



THE BROWARD CENTURION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE EDITION

2004 Legislative Session Ends

PBA-Sponsored Bills To Become Law

By Mike Casey, Legislative Director

The 2004 Florida Legislative Session, which closed on April 30, 2004, proved to be a very successful one for PBA-sponsored bills. Of the six proposed bills submitted for consideration, four passed and will become law when signed by Governor Bush, making this one of the most successful sessions ever for the PBA and its members.

The bills cover several areas of concern to our members, including retirement, disciplinary procedures and plea agreements:

Fair Defense Act (SB 226)

Mandates that governments reimburse officers for legal costs if the officer is charged, either civilly or criminally, resulting from actions taken within the scope of employment and the officer is exonerated. There is a cap of \$100,000 per episode, and the officer must have been operating within department policy.

This bill is the culmination of three years of work, and wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of the Florida Sheriffs' Association, Senator Posey, Representative Negron,

Representative Rubio and Senator Haridopolos.

Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) (SB 1792)

Curtails the powers of the CJSTC, making the process fairer for officers going before the Commission. The changes were agreed upon by a task force appointed by both CJSTC and the PBA. Thanks to Senator Garcia, Representative Barreiro and Speaker-Designate Allan Bense for their help and support.

Municipal Police Retirement (HB 251)

Ensures that insurance money collected pursuant to F.S.S. 175 and 185 is utilized for enhanced pension benefits and not for offsetting the pension costs of municipalities. Also addresses the collection and distribution of the money and contains a "hold harmless" provision for municipal police systems, which

ensures that no city would get less money under the new system than it did previously. This has already been signed into law by Governor Bush.



Secret Agreements/State Attorneys (SB 118)

Prevents State Attorneys from entering into secret plea agreements with criminals. This bill has already been signed into law by Governor Bush. Thanks to Senator Fasano and Representative Barreiro for their help and support.

The above bills because of the hard work of the Florida PBA and over 3,000 members from around the state, including representatives from Broward County.

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- Submissions should be sent to:

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- Letters or articles must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.
- All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by a statement giving permission to publish.
- All submissions must be legible.
- The Broward County PBA reserves the right of the Executive Board or Editor to amend or to add an editor's comment to any article or letter submitted.
- Advertisement in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Broward County PBA unless otherwise specified.



President's Message

To say we did "GOOD" in Tallahassee would be an understatement. To say we did "GREAT" would only scratch the surface. I was only one of the many participants in the lobbying efforts which the PBA put forward in this year's session, and even though I was just a small part in the overall success of the PBA, I feel a huge sense of accomplishment and am very proud to be even a small part of it.

My personal thanks go out to not only the other elected PBA members who took time to go to Tallahassee to help wherever they could, but the real thanks go out to the employees of the Florida Police Benevolent Association, who made sure all our bills were kept on track and to make sure that all the PBA participants were directed toward the right place and that everyone stayed focused. In this *Centurion* you will read about all the PBA-sponsored bills that passed this year, including the Fair Defense Act, CJST Changes, Municipal Police Retirement Bill and others.

Today members might not realize how important these bills are, but in the years to come when people like myself are gone, everyone will realize how important and meaningful these changes will be for all police officers in the State of Florida.

Once again, my thanks go out to our Florida PBA Executive Director David Murrell and his staff for a job well done.

Dick Brickman

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New Members

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Membership Secretary
Maxine

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Maryann

Communications Director
Megan

Attorney General Limits Authority Of Citizen Review Board To Investigate Complaints Against Officers

On March 22, 2004, Florida's local citizen review boards saw their authority to investigate complaints against law enforcement officers strictly limited. In an informal opinion, Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist determined that citizen review boards do not have the authority to investigate complaints against law enforcement and correctional officers for purposes of discipline. Both Florida PBA President Ernest George and Dade County PBA President John Rivera praised the decision of Attorney General Crist as being consistent with rights granted officers under recent amendments to the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

In rendering his opinion, Attorney General Crist rested his decision on statutory language recently added to Chapter 112.533(1), Florida Statutes. As noted by the Attorney General, the title of the act containing the limiting language provides that the procedure adopted by every law enforcement agency for the receipt, investigation and determination of complaints "shall be the exclusive procedure used by law enforcement and correctional agencies." Thus, he concludes that citizen review boards do not have the authority to serve as a receiving or investigating entity for disciplinary purposes.

The statutory amendment upon which Attorney General Crist's opinion rests was a joint effort of the Florida PBA and the Florida Sheriff's Association. In a series of meetings, both representatives and attorneys for the PBA and FSA grappled with a way to limit efforts, on the local level, to expand the authority of the citizen review boards into disciplinary



investigations of officers. The language added to Section 112.533(1) is the culmination of a two-year effort of the PBA and FSA to restrict these efforts.

Florida PBA President George expressed satisfaction with the opinion, stating: "This is a very important decision for Florida's law enforcement and correctional officers. The amendment demonstrates how effective the PBA and FSA can be when we work together for the protection of the

officers and deputies we represent." Dade County PBA President Rivera echoed George's thoughts: "I love it when a plan comes together and the end result is what we wanted, protection of our members."

Florida PBA President George thanks Attorney General Crist for "his understanding of the concerns of law enforcement officers and the problems they face." Also, the Association wants to express its appreciation to David Murrell, its legislative director, Hal Johnson, its general counsel and Blanca Greenwood, the Dade PBA general counsel, for their hard work in drafting and lobbying the amendment. It also wants to give a special thanks to the Florida Sheriff's Association and its lobbyist, Frank Messersmith, for their assistance on the legislation.

We will keep working for you.■

Source: Florida PBA

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Cyber-Stalking?

Here's a Web site you might want to check out: <http://ajm.cc//copsnyc12.shtml>. The site posts descriptions and personal information on cops from across the country, including descriptions of vehicles, tag numbers and habits.

The site purports to take complaints of police abuse, and the host offers to track down and follow police officers for a fee. The site also provides tips on how to find out personal information for yourself.

People whose addresses (including, in some cases, satellite photos and maps) are listed include U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne.

There is a statute in Florida (Section 197.122) that allows law enforcement officers to request that the Property Appraiser's Office, the Department of Motor Vehicles and other government agencies keep personal information confidential. You can pick up a packet of information on how to exercise these rights at the PBA office - ask for the confidentiality forms. ■

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PBA MEMBER Detective Kenneth Witte's (Pembroke Pines Police Dept.) wife, Eileen Witte manufactures Embroidered & Thermographic Patches.



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It's PBA Scholarship Time

It's time to pick up applications for the Broward County PBA Scholarship Program! The program is for children of PBA members planning to attend college during the 2004-2005 school year.

The eligibility requirements for the scholarships are:

- Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Broward County PBA member in good standing who has been a member for at least two years
- Applicants must be, or plan to be, part-time or full-time students at an accredited two- or four-year college or university
- Applicants must have one of the following at the time of application: an overall GPA of 3.0, an SAT score of 1,000 or more or an ACT composite score of 20 or higher

All applicants must submit a personal essay of no more than 500 words. The essay should include information about the applicant's interests, scholastic abilities, extracurricular activities, college and career goals, and his/her family.

Qualified applicants may be asked to give an oral interview with the PBA Scholarship Committee.

Applications can be picked up at the Broward County PBA office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you would like to have an application mailed to you, please contact Lynn Covet at the PBA office.

Completed applications should be mailed or delivered to the PBA office at 2650 West State Road 84, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312 no later than July 31, 2004. For more information, contact the Broward County PBA at 954-584-7600.■

Broward County Declares Mike Casey Day

March 25 is now officially Mike Casey Day in Broward County. Broward County Commissioner - and loyal friend of the PBA - Lori Parrish announced the declaration and presented PBA Legislative Director Mike Casey with a plaque at a party in honor of his birthday.



Congratulations, Mike! And thanks for your hard work and dedication to the Broward PBA.■

IKON Ad



Health & Fitness

Identifying A Stroke

Three tests provide the key to quickly determining if a person may be suffering a stroke:

- Ask the person to smile
- Ask him or her to raise both arms
- Have them speak a simple sentence

Trouble completing any of these tasks could indicate a stroke — call 911 immediately. Prompt diagnosis and treatment of a stroke can help to prevent brain damage.

Most Americans Do Not Get Enough Exercise

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that a majority of American adults don't get the recommended minimum amount of exercise: 30 minutes a day, at least four days a week.

According to the CDC's survey, 26 percent of American adults do not get any kind of significant exercise, and 55 percent don't get the recommended minimum.

Lack of exercise is one of the country's biggest health problems, leading to obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Source: *The Associated Press*

Trouble Sleeping? Try Exercising In The Morning

Morning exercise may help to ease insomnia. A study conducted by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle has shown that exercising in the morning led to a better night's sleep than exercising in the evening.

The study found that participants who exercised averaged 70 percent better sleep and those who stretched averaged 30 percent better sleep.

Why does morning exercise work? It's thought that morning activity may help to set the body's clock to be active during the day and to sleep at night, while evening exercise may delay sleep.

Source: *The Associated Press*.

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Inside BSO

For Our Members With The Broward Sheriff's Office

District 11 2003 Employee of the Year Banquet

By Deputy Charlotte Kemp,
District 11

On March 26th, District 11 held their 2003 Employee of the Year awards ceremony. The crowd consisted of local Pompano business people, commissioners, deputies, dispatchers, civilians, family and friends.

Employee of the Month awards for 2004 were presented to Detective Blankenship (December 2003), Deputy Pepper Shaw and Deputy Jamie Rubenstein (January), Deputy Julie Foster and Deputy Daniel Olarte (February), and Deputy Danny Freiberger (March).

Four deputies who served in the military in Iraq were presented with plaques for their service: Deputy Eric Cieza-Aguilar, Lt. Julio Chang, Deputy Steve Santiago and Deputy Eric Zamora.

The Communication Operator of the Year award was given to Dalia Toney, who was surprised and delighted to capture the title.

Thank you plaques were presented to Alison Frey and Deputy Charlotte Kemp for their efforts in organizing the event.

There were three nominees for 2003 Employee of the Year: Deputy Omar Mendez, Deputy Esteban Gonzalez and Deputy John McCabe.

Chief Lightbourn presented the three deputies and honored each for their dedication and duty.

Deputy John McCabe was named District 11's 2003 Employee of the Year.

Congratulations to Deputy McCabe and all the other honorees!.

2003 Annual Award Winners

Congratulations to Deputy Jeff Poole, PBA Rep. and BSO's DLE Deputy of the Year, and Detective Anthony Delpozzo, BSO's Detective of the Year. ■

Contract Update

The PBA's contract proposals for the Deputies/Sergeants bargaining unit have been submitted to the Sheriff. Each BSO PBA representative should have a draft of the proposed changes for the new contract. If you have any questions or would like to see these proposals, contact your rep or come by the PBA office.

This is *NOT* the final document and all the articles and proposals are subject to change throughout the process of negotiations. The next step is to set a date for the negotiations to begin. We will keep you, the members, up to date through the newsletter and your reps. ■

March Employees of the Month

Det. Michael Tames,
Dania Beach

Dep. Jesus Garcia, Airport

Dep. Brian Miller,
West Broward/
Southwest Ranches

Det. Christopher Kostrzecha,
West Broward/Southwest
Ranches

Det. Christopher Kev Thieman,
West Broward/
Southwest Ranches

Dep. Brian Brady,
Unincorporated North Broward

Dep. Jerome Squadrito,
Deerfield Beach

Dep. John McCabe,
Pompano Beach

Dep. Danny Freiberger,
Pompano Beach

Sgt. Brian Faer,
North Lauderdale

Dep. Christopher Lewellen,
Cooper City

Dep. Darren Rush,
Cooper City

Det. Kristy Frederick,
Cooper City

Det. Nora Halabi,
Criminal Investigations

Det. John Murray,
Criminal Investigations

You Gotta Have Friends...

The PBA and The Political Process

The 2004 session of the Florida Legislature has come to a close, and it proved to be a very successful one for the PBA and its members. Bills were passed that will not only benefit our PBA members, but all law enforcement officers in the state.

These bills do not get passed simply because they protect the rights and benefits of police and correctional officers – they're passed because of the hard work done by our lobbyists and by members of the Florida PBA and its charters and chapters all over the state.

Each year, members of the PBA, from the president of the Florida PBA on down to chapter and charter representatives from agencies all over Florida, spend a considerable amount of time at the state capitol.

They meet with representatives and senators from their individual districts to garner support for the PBA and its causes.

Rallying legislators to any cause is a year-round process that involves identifying those candidates who are most likely to champion our causes, and then providing them with our endorsement and

contributing to their campaigns. After the election, we continue to build on our relationships, both locally and at the state level.



Yearly visits to Tallahassee during the legislative session serve to reinforce our support and build goodwill with our representatives.

legislators to sponsor our bills. A bill cannot be proposed without a sponsor from both the House and the Senate. And once proposed, the bill needs support from representatives from both parties to eventually be passed.

Over the years, the PBA has worked hard to develop relationships with key members of local and state government. In turn, this has made the PBA an effective advocate for the concerns of its members.

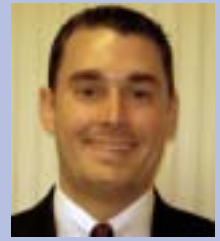
Individual members can do their part by becoming politically aware and actively campaigning for PBA-endorsed candidates as well as going to the polls and voting for them. Your participation is crucial to the PBA's continued success in fighting for your rights. ■

“Supporting your local police departments - and having their support - is essential. (Police Week) is an important week for them, so make sure you do as many events in as many precincts as possible. Hold a press conference in front of a precinct touting their efforts to keep your community safe. Go on a “ride along” with the police in a high-crime area for a night and invite one television camera to come along. Write op-eds on the importance of the week and touting Congress’ efforts to fund first responders. Also, cut PSAs asking for the community to support their local law enforcement officers.”

- Excerpt from a Republican National Congressional Committee Memo

Laying this groundwork provides the PBA with access to

Political & Legislative Affairs



Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of the officers who unselfishly dedicated their time during the March Elections. Our recent success rests upon the leadership of the PBA Representatives and the dedication of you, the members. It is because of their hard work that the PBA remains a force in the political arena.

Pembroke Pines

Glen Parker
James Fisher
James Ryan
Jennifer Arcuri
Ken Wittie
Dan Rakofsky
Jim Gort
Paul Goulding
Dave Thompson
Brandon Mazone
Carlos Bermudez
Tom Maher
Ed Barry
Jason Balata
John Baker
Angela Dearing
Dawn McClasky
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Barbara Ratliff

Christopher Chacon-Chang
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Al Xiques
Wayne Katz
Kevin McKluskey
Kenny Hall

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Keith Wadsworth
Anthony Fernandez
Pablo Vanegas
Ernie Candelmo
Julio Alvarez
Steve Diefenbacher
Jerry Sommer
Jeff Murray
Dewey Pressley
Nicola Wolfe
Tammy Edwards
John Herl
Ken Haberland
Paul Andrianis
Larry Burgess
Jason Zeidell
Louis Lijoi
Arthur Metzler
Scott Pardon
Joe Pendergrast
Joe Tango
Jackee Nester
Andy Diaz
Ricardo Penton
Chip Osbourne
Paul Rauch
Alex Recio
Cindy Bates
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Julio Gonzalez
Norris Redding
Kevin Companion
Thea Basler
John Kerns
Stephanie Ramirez
Van Szeto
Shawn Charles

Sergio Lopez
Julio Alvarez
Matt Goodnow
Carol Sykes
Travis Morris
Carolyn Paquette
Travis Schuller
Wilbur Fernander
Dennis Wynne
Chris Christianson
Victor Tetter
Michael McKinney
John Marino
Michael Burrowes
Anthony Truntz
Fred Okamoto
Rick Losenbeck
Paul Laskowski
Dave Smith
Kevin Bedford
Jeff Murray
Lisa Brown

Pompano Beach

Jeff Poole
Paul O'Connell
Kevin Butler
Mitch Gordon
Adam Burns
Dave Hanks
Greg Flynn

Wilton Manors

David Jones
Brian Behan
Brian Perry
Chuck Howard
Pete Bigelsen
Rick Shawver
Danny James
Dave Hart
Gary Blocker
Rick Wiley

I would be remiss if I did not thank Senior Vice President Pat Hanrahan, Treasurer Jeff Marano, Secretary Debbie Reggio and Rep. Paul Weiss for their important contributions during the Elections. Once again, thank you.

In Solidarity,

Neil Vaughan,
Vice President

The 2004 Florida

In March and April, representatives from the Broward County PBA made the trip to Tallahassee for the 2004 legislative session. PBA representatives meet with state senators and representatives to get their support for PBA bills that are pending.



Left to right: Neil Vaughan, Pat Hanrahan, State Representative Ken Gottlieb, Wilton Manors Rep. Ed Costello, BSO Rep Ralph Romb



With State Representative Matt Meadows



With State Representative Stacy Ritter



With State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff



With State Representative Mike Davis

Legislative Session

Our PBA representatives, along with representatives from across the state, work very hard all year long to get legislation that protects all PBA members drafted and passed.

Left to right: Florida PBA lobbyist Don Teams, Ed Costello, Florida PBA lobbyist Ed Hoffman, Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne, Florida PBA lobbyist Ed Collins, Pat Hanrahan, Florida PBA Executive Director David Murrell, Ralph Romb, Neil Vaughan



Pat Hanrahan about to take the podium on the steps of the Old Capitol Building during Broward Days



Left to right: Legislative Director Mike Casey, Centurion Editor Megan Gordon, State Representative Nan Rich, Neil Vaughan, Secretary Debbie Reggio, Pat Hanrahan



With State Senator Skip Campbell

Unnecessary Insurance

While many types of insurance are recommended to help protect you and your family against financial losses, there are some that you can probably live without.

Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)

If you don't put down at least 20% of your home's value, most mortgage companies require PMI. Premiums can amount to as much as a 13th mortgage payment. Once your outstanding balance drops below 80% of your home's value, your lender must inform you that you can cancel the PMI. You can also apply to cancel it if your home has appreciated rapidly, but you'll need to have an appraisal to prove it.

Service Contracts

Extended warranties often duplicate the standard warranty. Service contracts can usually be purchased after the original warranty expires.

Separate Policies Vs. Riders

Adding a rider to your homeowner's policy for things like boats or RVs is generally less expensive than writing a new policy. Check to see if supplemental coverage is available through your existing policy.

Flight Insurance

You could fly on a major airline every day for 26,000 years before you'd be involved in a crash. If you purchased your ticket with a credit card, you may already have flight insurance. Check with your card company.

Credit Insurance

Your life insurance, disability insurance and assets may be enough to cover your debts. A term life insurance policy will cost less with a higher payout. You can add to the policy to cover loans.

Short-Term, Cash-Value Life Insurance

It takes five years to show a positive return on one of these policies, and even after 10 years, the return is only about 2%.



Life Insurance For Children

Many people use this as a way to save for college, but other options get bigger returns.

Mortgage Insurance

Straight life insurance is a better bet — adding to your existing policy is cheaper than mortgage insurance.

Cancer Insurance

Health insurance is probably a better option — in 1994, companies selling policies like this only paid out about 35% of the premiums they took in. The documentation some companies require to pay benefits can be

difficult to get, and the most common form of cancer, skin cancer, is often excluded.

Short-Term Medical Coverage

Depending on your habits, health and marital status, you may opt out of paying the big premiums on COBRA coverage between jobs. But if you have a family, you may decide the cost is worth it.

Source: MSN MoneyCentral

Top 10 Retirement Web Sites

According to *Employee Benefit Advisor's* January/February 2004 issue:

1. **AARP** – Financial Planning – www.aarp.org/financial
2. **About.com's Guide to Retirement Planning** – www.retireplan.about.com
3. **American Savings Education Council** – www.asec.org
4. **CNN Money** – www.money.cnn.com/retirement
5. **Medicare** – www.medicare.gov
6. **MSN Money** – Retirement and Wills – www.moneycentral.msn.com/retire/home.asp
7. **The Motley Fool** – www.fool.com/retirement
8. **mPower Café** – www.mpowercafe.com
9. **SmartMoney** – Retirement – www.smartmoney.com/retirement
10. **Social Security Online** – www.ssa.gov.

Source: Cypen & Cypen Newsletter

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In Memory

Richard Schiano, "Mr. Pension"

Our condolences to the family of Richard Schiano, a retired Hollywood officer who passed away May 6, 2004.

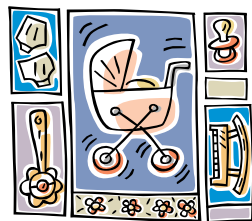


Dick was known as "Mr. Pension" and was responsible for protecting Hollywood's pension. He strived to educate other officers about pension benefits before many of us realized how important they are.

His foresight regarding pension benefits made the Hollywood pension what it is today. Thanks from all the members of the Hollywood PD.

He will be missed.

What's Up



Births

Pembroke Pines Officer Robert Paul Goulding and his wife Heather welcome a new baby boy - Matthew Hickman

Goulding. Matthew was born on April 11, weighed in at 5 lbs., 9 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. The family is all doing well and big brother Zack is very excited!

Congratulations!.

News From Our Members

In Memory

Hollywood officer Michael Kerns died of cancer on April 6; he was 54.



Mike was a 21-year veteran of the department and was well regarded by his fellow officers and his supervisors.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; his sons, Joseph and Cliff; his brother, James ; his sister, Barbara; and his cousins.

The membership of the Broward County PBA offers our condolences to the Kerns family; you are in our thoughts and prayers.-

Letters & Thanks

Derek Alexander
3250 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, FL 33021


Mr. Richard Brickman
Broward County Police Benevolent Association
2650 West State Road 84
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dear Mr. Brickman:

I am writing to tell you about the experience I had in obtaining a new vehicle through Ron Shembry.

I took my mother-in law to a dealership to look for a car. We found one she liked. However, the experience of negotiating with the salesman was less than pleasant. After leaving without the vehicle and complaining to some of my co-workers, they referred me to Ron. The same day I called Ron, he had located the car she wanted at a substantially lower price than the dealer! Two days after I called Ron, the vehicle was ready for delivery. Unfortunately, there was a death in my mother-in-law's family which forced her to fly out of the country. Ron held the vehicle until she returned. The vehicle was delivered as soon as she got back.

Ron was very professional, courteous, patient and very helpful. He adapted to our every need. I want to thank the PBA for making Ron a resource that we officers could use and be confident in. Thanks, also to Ron, for his prompt attention to our calls.

Sincerely,

Derek Alexander
Hollywood Police Officer

You have the right...

- to** have all interviews tape-recorded from start to end.
- to** have a PBA representative present during any interview.
- to** have the interview for a reasonable length of time.
- to** know who is in charge of the investigation.
- not** to be forced to resign.
- to** know what the charges are.
- to** have the interview at a reasonable time.
- to** review ALL statements before answering questions.
- to** know the name of the person bringing the complaint.
- not** to be threatened, bribed or subjected to offensive language.

Law Enforcement News

Items of Interest From Around The U.S.

Philadelphia – Heladio Gonzalez, a 36-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, is becoming the department's first transgender officer. The 57-year-old recently announced his decision to live as a woman. Officer Gonzalez will now be known as Maria Gonzalez. The department has pledged to support the officer's decision.

Source: Cypen & Cypen Newsletter

Tallahassee – Governor Bush announced the expansion of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) counter-terrorism communications system in March. The system, already in place in Florida, allows first responders to share real-time information across the country. The Joint Regional Information Exchange System (JRIES) will enable law enforcement and other agencies to access real-time information on security issues from DHS, other states and major urban areas. The program will be further expanded to include agencies at the county level as well as the private sector.

New York — A New York Supreme Court judge determined that a former police officer's post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) was service-incurred, entitling the officer to accident disability retirement.

The former officer was a member of the Internal Affairs Unit and told a commission investigating police corruption

that officers routinely sabotaged inquiries into police corruption and hid evidence of corruption from prosecutors. After his testimony, the officer began to receive anonymous, obscene letters at home and was branded as a "rat" at work. Initially, the medical board reviewing his case recommended ordinary disability retirement. The Court found that harassment and retribution are not "ordinary" or "expected," and the officer should be eligible for the accident disability retirement.

Source: Cypen & Cypen Newsletter

Orlando — The 9th Circuit Court of Florida determined that police officers who suffer from heart disease may be eligible for a service-incurred disability pension even if the heart condition is pre-existing.

The court heard the case of an Orlando officer who was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition and applied for a service-incurred disability retirement. She was turned down because her condition was determined to be pre-existing. The Circuit Court concluded that the exclusion undermined the purpose of the "Heart Bill" statute, which presumes that certain conditions are occupationally related and seeks to dispense with the applicant's need to prove it. The case is going back to the board for further proceedings.

Source: Cypen & Cypen Newsletter



Officer Safety

TASERS For Civilians

As of July 2004, three T A S E R models will

be available to the general public. The smallest model, the TASER X26C, is slightly larger than a cell phone and can be easily concealed. According to TASER International, these weapons are not considered firearms and can be carried legally in 43 states, either concealed or in the open, without a permit.

Brief Safe

Shomer-Tec is offering the "Brief Safe," specially designed underwear that have a 4"x10" secret compartment in the fly. The compartment has a Velcro closure and could be used to conceal small weapons or drugs. The briefs come complete with "special markings" on the lower rear portion to deter snooping.



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Broward County PBA Office

2650 W. State Rd. 84

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Lunch will be served.

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