



# The Broward Centurion

Volume 9, Issue 4 | April 2007

## Municipal Election Results

### *PBA-Endorsed Candidates Fare Well*

On March 13, citizens of various cities in Broward County cast their votes for their city commissions. Of the eight candidates endorsed by the Broward County PBA, five won their races:

**Cooper City**  
Lisa Mallozzi

**Hallandale Beach**  
Keith London

**Miramar**  
Yvonne Garth

**Pompano Beach**  
Rex Hardin

**Sunrise**  
Robert Wishner

John Valenti (**Cooper City**), Julie Hamilin (**Hallandale Beach**) and Susan Foster (**Pompano Beach**) were defeated.

Thank you to everyone who voted the PBA way.

## Governor Crist Signs "Anti-Murder" Bill

### *PBA is represented at ceremonial signing in Ft. Lauderdale*

On March 12, Governor Charlie Crist signed the so-called "anti-murder" bill into law. Present at the signing were PBA president John Rivera, members of the Broward County PBA executive board and John Walsh, father of murder victim Adam Walsh.

The new law requires that certain probation violators who have previously committed violent crimes like kidnapping or armed robbery be held in jail until a judge convenes a

"danger to the community" hearing. The judge must then issue a written ruling stating whether or not the offender should continue with probation or be sent to state prison. Penalties would be toughened to keep these offenders in prison longer.

The bill was brought to life after the murder of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia, whose attacker was

repeat offender Joseph Smith.

*Source: Sun Sentinel*



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## The Broward Centurion

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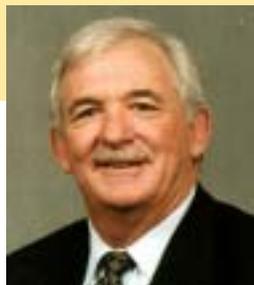
**Megan Gordon, Editor**

E-mail: [megan@bcpba.org](mailto:megan@bcpba.org)

*The Broward Centurion* is published by the Broward County Police Benevolent Association for the sole benefit of its members. *The Broward Centurion* is dedicated to the advancement of the law enforcement profession through better and stronger community relations. The opinions expressed in the publication of *The Broward Centurion* are not necessarily those of the Broward County PBA, its Executive Board or the Board of Directors.

Members or readers submitting letters to the editor or articles for publication are requested to adhere to the following:

- Submissions should be sent to:  
  
*Broward County PBA  
Attn: Centurion  
2650 West State Road 84  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
33312*
- 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 Letter

**W**ith the beginning of the legislative session and all the talk about cutting taxes for the people of Florida, what comes under fire, of course, is the cost of police and fire personnel. The first thing cities and counties threaten the state leaders with if taxes are cut is the laying off of police officers and firefighters. Why is it every time the local elected officials want to either cut taxes or raise taxes they use police salaries as the reason? Is it not the duty of all elected officials to provide taxpayers with law enforcement? As far as the PBA is concerned, we agree it is costly to provide the citizens with proper protection. If one city does not want to offer decent pay and benefits, then there is always the other city who is willing to pay what the job deserves.

How many times have you heard someone say, "I would not do your job for a million bucks. Or, I don't know how you guys do your job in today's world.?" For many years we have fought hard to get law enforcement professionals paid what they are worth, and now, when elected officials are being looked at for the way they spend tax dollars, they are pointing the finger at police officers and firefighters. Shame on these people. Why don't they stand up for the decisions they have made in the past and just tell the taxpayers that we deserve what we are paid and if they don't like it, then go apply for the job and put on the uniform—we have openings for police officers throughout the county.

Dick Brickman

## Order Your PBA License Tag

Available at the main county tag office.  
Ask for the "Support Law Enforcement" tag.



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 Rodney Skirvin - Alt.

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Tim Bradshaw

**Hallandale Beach**

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 Alex Vera  
 Mike Fowler - Alt.

**Hallandale Beach (Sgts)**

Paul Winters

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**Hollywood**

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Ed Blonder

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 Ro Durney - Alt.  
 Steven Toyota - Alt.

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**Sunrise**

John Jaslowski

**Sunrise (Lts)**

Athena Skellion

**Wilton Manors**

Brian Behan  
 Ed Costello  
 Chuck Howard

# Welcome New Members

David M. Balladares  
 John J. Cameron  
 Voleile Derisse  
 Marcella DiPietro  
 Matthew J. Drake  
 Brian T. Foley  
 James L. Garcia  
 Kyle E. Harris  
 Nicole Layog  
 Phillip D. Love  
 Phillip A. Martin  
 Neil H. Middleton  
 Raymond Morell  
 James G. Morrisroe  
 Russell T. Munzer  
 Daniel L. Pasquino  
 Robert Polink  
 Justin S. Pops  
 Angela K. Pridgen  
 Adam A. Rigg  
 Gerald L. Roach  
 Michael J. Rodriguez  
 Stephen J. Scrobe  
 Christopher J. Sutter  
 Michael Tucciarone  
 Martin Van Gills Jr.

Pembroke Pines  
 Hallandale Bch  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 Davie  
 BSO  
 Pembroke Pines  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 Miramar  
 Seminole  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 Pembroke Pines  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 Pembroke Pines  
 Miramar  
 Plantation  
 Coconut Creek  
 Margate  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 Davie

## Retired

Cynthia A. Doyle  
 James Fisher  
 David Jobbitt  
 Mark D. Murray  
 Carol J. Puckey

BSO  
 Pembroke Pines  
 BSO  
 BSO  
 BSO

## Reinstated

Eric E. Wright

BSO

# Office Staff

**Charter Secretary**

Linda

**Receptionist/Membership**

Lynn

**Secretary/Detail Coordinator**

Kim

**Membership Secretary**

Maxine

**Legal Assistant**

Maryann

**Communications Director**

Megan

# Law Enforcement News

*Items of Interest From Around The U.S.*

**Los Angeles**—The LAPD announced the arrest of the second of their 10 most-wanted gang members. The murder suspect was taken into custody as he bought ice cream in Rosarito Beach, Mexico.

The suspect, Steve Garcia, was the subject of a four-day surveillance by Mexican authorities. After his arrest, he was taken to the U.S. border and handed over to the U.S. Marshal's Service, who took him to the California Institute for Men in Chino because of a parole violation.

Garcia was captured just days after the arrest, in Guatemala, of another most-wanted fugitive on the LAPD list. The Top 10 list was released in February in order to refocus attention on fugitives that the department has been unable to capture. A reward of \$50,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of fugitives on the list. Source: Los Angeles Times



**Washington, D.C.** —Automated speed and red-light cameras in the nation's capital are not only catching the average traffic violator, but are busting on-duty cops responding to emergency calls.

District of Columbia officers have been writing letters attempting to get out of the tickets. Additionally, they must get a letter from their commanders as well as radio logs and other records to prove they were responding to a legitimate emergency. Some officers are still called into court.

Other cities with similar systems don't require officers to go court. In Baltimore, tickets are dismissed in-house after officers put together evidence to prove they were not at fault.

Source: The Associated Press



**Cocoa, Fla.** —A group of vandals spray-painted the names and patrol car numbers of officers they want dead on houses in a public housing unit.

The message stated that "all cops will cry" and "we got guns too."

According to police chief Phil Ludos, "A small group of thugs are trying to intimidate the police... Anyone who threatens an armed police officer is certainly more of a threat to an innocent citizen and will be dealt with accordingly."

Source: local6.com



**Pennsylvania**—Chytoria Graham pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child after swinging her four-week-old son like a bat at her boyfriend, fracturing the infant's skull.

On October 8, 2006, Graham returned from a night of drinking and began arguing with her boyfriend. The disagreement turned violent, and Graham grabbed her son by his feet

and swung him, hitting her boyfriend and fracturing her son's skull. Troop then punched her in the eye, after which she called police.

The infant made a full recovery and Graham's four other children are in the custody of her parents.

Source: Associated Press



**Los Angeles**—Almost 600 Los Angeles Police Department anti-gang and narcotics officers are threatening to retire or transfer to other units if they are required to provide personal financial information—mandated by a federal consent decree.

Union officials are considering filing a lawsuit to keep officers from having to disclose financial information. The requirement springs from the Rampart Division corruption scandal, in which gang officers were caught stealing drugs and framing suspects. The U.S. Department of Justice now requires the city to have future gang officers disclose their finances so supervisors can more easily tell they are illegally profiting from police work.

Bob Baker, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League is not sure the private information will be kept private once in the hands of the LAPD. "The simple fact is that the financial disclosure rules that LAPD is about to implement open the Pandora's box—once somebody's financial information is available and public, there is no way to turn back and make it private again."



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7 years experience (PO II)	\$59,905
10 years experience (PO III)	\$70,697
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- Be of good moral character with No felony convictions
- High School Diploma or Equivalent Education
- Must be a Certified Police Officer with experience



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10-206-05PGA

# BSO Deputy A Lifesaver

*PBA member brings injured man back to life*

When Deputy Tina Lacertosa (a PBA member) responded to an accident call in March, she never expected to come out a hero. But that's exactly what happened when she found 78-year-old Eric Eaton bleeding from a head injury after being hit by a car while out running in Dania Beach.

Eaton's injuries were so bad that a respiratory therapist who had witnessed the accident thought he was dead and covered him with a blanket. But Deputy Lacertosa was able to feel a faint pulse, so she began CPR right away. Her efforts were rewarded shortly thereafter when Eaton began to breathe. Lacertosa will be nominated for BSO's lifesaving award, according to BSO officials.



We're all very proud of you, Tina!

Source: nbc6.net

# Thank You, Publix

*PBA recognizes supermarket chain for their generosity*

In times of crisis, it's good to have friends you can count on. Publix has been such a friend to the PBA. When an officer has fallen, they have always been there to lend a hand by donating food for our receptions for fellow officers and the families of the fallen officers.

Richard Rhoads, Regional Director, and Larry Rhoads, District Manager, have always stepped up when they were asked. Without their generous help, it would have been very difficult



Mike Casey and Larry Rhoads

to feed hundreds of cops and the families of those that were lost.

Legislative Director Mike Casey and Senior Vice President Pat Hanrahan presented Richard and Larry with plaques expressing our gratitude for their support and friendship.



Mike Casey and Richard Rhoads

# National Police Week 2007

*May 13 – May 19 — Washington, D.C.*

National Police Week 2007 begins Sunday, May 13 and runs through Saturday, May 19. Tuesday, May 15 is National Peace Officer's Memorial Day.

Sunday, May 13 is the annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement

Officers Memorial. On Tuesday, May 15 is the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

Remember to fly your blue ribbons during National Police Week. And if you'd like more information on Police Week activities, log on to nleomf.com or nationalcops.org.

Source: COPS Newsletter



# Legislative News



Dear Members,

The first week of the 2007 Legislative Session turned out to be very productive for the PBA. Three of our priority bills were heard in separate Committees and all three received unanimous support. One of those bills, **HB 723**, by **Representative Thompson**, directly affects us here in Broward County. This bill will require IA investigators to sign an affidavit before concluding an IA investigation affirming, under the penalty of perjury, that the statements and summaries of the investigation are true to the best of the investigator's belief and knowledge. The bill also requires the subject of the investigation to tell the truth or face perjury charges. As usual, members of the Executive Board and members of the Board of Directors will travel to Tallahassee in order to lobby on your behalf. We will keep you posted on our progress throughout the Session.

The other good news comes from the election front. Five of the eight candidates we endorsed won their elections. Three of the most important races took place in the cities of Hallandale Beach and Miramar. In Hallandale Beach, incumbent **Commissioner Keith London** won his bid for reelection. Throughout his tenure, he has been a supporter of our officers in Hallandale Beach and his support will surely continue. Unfortunately, Julie Hamlin lost her quest to become the City's new Commissioner losing by only 185 votes. With strong leadership from **PBA Representatives Paul Winters, Alex Vera, Miguel Mirabal** and **Mike Fowler**, along with the hard work of the membership, Hallandale Beach reasserted their will to be politically active. As experience has taught us, you don't have to win every election to make a difference. If things don't change in Hallandale Beach, we will spend more money and put more resources into each election cycle until they do. In the City of Miramar, things worked out just fine. Through the hard work of their members, they were able to elect **Yvonne Garth** to their City Commission with an impressive 45.12% of the vote. Naturally, **PBA Representatives Tim Nevins, Adam Lerner, George Mankowski, Ro Durney** and **Steven Toyota** are the driving force behind the PBA's involvement in Miramar and as usual they should be commended for another job well done.

In Solidarity,

Neil Vaughan  
Vice President

# Violent Crime Surges

*Double-digit increases reported across the country*

Overall crime is decreasing nationwide, but violent crime rose by double digits over the past two years. The increase has wiped out the declines seen in the 90s.

The biggest increases have been seen in midsize cities and the Midwest. Local police cite the spread of methamphetamine in some Midwestern and Western cities, gangs, high poverty rates, and a record number of people being released from prison. The biggest theme, though, is access to guns and the willingness to settle disputes with them, especially among young people.



Homicides increased 20 percent or more in some cities: Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Harford, Memphis and Orlando. Robberies are up more than 30 percent in Detroit, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Milwaukee. Aggravated assaults with guns were up more than 30 percent in places like Boston, Sacramento, St. Louis and Rochester.

Seventy-one percent of surveyed cities had an increase in homicides, 80 percent had more robberies and 67 percent had increased aggravated assaults with guns.

According to police chiefs, the trends in aggravated assaults are the most alarming. These are often considered a better gauge of violence than homicides; the difference between the two is often a matter of poor marksmanship or good medical care.

Source: New York Times

## ALL INJURY CASES

- Auto Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Boat Accidents
- Airplane Accidents
- Slip & Fall
- Medical Malpractice
- Bicycle Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents



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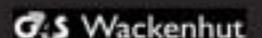
**PLEASE CONTACT US AT OUR BROWARD COUNTY OFFICE:**

We are open to accept applications Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM. We also accept applications on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings, by appointment only.

#### BROWARD COUNTY

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EOE/M/F/D/V

# Health & Fitness

## Five Food Myths

**W**hen did food stop being about pleasure? Probably about the time we started believing things like this:

### Fresh Is Best

Flash-frozen vegetables retain more nutrients than their fresh counterparts, which age during transport and while sitting on the shelf.



### Vitamin-Enhanced Foods Are Better

With extras, foods don't necessarily become better for you. Plus, they've been altered in the "enhancement" process.

### A Meal Is Worthy For What It Lacks

What's on the plate is what makes a meal great and a source of pleasure. Now the focus is on the lack of salt, fat, carbs or calories instead of taste.



### Natural Means Less Processed

Many "natural" foods are actually more processed and have less nutritional value than "regular" foods. The only consistency is that "natural" foods tend to be pricier.

### Some Foods Are Inherently Bad For You

Too much of anything, even water, isn't good for you. Snacks like potato chips can find a place, in moderation, in our diets.

*Source: Forbes.com*

# I Lost 50 Pounds!



Before (170 lbs.)



After (120 lbs.)

*Dear Dr. Besen,  
Thank you for helping me lose 50 lbs. I feel fit and I am not hungry! Now I look people in the eye and they give me more respect.*

*Your Thankful Patient,  
Officer K.B.*

### Robert Besen, M.D.

Practice of Weight Loss and Internal Medicine  
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# Attention: Law Enforcement Spouses

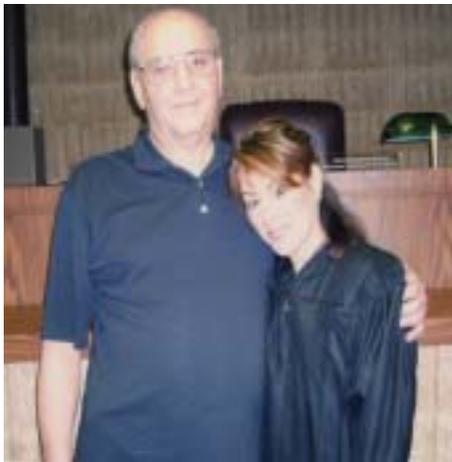
**L**ong hours, details, court time, feeling like a single parent....Sound familiar? As spouses of law enforcement officers, these are just some of the issues we deal with. Each day, we watch our loved ones leave for work and send up a little prayer that they will return home



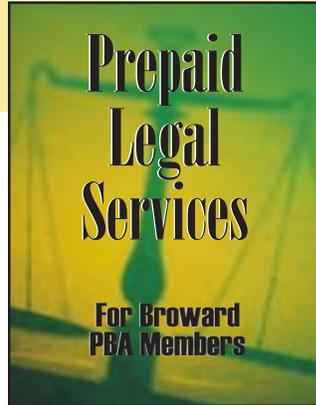
safely. We can try to talk to our friends about it, but they can't quite understand it like someone else in the same situation can.

Wouldn't it be great if we could all get together and share our experiences? Well, we can. My friend and I are starting a group

for spouses of law enforcement. Please join us on Monday, May 14th for our first meeting. Time and location will be announced; I am trying to find a location (depending on response) so if anybody has a suggestion, please let me know. If you are interested in joining us, contact Sylvia Herring at 954-476-2647. Looking forward to meeting all of you.



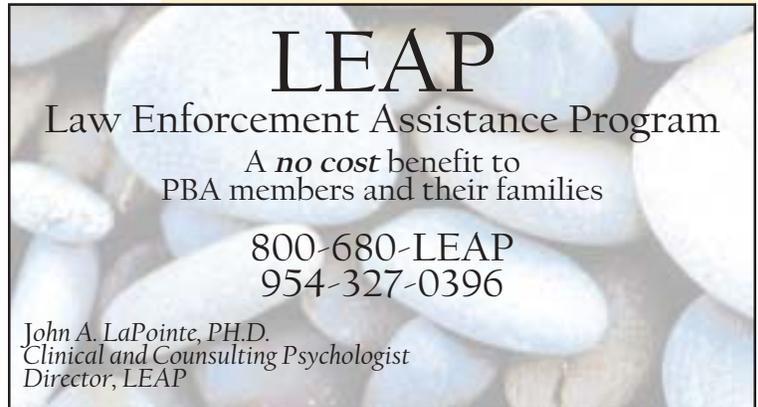
BSO rep Paul Weiss welcomes newly elected Broward County judge Arlene Joy Simon, who was endorsed by the Broward PBA



**Prepaid Legal Services**

For Broward PBA Members

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954-327-0396

John A. LaPointe, PH.D.  
Clinical and Consulting Psychologist  
Director, LEAP

## CBS Reporter Fired

*Channel 4's Michael Kirsch out*

**T**he WFOR reporter responsible for the "Police Station Intimidation" series is no longer with the station. According to the Miami Herald, Michael Kirsch's contract was not renewed due to "professional differences."

Kirsch was the reporter who set up police officers to determine if agencies used a complaint form. Mr. Kirsch and his staff antagonized officers to the point that the officers would make comments that they would later face discipline for. He also worked with the Police Complaint Center to see if officers were treating minority citizens with the same professionalism as other citizens (which turned out to be another setup).

It is unclear whether Kirsch's departure is due to "professional differences" or because of his arrest in February after he became belligerent and abusive to a female Miami-Dade officer during a traffic stop.

Source: Miami Herald

# Letters & Thanks

February 23, 2007

Dick Brickman  
Broward County P.B.A.  
2650 W. State Road 84  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dick,

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of an incident in which I was involved. I also wanted to advise you on the actions of two of your employees and the great job they did to assist me in this particular situation.

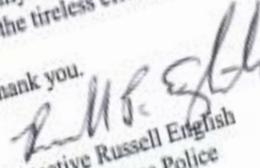
On August 8<sup>th</sup> of last year, I was involved in a shooting while on duty. Long story short, while I was on surveillance outside a local gym I witnessed a burglary in progress. I immediately advised of the situation on the radio and tried to block the suspect's vehicle. The suspect got back in his vehicle and proceeded to try and run me over. I fired my weapon twice in self defense as they fled the scene.

Fortunately, the suspects were taken into custody a few miles away from the scene. Their apprehension was a result of all the great work from the Officers, Detectives and Command staff on duty that day who responded to assist from their various locations. The team work displayed that day made me very proud to be a Police Officer.

I do hope that the majority of fellow Police Officers do not find themselves in a situation similar to mine, but it should be reassuring for them to know they are members of the Police Benevolent Association. The actions of P.B.A. members during this situation were most supportive and greatly appreciated. First, I would like to commend the actions by Sgt. Neil Vaughan (Vice President of the Broward County P.B.A., also my Sgt. at the time) who immediately coordinated the response from various units including the Papa Unit. Within a few minutes he was at the original scene making sure everything that could be done was being done. He not only assured me that everything would work out fine, but advised me that Barbara Duffy would be in contact with me soon. Within a day or two, I was in contact with Barbara Duffy and after hearing my story she also reassured me that everything would be fine. Being an individual with little Internal Affairs experience, it was very reassuring to hear those words from both of them which validated my own beliefs of the incident.

At the completion of the investigation, I was exonerated in the incident. I am truly proud to call myself a P.B.A. member and am proud of what the P.B.A. represents. I am truly grateful for the tireless efforts of its Officers and employees.

Thank you.

  
Detective Russell English  
Pembroke Pines Police

March 15, 2007

IUPA  
1549 Ringling Blvd 6th Floor  
Sarasota, FL, 34236

Dear Sir or Madam:

I recently received your solicitation regarding your desire to represent members of the Broward Sheriff's Office. I am appalled at your false or at least misleading letter "Just Give Me One Minute Of Your Time." I have several issues with this letter.

1. The first three sentences of the second paragraph states, "The postcard attached to this letter is a representation card to request a PERC election. This card is not saying you are voting for another union. It simply states you are requesting an election to see which union you want to represent your interests in the next contract" So I read the post card and what does it prominently state but, "I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), AFL-CIO, to represent me for the purpose of collective bargaining with my employer." Your letter completely contradicts what the postcard states. Is this an attempt to have people unwittingly fill out the card?
2. This letter is anonymous and signed "Your Organizing Committee & Co-Workers" If this is a real committee why the need to be anonymous.
3. In the third paragraph you again ask that I complete the card and mail it in to have an election. However, the card says that if I fill it out, I want IUPA to represent me. Which is it?
4. The fourth paragraph outlines some statements by a PBA official that were inappropriate. The statements were directed at the staff that made the arrest not the agency as a whole and he apologized for those comments. Notwithstanding the misleading letter, I have one huge practical concern, legal protection.

I compared the legal benefits from both IUPA and the PBA:

**IUPA (Source <http://www.iupa.org/join/options.html>)**

*Full Service Affiliation:* This offers standard affiliation benefits, plus: an attorney and a representative to assist you with grievances, contract negotiations, collective bargaining, disciplinary hearings and mediation. The attorney will also assist you in emergency on-the-job incidents and situations that leave officers susceptible to disciplinary charges."

**PBA (Source <http://www.flpba.org/legal.php>)**

*Legal Representation: Disciplinary Cases and Arbitration*

The Florida PBA will provide you legal representation if you are suspended, demoted or dismissed by your agency. Depending on your employment status, the representation can take two forms: legal assistance in a career service appeal or through the grievance/arbitration process.

*Legal Representation: Before CJSTC*

If you are the subject of a certification disciplinary case or inquiry from the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC), the Florida PBA will provide you legal assistance at all three stages of the process, including the probable cause hearing, the administrative case and the final hearing before the full CJSTC.

*Legal Defense: Shootings/Serious Accidents*

If you are involved in a duty-related shooting incident, an on-duty vehicle crash or other accident which results in a serious injury to another person, Florida PBA will provide an attorney "on-scene" to assist in any internal, criminal investigation or questioning about the incident.

*Legal Defense: Civil Suits/Criminal Actions*

If you are sued civilly, subject to a grand jury investigation, or criminal action for an incident arising out of and within the scope of your law enforcement duties, the Florida PBA will provide an attorney to represent you and cover the costs of defending the case against you.

*Legal Duty Officer*

We provide access to a legal duty officer, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to your emergency, duty-related legal needs. To ensure these benefits are available to you, you must be a member in good standing on the date of the incident and must continue to be a member during representation.

There appears to no legal coverage for criminal or civil suits for IUPA members. I am aware that many BSO PBA members have used this legal benefit in the last number of years. I know of several other PBA members who have been criminally charged and later acquitted of the charges based on the representation by PBA attorneys on charges of battery, official misconduct, and tampering with evidence. The PBA has an incredible record in mediation as well. I am currently using an attorney funded by the PBA.

Your solicitation is correct the MEMBERS ARE THE UNION. It is well reported that the Broward PBA was instrumental in leadership changes in several local police departments. I lived in a city where one of the changes occurred and Broward PBA members who worked for that agency (off-duty) walked door to door sharing information about the members concerns. So my belief is that as long as the members take an active role in their union, the union will be strong.

I am not a union representative, nor am I pining to be, but as a member satisfied with my local leadership, I am not interested in removing the Broward PBA as my bargaining unit.

Sincerely,  
Shane P. Campbell

CC: Dick Brickman Broward PBA

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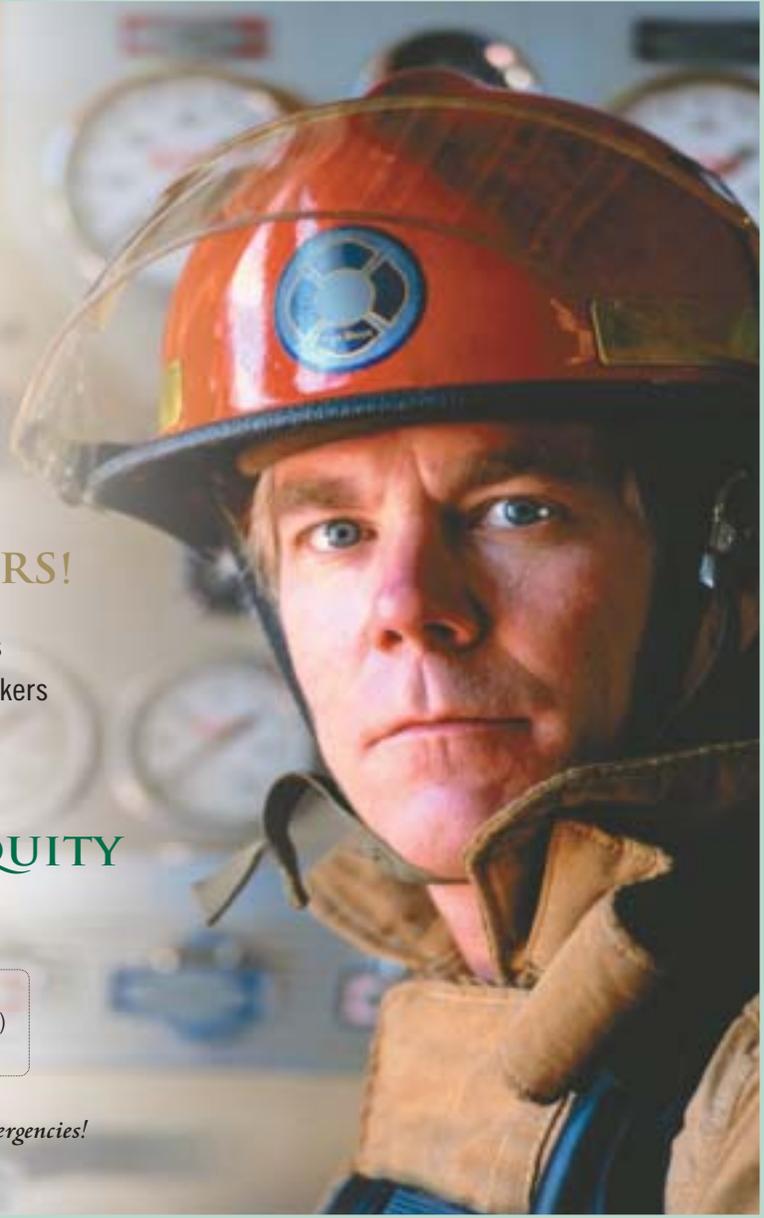
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