.m. phone call to wake up, I thought it was going to be a normal warrant arrest. Go pick him up and take care of business and go back to sleep," recalled Booth, a five-year veteran who has spent the past two years in the Violent Crimes Division Gang Unit. "It ended up being a couple-weeks-long investigation and it was a lot bigger than I expected."

Booth put plans in motion for units to respond to the location where the suspect was staying, and was eventually able to take the suspect into custody. In the process, officers were able to seize stolen firearms, illegal narcotics and \$100,000 in stolen jewelry.

On its own, this was a huge win.

"A lot of the people who were victims were people from the town I grew up in," Booth confirmed. "With the help of other detectives, we ended up clearing 30-something burglaries all through the Jupiter-Palm Beach area and all the way up into Martin County, so it feels good."

But Booth wanted to see how much deeper the crime ring went.

With the suspect in jail, Booth was able to listen in on his phone calls. Hearing talk between the parties in code such as, "We have to go up and clear the house out before anybody else got up there" along with other keywords, Booth deciphered that the suspect was involved in a multi-state burglary ring centered in a marijuana grow house in Tennessee.

"It's something that we do in the gang unit on a regular basis



to try and gain the intel – who they are talking to, what they are doing," explained Booth. "I just put this one forward because I knew there were a lot more victims out there. I wanted to find out what he was talking about and he led us to the house in Tennessee."

Booth alerted Tennessee detectives who were able to facilitate a search warrant from his information that led to making the arrests at the grow house. It was a major success that gave Booth some reinforcement about how to do his job.

"It makes me pay attention to the small things a lot more because you never know where it's going to lead," he emphasized. "It's the basic fundamentals of what we do sometimes. Simple things don't always turn out to be so simple." ♥



Thank you for all that you do to keep our neighborhoods and families safe. It has been a pleasure working with you in the State Legislature and I look forward to continuing our partnership on the Palm Beach County Commission.



**Vote David Kerner on August 30<sup>th</sup>**  
[www.DaveKerner.com](http://www.DaveKerner.com)

**DAVE  
KERNER**  
*for* **COUNTY COMMISSION**

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 [@DavidMKerner](https://twitter.com/DavidMKerner)

Paid by Dave Kerner, Democrat, for County Commission District 3



# Ready to serve his sisters and brothers



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Dave Kerner is running for Palm Beach County Commissioner because he misses being a police officer.

Now, before asking, “What are you thinking, Dave?” consider this: Law enforcement has been in Kerner’s DNA from growing up as the son of a police officer to enrolling in the police academy at age 19 while on full scholarship at the University of Florida to becoming a special prosecutor to ascending to be the ranking Democrat on the Florida State House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

And law enforcement continues to be so much a part of him that Kerner decided to leave the state legislature after two terms as representative to run for County Commissioner. Clearly, he wants to fulfill that same commitment to serving the public that inspired Kerner when he was on patrol for the city of Alachua from 2004-2007.

“When you’re on your shift and you respond to a call, you know there is no time for nonsense,” Kerner begins. “You have to make stuff happen, be compassionate and move on. I’ve tried to apply that as a lawmaker. Rather than getting caught up in ideological battles, I’d rather try to find a compromise and bring people together.”

Kerner confides that being a police officer was all he ever dreamed of as a kid and that naturally his father, Marty, who served as deputy chief in Lake Worth, pushed him in the doctor-lawyer direction. He seemed to be fulfilling dad’s dream when he turned down an appointment to the Air Force Academy in favor of attending his beloved UF.

But, then, midway through his freshman year, he couldn’t ignore the calling and told his dad he wanted to enroll in the police academy. Dad was pretty PO-ed. “It was the only time we weren’t on the same page,” Kerner tells.

Dad relented when Kerner promised to stay in school. He got on with Alachua, worked the midnight tour and graduated from Gatorland. Kerner eventually became an FTO, was honored as Alachua Police Officer of the Year in 2006 and had a pretty good life going.

“I loved it,” he says. “But my Sergeant pushed me to go to law school, and even bought me an LSAT preparation book that I kept in my patrol car. I felt I needed to take the opportunity to go to law school while I had the opportunity, and I was genuinely excited about studying the law. I never thought I would run for office.”

Officer Kerner maintained his affliction, rather affection, for law enforcement by working part-time with the Fish and Wildlife Commission from 2007-2012. And in 2010, he went to work in the State’s Attorney’s Office as a special prosecutor where he combined his legal passion with his law enforcement passion and got a taste of what goes into holding public office.

And so at 28 years old, Kerner made his run at the state legislature for a couple of reasons:



“Well, since I looked like I was about 12 years old, it gave me some legitimacy,” he muses. “Being in law enforcement, I think I have an understanding of the difference in what people think happens out there and what actually happens. I like to think I can bring clearer perspective than what most lawmakers have about pragmatic issues needing to be addressed on behalf of law enforcement officers.”

When addressing his legislative record in the assembly, Kerner often prefers the view from his seat on the Criminal Justice Subcommittee. He references a series of bills he worked on related to law enforcement-centric issues such as open carry, sentencing for criminals and human trafficking.

Human trafficking is one area where his law-enforcement exposure made a direct impact. Working in Alachua, he was able to see the direct causes being pimps and businessmen taking advantage of young women, and the bills he advocated were to break them out of the cycle rather than charge them and saddle them with criminal records that would keep them revolving into never ending cycle of human trafficking.

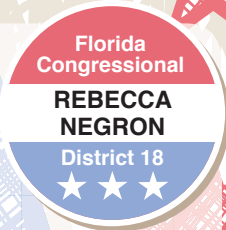
He was equally pragmatic in fighting for an open carry bill that addressed issues like weapons retention and level III security holsters, an application of what he’s learned at the academy, along with provisions for increased training.

“Part of my commitment is that I want to be a very loud voice for our police officers,” Kerner reasons. “I want to be the politician in Palm Beach County with a legitimate background that stands up and supports them and lets others know, ‘This is why we should support them.’”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



# Putting her community first



A Republican candidate for Florida Congressional District 18, Rebecca Negron is a local conservative who has lived in our community for almost 40 years. She supports securing our borders, strengthening our military and protecting our environment. Rebecca is a nurse and believes in putting patients back into the center of medical care delivery, giving them options and focusing on ways to address the high cost of chronic preventative diseases. She will vote to repeal and replace Obamacare.

Rebecca serves on the Martin County School Board. She works hard to make sure the voices of parents and teachers are heard and valued in our schools. Negron has been endorsed by the Palm Beach County PBA; she also has been endorsed by Maggie's List, Congressman Tom Rooney, and Representatives Debbie Mayfield, Gayle Harrell and MaryLynn Magar.

For more information about Rebecca Negron and her campaign for Florida Congressional District 18, please visit [NegronForCongress.com](http://NegronForCongress.com). ♥

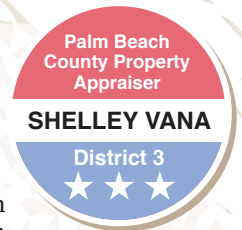


REPUBLICAN  
**Rebecca Negron** ★★ ★  
FOR CONGRESS, DISTRICT 18

*Supporting Our Local  
Law Enforcement  
– Vote August 30th –*

Paid for by Rebecca Negron for Congress

# Giving what's needed for the job



Shelley Vana's dedication to Palm Beach County began as a teacher for the Palm Beach County School District, where she taught for 20 years and eventually became president of the Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers Association.

The teacher's union – so impressed with her leadership – changed the bylaws to allow Vana to carry out an additional term as president before she decided to throw her hat into the political ring.

Vana, first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2002, served for six years before being elected as the Palm Beach County Commissioner for District 3, and served as the Chair/Mayor twice during that time.

On the campaign trail, Vana often asks constituents if they feel safe when they go out at night and, more often than not, the answer is "yes."

"I say that's not an accident because that is (law enforcement's) first job, the safety and security of our residents," explained Vana. "I'm always an advocate for giving men and women what they need to do their job."

Vana has proven her great understanding for law enforcement through her time as the teacher's union president where she worked with the Palm Beach County PBA.

"I'm going to support the people on the ground doing their job," recognized Vana. "When law enforcement says they need something to protect themselves and us, I understand that. If it's something that can save the life of an officer or a citizen, I support it. If we keep officers safe, we keep citizens safe." ♥

**I am honored to be endorsed by the PBA for the office of PBC Property Appraiser**

## Shelley Vana:

### Proven Leadership over decades of public service

- Palm Beach County School Teacher and District Resource Coordinator
- President and CEO of the Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers Association.
- Public Television and Radio Host/Producer
- Member, Florida House of Representatives in 2002
- Palm Beach County Commissioner for District 3, including 2 terms as Chair/Mayor

As a former Union President, I understand the value of the work you do and will be a public servant who keeps the interests of hard-working people of Palm Beach County a priority.

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Paid Political Advertisement by Shelley Vana,  
Candidate for Palm Beach County Property Appraiser



## A champion for the children

Matt Willhite is well known for his selfless leadership in the Palm Beach County community.

He served his country for eight years in the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman. Since 1996, Willhite has been part of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and has earned the rank of Captain.

As a Councilman and Vice-Mayor of the Village of Wellington, Willhite has been a champion for a stronger quality of life for all residents.

"I am honored to have a diverse coalition of residents, community organizations and small businesses behind our campaign," he shared.

Willhite has received the backing of the Florida Medical Association, the Palm Beach County PBA, the Palm Beach County Firefighters and the Classroom Teachers Association.

"Our children are our greatest asset and the next generation of leaders," he added. "Our strength as a community is achieving quality public schools so our children can have the resources they need to succeed. I am proud to fight for our frontline workers and for all working class families. I am deeply honored to have their support."

Today, Willhite is running to represent the people of District 86 in the Florida House and is ready to take his deep sense of service to the Florida Legislature. He and his wife, Alexis, have two boys, Luke and Mark, and are raising their family here in the district. ♥



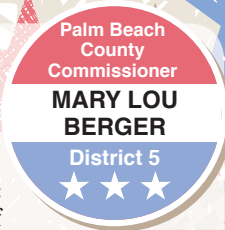
## A true advocate for first responders

One county, three cities, countless civic organizations and nearly three decades of direct communication with local residents and constituents have shaped Mary Lou Berger's approach to local government, and earned her a seat at the decision-making table.

Elected as District 5's Palm Beach County Commissioner in 2012 – serving West Boynton, Boca and Delray Beach – Berger joined the commission as a civic ally whose cumulative experience offered an extensive résumé reflecting true community advocacy. Working as Senior Administrative Assistant for County Commissioner Burt Aaronson from 1994 to 2012, Berger acted as the person-to-person liaison, responding to each resident's concerns, monitoring ongoing community issues and assisting in implementing solutions.

An active supporter of the Public Safety Department's Emergency Management Division, Berger has championed the advancement of the County Emergency Operations Center and presented a proclamation declaring the second Saturday of every February as "CPR Day" in Palm Beach County.

As she assumes greater responsibility serving the people of Palm Beach County, Berger continues to be the voice of resolution between citizens and government officials. As County Liaison for the Alliance of Delray, Berger provides Delray Beach with a non-partisan, unified front and a voice to federal, state and county elected officials for the betterment of its citizens; for Berger, this means giving a voice to the people of law enforcement and each of Palm Beach County's irreplaceable first responders. ♥



On August 30th,  
let's elect our  
local firefighter  
**Matt Willhite**  
as our next state  
representative!

**Commit to VOTE on August 30th**

★ **MATT** ★  
**WILLHITE**  
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 86

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Democrat for County Commission District 5\**

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# Working to stabilize communities and make them safer



Finding innovative ways to spur economic development and improve neighborhoods has been the hallmark of Paula Ryan's career, be it as a City Commissioner or during her many years in the private sector. This has included her efforts to link economic development to crime reduction and is based on her understanding that poor educational outcomes, intergenerational poverty and the lack of economic opportunities contribute to the increase of criminal activity, which accounts for the high level of incarceration in our society.

Commissioner Ryan is a business professional with more than 30 years of experience in investment banking, real estate development and municipal finance. She has been the CEO of her own real estate development company. Commissioner Ryan is originally from Washington, D.C., and grew up in a large military family at Andrews Air Force Base.

Earlier in her career, she worked for a national syndication and investment banking firm with an extensive real estate portfolio. Tasked with the responsibility to secure the real estate holdings of the firm, she and a small, dedicated team began to concentrate on the communities where assets had become bad. As the team members began to investigate, they realized that they needed to develop strategies that would stabilize the properties. It became clear that this was not going to be only a financial solution. Many of the residents were on welfare or some other form of government assistance, and jobs, if there were any, were located miles away from their communities.

According to Commissioner Ryan, she and her team learned that in order for residents to be able to consistently pay their rent and maintain the quality of a newly redeveloped community, they were going to have to ensure that the residents had access to jobs and steady employment. They brought in programs that worked with tenants to ensure that this occurred. These programs included high quality and affordable childcare, community-oriented police sub-stations and access to public transportation.

By working with local governments, they were able to bring public transit closer to the neighborhoods, and by partnering with recognized experts in early childhood education, the residents now had access to childcare. And their lives began to change. A sense of community and shared ownership began to develop. All the crime and criminal activity that occurred in the

past completely disappeared. The fact that families could finally begin to feel safe meant the resident turnover immediately improved. When turnover of the units virtually became non-existent, stabilized communities emerged. When people find a safe place to live, they take care to make sure it stays this way.

Commissioner Ryan believes that making communities safer results from transforming struggling neighborhoods. The creation of additional housing types and styles, better educational opportunities and access to services that help people remain healthy enable residents to achieve their full potential. And this is what makes great cities great.

As a result of such experiences and as a West Palm Beach Commissioner, Ryan's focus is on building better neighborhoods. It is important, she believes, to work with local police departments to implement positive changes within the community. Ryan believes that only by working together, on the ground and in the streets, will real change occur. Sometimes, it's more important to focus on the small incremental steps and do them over and over again to get it right. And she wants police department to know that they have a partner and that they are not alone in their efforts to make neighborhoods safe.

Every day, the community loses more young people to violence, and there are even greater threats to their mental and physical health, and that puts first responders further into harm's way. And when their lives are put in greater risk just by walking into an unhealthy community that puts all of us at risk.

Commissioner Ryan believes these are all solvable problems, and given the amount of resources currently in the system, the need is to focus them more effectively and deploy them in more collaborative ways. ♥



**DAVE KERNER** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Kerner decided to leave the legislature so he could pump up the volume on his voice. As a County Commissioner, he is looking forward to being one of seven rather than a minority member in the back aisle of the legislature. He is looking forward to providing an officer's perspective – he's a four time recipient of the Florida Sheriffs Association legislative award – when it comes to matters like the budget for the sheriff's department. And he is looking forward to spending a little more time at home with his wife, Jacqueline, an Atlantis police officer.

"After four years as a member of the (Assembly) Criminal

Justice Subcommittee on appropriations, after six years a law enforcement officer and having the trust of the unions, I promise the dialogue will be different and the analysis of the budget will be more legitimate than what we have seen," Kerner offers as a campaign promise he promises to make good.

Oh, and there's another promise he wants to deliver on that might reveal what has made Kerner such a devoted public servant for, well, most of his life.

"Lawmakers talk about family values," he expounds. "Part of my decision to run for County Commissioner is a personal decision to be with my wife and that's a good thing. You put family first, and the rest will follow in public service." ♥



# 2016 Palm Beach County PBA Political Endorsements

Office	Candidate	Party Affiliation	Region
Sheriff	James Fondo	No Party Specified	Broward
County Commission, Dist. 1	Doug Smith	Republican	Martin
County Commission, Dist. 1	John Haddox	Republican	Martin
County Commission, Dist. 3	Darlene Fuggetta	Republican	Martin
Martin County Tax Collector	Joe Sesta	No Party Specified	Martin
School Board, Dist. 5	Larry Green	No Party Specified	Martin
Sheriff	William Snyder	No Party Specified	Martin
Public Defender	Diamond Litty	No Party Specified	Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee
Circuit Court Judge, Grp. 1	Dina Keever	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
Circuit Court Judge, Grp. 3	Laura Johnson	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
Circuit Court Judge, Grp. 4	Gregory Tendrich	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
Clerk of the Circuit Court	Sharon R. Bock	Democrat	Palm Beach
County Commissioner, Dist. 1	Hal R. Valeche	Republican	Palm Beach
County Commissioner, Dist. 3	Dave Kerner	Democrat	Palm Beach
County Commissioner, Dist. 5	Mary Lou Berger	Democrat	Palm Beach
County Commissioner, Dist. 7	Mack Bernard	Democrat	Palm Beach
County Court Judge, Grp. 11	Thomas R. Baker	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
County Court Judge, Grp. 15	Bradley G. Harper	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
County Court Judge, Grp. 15	Gregory Tendrich	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
County Court Judge, Grp. 7	Marni Bryson	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
Port of Palm Beach Group 2	Katherine Waldron	Democrat	Palm Beach
Property Appraiser	Shelley Vana	Democrat	Palm Beach
Public Defender	Carey Haughwout	Democrat	Palm Beach
Sheriff	Ric L. Bradshaw	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 81	Joseph Abruzzo	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 86	Matt Willhite	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 87	David Silvers	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 88	Edwin Ferguson	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 89	Bill Hager	Republican	Palm Beach
State Representative, Dist. 90	Lori Berman	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Senator, Dist. 29	Kevin Rader	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Senator, Dist. 30	Bobby Powell, Jr.	Democrat	Palm Beach
State Senator, Dist. 31	Jeffrey Scott Clemens	Democrat	Palm Beach
Supervisor of Elections	Susan Bucher	No Party Specified	Palm Beach
State Senator, Dist. 25	Joe Negron	Republican	Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie
U.S. Representative, Dist. 18	Rebecca Negron	Republican	Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie
U.S. Senator	Patrick E. Murphy	Democrat	State of Florida



# And the winners are...

To top off the 2015-16 school year, the Palm Beach County PBA awarded its best and brightest high school seniors with 2016 Scholarship Awards to assist in funding their higher education.

Palm Beach County established a charity fund in 2004 to offset the rising costs of college education for law enforcement officers' children and to provide scholarships to children of PBA members pursuing higher education. In 2016 the Charity Fund distributed more than \$150,000 in scholarships and aid.

"It's really awesome that we gave out close to \$150K," recognized Palm Beach County PBA President John Kazanjian.

The scholarship program consists of the Palm Beach County PBA Scholarship, the Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Sean Alex Memorial Scholarship and the Annie Tartaglione Education Award.

Scholarship applicants are children of a Palm Beach County PBA member who are enrolled or plan to enroll in at a two-or-four-year college. They also are required to provide a transcript with their GPA and write a 500-word essay about themselves and their career goals.

"It took me two weeks to go through these and narrow it down to like 20 people," President Kazanjian said. "When we read their essays and saw the GPA's, it just blows your mind that our members' kids are that talented."

The first-place winners walked away with \$2,500 to put toward their education; second-place scholars were awarded \$2,000; and third-place finishers were awarded \$1,500. First-time applicants received \$1,000 and recurring applicants received \$500.

Kazanjian noted that the PBCPBA could not help facilitate higher education for members' children without

the support from sponsors, including Lincoln Financial, Mass Mutual, Gary Sullivan from Life Benefits and Richard Tschernia at Freedom Mortgage. ♥





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Won on Behalf of Our Clients*



**Alan M. Aronson**

Former General Counsel, Palm Beach County PBA and Former Legal Counsel, Palm Beach County School District



**SUZANNA M. SCARBOROUGH**

Former Legal Counsel, Palm Beach County PBA and Former Assistant State Attorney

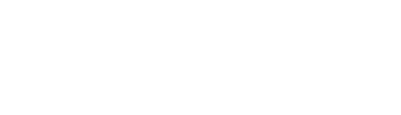


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## 2016 Scholarship Award Winners

### Kaitlin Kazanjian Scholarship Fund

- 1st Place:** Lindsey Wilson-Griffith,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
**2nd Place:** Lauren Hermanson,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
**3rd Place:** Kaitlen Hennessey,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

### Palm Beach County PBA

- 1st Place:** Britton Welliever,  
Martin County Sheriff's Office  
**2nd Place:** Rachel Neild,  
Martin County Sheriff's Office  
**3rd Place:** Allison Hennessey,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

### Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship Fund

- 1st Place:** Kelsey Kummerlen,  
West Palm Beach  
**2nd Place:** Tyren Woods,  
West Palm Beach  
**3rd Place:** Casandra Spinoso,  
West Palm Beach

### Sean Alex Memorial Scholarship

- 1st Place:** Noah Berkman,  
Palm Beach County School Police  
**2nd Place:** Ryan Lim,  
Palm Beach County School Police  
**3rd Place:** Taylor Reid,  
Palm Beach County School Police

### Anne Tartaglione Education Award

- 1st Place:** Kelly Igo,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
**2nd Place:** Keirra Lamm,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
**3rd Place:** Lauren Banuchi,  
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

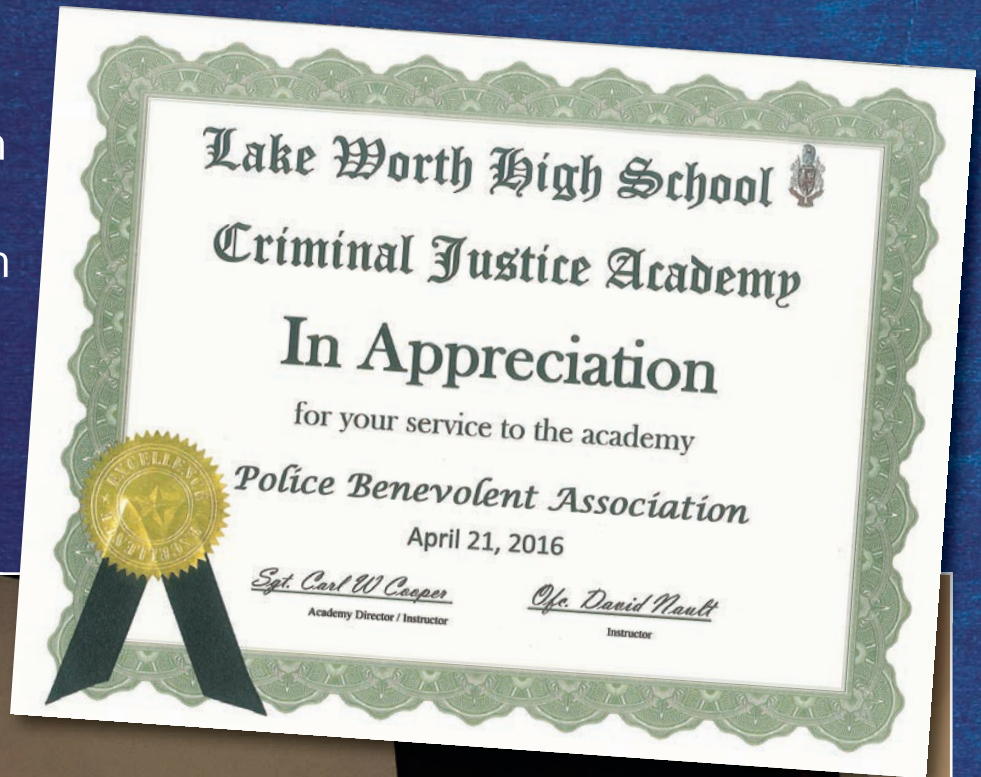




# Partners Against Crime

Lake Worth High School students receive scholarships, recognition and an award-winning criminal justice education

CJA students receive awards for their efforts and accomplishments at the awards ceremony.



■ BY STEPHANIE JONES

For more than 20 years, Lake Worth High School has established itself as a pioneer in criminal justice education throughout Florida. Conceived in 1993, the school's Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) has succeeded in preparing scores of fresh young minds for flourishing careers in criminal justice and law enforcement. This year's April 21 awards ceremony recognized some of those minds, and honored them with new scholarships from the State Attorney's Office.

A magnet program whose student selections are based on grades and attendance, the CJA teaches leadership through

cooperation and self-motivation – an essential skillset for students pursuing a career in criminal justice. Once they complete four years in the program, students receive 12 college credits toward an undergraduate degree from Palm Beach State College or Keiser University.

After the self-taught CJA Color Guard opened the ceremony delivering a striking presentation of the flags, sophomore Val-dine Perou entranced attendees with her powerful rendition of the National Anthem.

Event speakers included CJA underclass instructor David Nault, who served as a police officer in Palm Beach for more



than 20 years, and upper-class instructor and CJA director Sergeant Carl Cooper, who recently retired from the West Palm Beach force after a 28-year career. Cooper, who only recently became a key figure in the CJA program, has been involved with empowering Florida's youth for decades, receiving Officer of the Year awards from 2005 to 2007 for his work with the Police Explorers.

"My work with the kids has always been my passion. Working on the force has been the way I made my mark," says the retired officer who made a name for himself as the county's juvenile advocate, and who continues to encourage young people to become community leaders and lifelong scholars.

As a result of Cooper's long-term involvement with the national "Preventing Crime in the Black Community" conference, five outstanding CJA students were selected during the awards ceremony to attend the youth-centric initiative's 31st annual national conference in Miami in May; those students included Jessica Arreaga, Danielle Laggini, Roger Louis, Aventura Pericles and Nic Richards.

Another of the evening's high points was the CJA slideshow presented by graduating senior – and Cooper's right hand – Ghitza Serrano, who moved into a leadership position in 2015 when Cooper took over for the program's now-retired director, Robert Price. "She was great helping me transition into the role of director. She was perfect in helping me with everything I needed."

As the program's student body continues to reflect virtues of leadership and community service, the PBA has begun to take notice, and this year marks the beginning of its partnership with the CJA, which directly contributed to the program's internship recognition and the four scholarships awarded to outstanding Academy students.

With a growing number of young people becoming interested in criminal justice studies, the Lake Worth CJA is poised to become a national model motivating ordinary high school students to become extraordinary leaders. The high school, Sergeant Cooper and the PBA look forward to future ceremonies in the Lake Worth auditorium celebrating the pursuits of service-driven luminaries and lifelong scholars. ♥



The Lake Worth CJA Color Guard and Rifle Team perform for attendees of the annual awards ceremony on April 21.



A CJA student presents program director, retired West Palm Beach Sergeant Carl Cooper, with a token of appreciation.



CJA students line up for another day at the Academy.



CJA Director Carl Cooper is embraced by his students.



# The LEO *Wives* club



## Dedicated group of South Florida women prepare special gifts for Police Week

Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect their communities every day, and sometimes that results in making the ultimate sacrifice. During the past year, we have seen a tragic wave of Line of Duty Deaths and have mourned the loss of too many. Police Week is a great opportunity to acknowledge those who have fallen and support the ones who carry on day to day.

During Police Week this year, thousands of law enforcement officers from across the country travelled to Washington D.C. to attend the Candlelight Vigil and memorial services in support of their fallen brothers and sisters. Simultaneously during that week, the South Florida LEO Wives and sister groups all across the state of Florida honored many police officers. These women wanted everybody to know how much they appreciate the sacrifices their husbands and all officers make to keep our communities safe.

South Florida LEO Wives was started by Erin Roque and Tammy Hopkins as a local support group for the women in South Florida who watch their husbands leave for work and worry about the dangers they may encounter on the job. The group began with just a handful of women, and it has grown to include more than 700 members in the South Florida region, as well as LEO Wives groups throughout the state.

This amazing group of women gather to laugh, talk and sometimes cry. They understand each other, support one another through the good and especially the tough times, so no one feels all alone. What started out four years ago with 10 South Florida departments being included has turned into more than 50 departments in the state. Law enforcement officers everywhere are grateful to all the women in the South Florida LEO Wives,

West Florida LEO Wives, Central Florida and Treasure Coast LEO Wives who have been working so hard to make Police Week a success.

Florida LEO Wives spend nearly five months preparing to celebrate Police Week. They want to give our LEO's proper respect, not because they are a necessary reminder that evil exists; but because in the face of evil – of this world's chaos and mayhem – they are a necessary good. They are proud of their husbands and wives and the way they serve the community.

There's a lot that goes along with being a police wife: court, meetings, overtime, training and waiting up for his phone call to make sure he's OK because he abruptly hung up when he had to go on a call. LEO wives pray every night, with their little ones, that they come home safe and sound the next morning. When the wives hear the garage door open and the sound of Velcro as their officers take off their bulletproof vests, they praise God for keeping them safe for one more shift.

The South Florida LEO Wives is a group of women who love those who serve and protect. They choose to love and give their all to individuals who go out and dedicate their lives for the sake of others. The officers are the ones who kiss their spouses goodbye, not knowing if they will have the blessing of kissing their lips again. LEO wives are proud to be a part of the LEO family, for they know that without the sacrifice their husbands and wives make, they would be living in fear from the evil that's out there.

The Florida LEO Wives raised enough money for Police Week to reach 3,000-plus officers with gift bags – filled with their appreciation – not including all the donations for food they dropped off to police departments throughout the county. This





The South Florida LEO wives gathered at the Palm Beach County PBA Hall to prepare goodie bags to present to more than 3,000 officers during Police Week 2016 in May.

takes a group effort and the officers are so proud of all the hard work these women put into this event.

A lot of people don't know there is such a thing as Police Week, so the message the South Florida LEO Wives want to get out there is a simple, "Thank You," which can go a long way. It's not just what they do, it's what they're willing to do.

The South Florida LEO Wives would also like to extend a big thank you to Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Sergeant Dan Glisson and the Palm Beach County PBA for providing access to its facility to get all these goodie bags put together. It takes a huge effort and a lot of space to get all this done in a reasonable amount of time and having the PBA help is very much appreciated.

Please feel free to look us up on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest, or go to our website, [southfloridaleowives.com](http://southfloridaleowives.com). Or please email us at [southfloridaleowives@gmail.com](mailto:southfloridaleowives@gmail.com). ♥



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# Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

## March 2016



While on duty, these deputies located a vehicle that had been stolen during an armed carjacking. The suspect, upon seeing the deputies, drove off and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The stolen vehicle came to a stop in a shopping plaza in Lake Worth. When the suspect exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot, the deputies immediately secured the perimeter in an effort to apprehend the suspect and ensure the safety of the shopping center's patrons.

The suspect approached Deputy Sheriff Alvarez, threatening to kill him and pointing an unidentified black object at him. The suspect then turned and pointed at the other deputies, who took control of the situation and fired at the suspect, striking him. The suspect was taken into custody and no innocent civilians were harmed. These deputies are being honored for their bravery and heroism in apprehending an armed robber.

**Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff Garrett Bechtel, Deputy Sheriff Robert Zajicek, Deputy Sheriff Adnan Raja, Deputy Sheriff Jon Alvarez, Deputy Sheriff Autumn Krick and K-9 Deputy Sheriff James Barca**

Nominated by: Sergeant Dan Glisson

## April 2016



In April, Officer Lopez was outside of Okeehelée Middle School as his detail had just ended and approximately 300 parents, staff and children were exiting the building. Suddenly, Lopez heard gunshots outside the front gates of the school. Lopez watched as a car approached and the driver fired two rounds in the direction of the main entrance of the school, where the crowd was exiting.

Lopez took off, following the car for over two miles before conducting a felony traffic stop. He then held the suspect at gunpoint until backup units arrived. The suspect was placed into custody without incident, and a black Ruger LCP .380 was recovered from the center console, along with four spent shell casings. The suspect later was identified as a convicted felon, with an active warrant and a stolen firearm, who had been deported twice in the past. Thanks to Officer Lopez, this violent felon is off the streets.

**Okeehelée Middle School Police Officer Alex Lopez**

Nominated by: School Police Officer Brian Qualters



## May 2016



In May, Deputy James Williams was transporting a detainee to the Main Detention Center on burglary and grand theft charges. While en route to the jail, Williams stopped to check on the well being of his detainee. As Williams was adjusting the handcuffs, the detainee managed to free one of his hands and he began to hit, push and struggle against Williams.

Deputy Pintos, who was off duty and traveling with his wife in their personal vehicle, noticed Williams struggling to control his detainee. Pintos, fearing for the safety of Williams, asked his wife to dial 9-1-1 as he exited the vehicle to assist, by which time the detainee had fled from the vehicle and was hiding in some near-by bushes. Pintos, without hesitation, tackled and wrestled the detainee to the ground. Williams then was able to deploy his stun gun and regain control over the detainee. Pintos displayed great courage, quick thinking and fast action to prevent the escape of the detainee.

### Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff David Pintos

Nominated by: Lieutenant Willie Powell



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# Lessen your premium burden through pre-tax payment options



CAROLE  
DONOHOO  
CRPC, LUTCF

When speaking with law enforcement individuals regarding their retirement planning, I am amazed how few are aware of an opportunity to pay for health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars when they are retired.

So, let me share the details with you.

On Aug. 17, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Pension Protection Act into law. This law provides a tax benefit to qualified retired public safety officers – law enforcement officers, firefighters, chaplains or members of a rescue squad or an ambulance crew – by allowing up to \$3,000 per year to pay for health insurance, long-term care insurance or accident insurance on a pre-tax basis. The coverage can be for you, your spouse or your dependents. This provision went into effect Jan. 1, 2007 (IRS Publication 575).

The process of achieving this coverage is very specific. In order to qualify for the pre-tax benefit, the money must be paid directly from the pension plan to the insurance provider, and you must complete the request every year. An eligible retirement plan is a governmental plan that is a qualified trust, section 403(a) plan, section 403(b) annuity or a section 457(b) plan.

Some of you might not think this type of coverage is worth the effort, but let's assume you will be retired for 25 years and are in a 25-percent tax bracket. Taxes on \$3,000 at 25 percent would be \$750 per year. Your total for the 25 years would be \$18,750. I am sure many of you could find a better purpose for that money rather than sending it to the IRS.

So, how do you go about getting this process started? Usually, the best place to start is your HR department. In most cases, you also should be able to contact the plan; however, I have found that not everyone answering the phone at the plan office is aware of this benefit, so beware of misinformation.

Since the forms need to be submitted each year, I suggest getting the forms in December, then mailing them to the pension plan the last weekday of the year. That practice ensures the plan office receives the forms the first week of January, and that the distribution will take place within the correct year and in time to pay your January premium.

Here's how it works. Let's say that you are paying \$500 per month for your health insurance premium. If \$3,000 is sent to your provider, then your January bill will show \$500 due with a payment of \$3,000, leaving a credit of \$2,500. Each month you will receive your bill reflecting the credit until the credit is used up. In this example, you will be paid through June, and,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43



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# A primer on Weingarten rights

A special aspect of due process, similar to the right to counsel enjoyed by individuals accused of a crime, is the employee's right to union representation. In *NLRB v. J. Weingarten, Inc.*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Board's decision that section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act grants an employee the right to "refuse to submit without union representation to an interview which she reasonably fears may result in disciplinary action against her."

However, the right to union representation only arises in situations where the employee requests representation. For instance, in one noteworthy case, an employee participated in a closed-door meeting with his supervisor and manager where he was confronted by serious charges of sexual harassment. Although he may have felt intimidated, the grievant did not request the presence of a union representative; therefore, the arbitrator found that the Weingarten rights did not apply. The request for a union representative can be made in an insincere or flippant manner and still must be honored, so long as it is not made solely to delay the interview.

A very important thing to remember is that an employee can waive the right to representation by participating in a discussion with management. However, this participation must be deemed voluntary, otherwise Weingarten still applies. Further, even if an employee demands union representation as a condition of participation in an interview, this election cannot

interfere with any legitimate employer prerogatives.

For example, an employee is not entitled to union representation when asked to complete an accident report, presented with a written warning, presented with disciplinary charges, asked to submit to random blood or urine, asked to accept work assignments or requested to attend any other non-investigative meeting.

And while an employee has the right to the presence of a union representative at an investigative meeting, he or she does not have the right to the presence of a specific union representative. However, where the requested representative is available, the employer violates the Act by refusing to either permit or request that representative's presence. Moreover, the employer must permit an employee and representative to consult privately on the employer's time in advance of the Weingarten interview, if the employee does not have

an adequate opportunity to consult with the union representative outside of work.

So the next time an employer asks an employee to meet and "discuss" a subject that reasonably could be viewed as possibly leading to disciplinary action being taken, the most prudent action for that employee to take is to request that a union representative be present before any type of interview takes place. ♥



**DONOHOO** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

in July, you will begin paying the \$500 per month.

Now, if your annual premium is less than \$3,000, for instance \$200 per month, then you only can request \$2,400 be submitted from your pension plan. Your request never can exceed the actual cost.

Also, be aware that if you and your spouse have coverage through different companies, then you will need to complete two forms each year – one for each company, making sure that the total does not exceed \$3,000.

You will be receiving a 1099-R from the plan; however, it does not reflect that the payment is tax-free, so be sure to tell your tax preparer, and they can easily include the tax-free status on your return.

In many cases, retirees are being told that the cost of their health insurance will no longer be the low premium that they enjoyed while employed. The cost could escalate, especially if they are paying for a family plan. So whether you are retired or planning to retire soon, saving a few dollars in taxes should definitely be on your To Do list. ♥

*Carole Donohoo is the an investment advisor representative and the owner of Leigh Enterprises, an authorized IRS e-file Provider Securities offered through Regulus Advisors, LLC, Member FINRA/ SIPC. For more information, contact her at 561-844-4543 or visit [www.CaroleDonohoo.com](http://www.CaroleDonohoo.com).*

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# THANK-YOU NOTES TO THE PBA

Dear KAZ,

Thank You for All Your help And Support in My Re-Election to Osceola City Council. I could not have done it without You and the Assistance of the PBA. A Grateful Soldier.

*Jim*

**A million just didn't seem like enough!**

*Jonathan Kase*

Councilman / Deputy Mayor Osceola, FL



John & members,

Thank you! I am Truly Grateful for your Support and Contribution to my 2016 Election Campaign for Sheriff.

God Bless,

*Dave*



Congratulations on having an officer from your department nominated to be a TOP COP® by the National Association of Police Organizations. I'm sure that everyone is very excited to be recognized for the outstanding service that your organization delivers to the community. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the law enforcement officers that will be in town for Police Week and the Awards Ceremony. Please come by our restaurant and receive 15% off your check just by showing the server or bartender your id or badge.

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Thank you so much for your generous donation. Your support is greatly appreciated. So we can make Orange County safe again. It feels great to know that my fellow Leo's support me from around the State

*Spike*

Dear John : PBA Board -

I want to thank you for endorsing my judicial campaign. Having your support and the support of our law enforcement heroes is quiet humbling and will never be forgotten. I take great pride in the campaign we are running and having your support is integral to our success. It would be an honor to serve on our judiciary. Thanks again

*GST*

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# DAVE ARONBERG

OUR STATE ATTORNEY

April 8, 2016

Mr. John Kazanjian  
Police Benevolent Association Political Committee and Issues Fund  
2100 N. Florida Mango Rd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409-6412

Dear Mr. Kazanjian:

Thank you so much for your generous support of my re-election campaign. I am truly grateful that you are standing with me and believe in my commitment to keep our community safe.

Since my election in 2012, I have brought together a top-notch team of prosecutors to remove politics from the State Attorney's office and focus on our core mission of holding violent offender and career criminals accountable while protecting victims of crime. The result has been dramatic improvements in our conviction rates and strengthened working relationships with local, state and federal agencies.

It is through supporters like you that we will be able to put together a strong campaign to bring victory in 2016 and build on the progress we've made.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

Sincerely,

*DAVE*  
Dave Aronberg

*I really appreciate your support and friendship. Thank you!*  
Kaz

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Dave Aronberg, Democrat, for State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit in House



## TAMPA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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[www.tampapba.org](http://www.tampapba.org)

April 10, 2016

John Kazanjian  
Palm Beach County P.B.A.  
2100 N Florida Mango Road  
West Palm Beach FL 33409

Dear Mr. Kazanjian,

On behalf of the nearly one thousand Officers of the Tampa Police Association, please accept my personal thanks for your support contribution to the eighth annual **Our Heroes' Memorial Golf** that took place on April 4, 2016, at Hunters Green Country Club.

Thanks to you, this event raised over \$25,000.00 for the Tampa Police Fund. This fund supports families of Tampa Police Officers in the line of duty. The fund also supports the Tampa Police Honor.

It is important that we honor our officers and their families who are killed in the line of duty. It is more important that we "Never Forget" and are able to continue to honor them, especially when their families are in need. A donation like yours shows our families that their loved ones are not forgotten.

Again, please accept our thanks and appreciation for your involvement.

Respectfully,

*Vincent J. Geritano*  
Vincent J. Geritano

VINCENT J. GERITANO, President  
CHRIS LAFRANCOISE, Vice President

ABE CARMACK, Sr. Vice President  
GENE HAINES, Secretary / Treasurer

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May 19, 2016

Dear John Kazanjian,

Thank you for your generous contribution. I am most grateful for your support and confidence.

Your donation is crucial as we build our grassroots campaign and prepare for the tough fight ahead.

Again, thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

*Hal*

**Hal  
Valeche**  
for COUNTY COMMISSION



April 12th, 2016

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

Dear Police Benevolent Association PC,

*Dear Kaz + all!*

Thank you for your contribution in support of my campaign for Palm Beach County Property Appraiser. I look forward to tackling the challenges facing our county and working with my constituents. The Property Appraiser's Office plays a key role in the positive growth of our community.

I appreciate your confidence in my experience and proven leadership skills and look forward to working with all our county's stakeholders.

Thank you again for your support. Please never hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
*Shelley*  
Commissioner Shelley Vana

*Your support is greatly, deeply & always appreciated*

6038 Bania Wood Circle, Lantana, FL 33462 (561) 406-4411 [VoteVana.com](http://VoteVana.com)

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Shelley Vana for Palm Beach County Property Appraiser



**Thank you** for all you do to solve and reduce crime.  
I look forward to working together to improve  
our community and make it safer.



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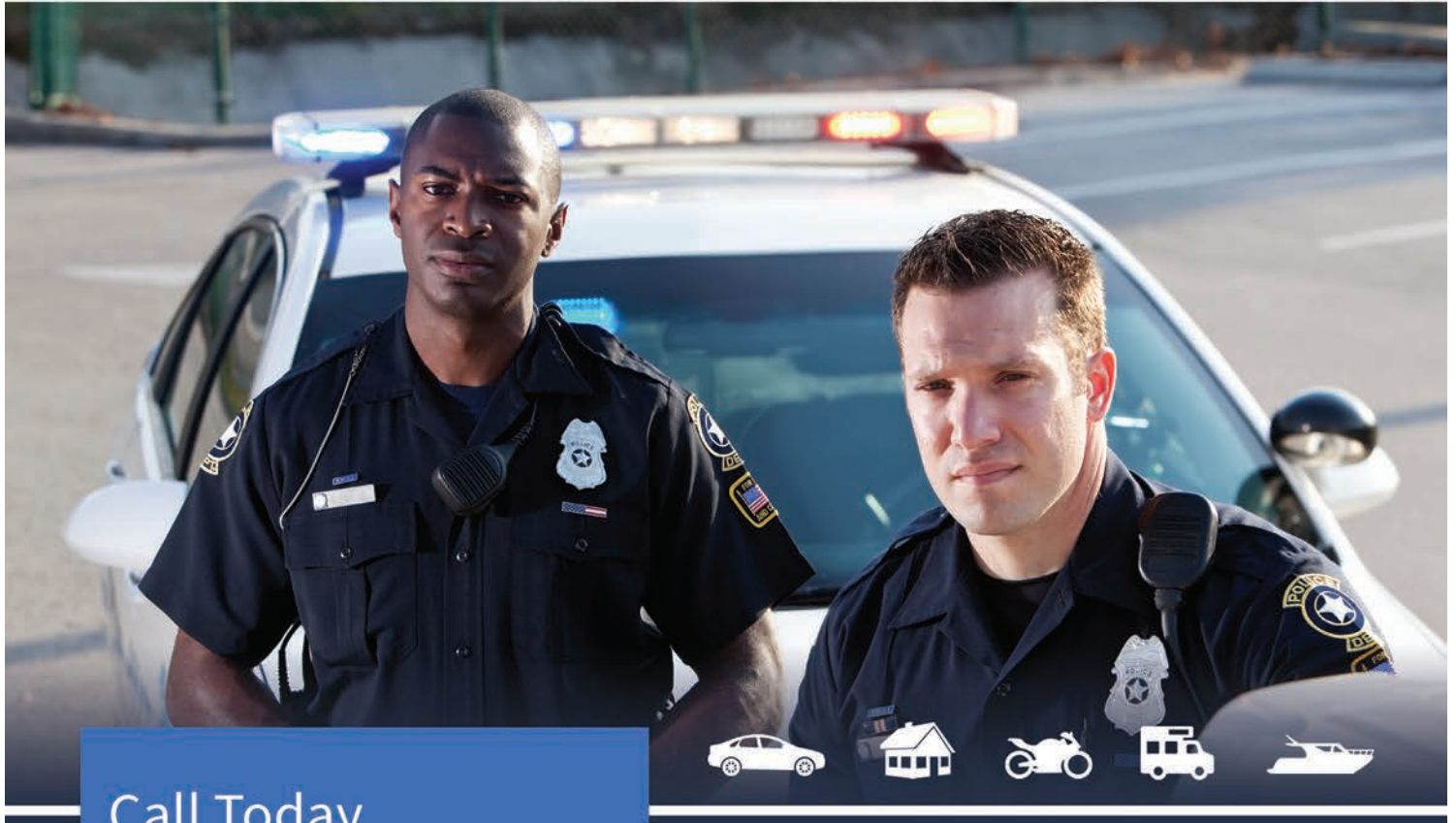


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