



# The Broward Centurion

Volume 9, Issue 5 | May 2007

## PBA Gets Second Deputy Reinstated

*McClure restored to duty in exceptional clearance case*

Deputy Kevin McClure became the second deputy to get his job back after being fired in the midst of the 2004 exceptional clearance scandal at BSO.

In March, arbitrator Ray Fernandez said that BSO was wrong to fire McClure and should reinstate him with full seniority, back pay



and benefits. Fernandez's decision criticized the agency's investigation of McClure's case, citing the auditor's inexperience in internal affairs among other problems. The arbitrator could find no evidence that McClure purposely lied and pointed out that there was no clear standard for him to have violated to warrant termination.

McClure was represented by PBA outside attorney Al Milian, who also represented the other deputy restored to duty after being fired in this case.

*Source: Sun Sentinel*

## First Anti-Murder Act Arrest

*Sex offender detained under new law supported by the PBA*

A sex offender in Jacksonville was the first person arrested under the Anti-Murder Bill, which was signed into law on March 12.

The suspect was taken into custody after violating parole. He was held without bail awaiting a hearing before a judge to determine if he is a danger

to the community. If the judge decides he is a danger, he will be sent back to prison.

*Source: Gov. Charlie Crist's "Notes from the Capitol"*



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## The Broward Centurion

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*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

**B**y the time this issue goes to press, the state legislature might have come up with a solution to the tax "problems" in Florida. While we have been in Tallahassee for the legislative session we have been having complaints about the unfair tax situation, but if you recall, when the "Save Our Homes" package was put in place, our elected officials knew that it would hurt taxpayers in the future. That future is here now.

Legislators are realizing that Save Our Homes is only good for those who buy a house and don't move. Growing families and those that own a second home in Florida are getting treated unfairly.

Unfortunately, many, especially the news media, believe that taxes are high because of the salaries and benefits that police officers are getting. Hogwash. After many years of getting less than what we deserve, we are finally getting just rewards for the job we are asked to do. How many times have you heard someone say, "I wouldn't do your job for a million dollars"? Now our local elected officials (and some of the media) are blaming law enforcement pay and pensions on the need for additional taxes. Shame on them.

Let's hope that by the time you read this the tax solution will not be resting on the backs of our members.

Dick Brickman

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 Coconut Creek  
 Seminole  
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 Hollywood  
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 Davie  
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**Communications Director**  
 Megan

# Law Enforcement News

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

**Charles County, Md.** – An off-duty Maryland deputy assisted in capturing a fleeing suspect by forcing his car from the road, but is being called out for doing so with his child in the cruiser.

Deputy Gregory Barnhardt used his police vehicle during his off-duty hours to move in front of the suspect, who was driving in the opposite direction of traffic. He was hit from behind, continued the pursuit and ultimately forced the suspect's car off the road. Engaging in a pursuit with a civilian in the cruiser is a violation of agency policy, but Charles County's assistant sheriff of operations says, "I'm trying not to try this guy in the press... we'll deal with it."

Source: *Officer.com News*



**Brown County, Wis.** – A second Wisconsin law enforcement officer in seven months has issued himself a traffic citation.

Brown county Sheriff Dennis Kocken wrote himself a ticket in March for an unsafe lane change after his car rear-ended a suspected speeder when that car slowed to turn. Neither the deputy who completed the accident report nor the Brown County district attorney's office felt that Kocken deserved the ticket. Kocken was trailing the vehicle to clock its speed when he had to swerve to avoid a snow blower wheel in his lane. He moved into the other driver's lane and hit the car when the driver slowed.

The violation comes with a \$160.80 fine that the sheriff intends to pay.

Source: *The Associated Press*



**Cincinnati, Ohio** – The Clermont County, Ohio, sheriff's office is the first civilian agency in the country to test a handheld device that can determine in a second if an individual is on one of 140 wanted or watch lists.

Mobilisa Inc.'s m2500 Defense ID system has been in use at Andrews Air Force Base since mid-January. In that time, the devices have discovered 286 people who were either wanted or had expired or terminated identifications.

The scanner reads the magnetic strip or barcode on state-issued ID cards, passports and driver's licenses. It compares the information against existing wanted or watch lists, including ones from the DEA and Immigration. It can tell an officer in a second whether or not a person is a fugitive, has a history of violent crime or is a convicted sex offender.

Source: *USA Today*



**Washington, D.C.** – The District of Columbia has been using an audio-monitoring tool created to detect and pinpoint gunfire, and has plans to expand the program in the near future.

Shootspotter uses devices the size of a coffee can and a triangulation system to

determine precisely where gunshots are fired. Apparently the more devices in place, the more accurate the system becomes because they coordinate with others nearby. They have a range of about two miles and are guaranteed accurate to within about 75 feet. They also can distinguish gunshots from other, similar sounds such as a car backfiring or firecrackers.

The system relays gunshot information directly to police. Average elapsed time: 10 seconds. Since its installation, Shootspotter has identified 31 shootings and led to three arrests. The system was also used to help solve a series of random highway sniper shootings in the Columbus, Ohio area in 2003-2004.

Source: *The Washington Times*



**Rocky Mount, N.C.** - The death of Danny, a K-9 with the Rocky Mount police who was shot and killed last summer while chasing a suspect, created such an outpouring of sympathy and outrage that the North Carolina legislature decided to increase the penalty for willfully killing or attempting to kill a police animal.

The law would not equate killing an animal to killing a human, but it elevates the act to a class H felony, allowing a judge to consider aggravating factors during sentencing. The penalties will vary according to the circumstances, but the new law could mean a defendant would be more likely to get jail time.

Source: *The News & Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina)*



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# Pompano Mayor And Commission Support Police

*By Pat Hanrahan, Sr. Vice President*

On April 10 the Pompano Beach City Commission held a regularly scheduled city commission meeting. The only thing unusual about this meeting was that on April 6<sup>th</sup>, the PBA learned that there were two proposed changes to the Pompano Beach Police and Fire Pension Ordinance by City Manager Bill Hargett.

The first proposed change was to repeal the provision that the board of trustees of the police and firefighter's pension shall have the duty to approve any and all changes in the provisions of the system. This basically is a checks and balances article so the City cannot change the pension at will. The second proposed change was to amend the definition of "sufficiently funded" to provide that the employer contribution for police officers must be less than zero for the plan to be sufficiently funded. This basically is the extra one percent of the pension COLA.

These are two of the three issues that the City and Mr. Hargett had filed a law suit against the pension board about. The pension Board, the City and BSO are currently in negotiations to settle these issues out of court. By making these proposed changes, the City would be bypassing the settlement negotiations and attempting to resolve these issues in their favor.

When these agenda items were brought up, Mayor Lamar Fisher announced that the settlement negotiations were being conducted and asked that these items be tabled until June 12 so that hopefully a settlement agreement could be reached. Commissioner Charlotte Burrie made that motion for both of the items. The first was seconded by Commissioner Kay McGinn and the other was seconded by Commissioner Rex Hardin.

Mayor Fisher, Vice Mayor E. Pat Larkins, and Commissioners Burrie, McGinn, and Hardin voted in support of the police to table these items.

The PBA would like to thank the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners for their support. We would also like to thank pension board members, Paul O'Connell, Ritchie Avalon, and Mr. Ernie Lee, and Firefighters President Brian Schaeffer for their help.



## Attention: Law Enforcement Spouses

The first meeting of the law enforcement spouses support group will be held on Monday, May 14 at 5pm at the Pembroke Pines Police Department. We are planning on meeting for about two hours so if



you can't make it at five, come when you can! If you have babysitting issues, feel free to bring your kids. We will provide toys to help entertain them. We will also have snacks and refreshments. We hope many of you will

join us; we look forward to meeting you!  
If you have any questions, please call Sylvia Herring at 954/476-2647 or e-mail her at [sylviam730@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviam730@hotmail.com)

# 2007 Florida Legislature

One of the bills that the PBA lobbied for was HB 73, also known as the Trooper's Bill. The purpose of HB 73 was to restructure the bargaining unit for state law enforcement officers, creating a separate bargaining unit for FHP. Troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol overwhelmingly voted out their former union, IUPA, in June, 2006. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Robert Allen and supported by Rep. Franklin Sands and Rep. Perry Thurston.



*VP Neil Vaughn, Debbie Reggio and Mike Casey with Rep. Sands*



*Mike Casey, Debbie Reggio, Neil Vaughn and Judy Mount, Sr. Administrative Assistant, House Democratic Office*



*Neil Vaughn, Debbie Reggio and Mike Casey with Rep. Thurston*

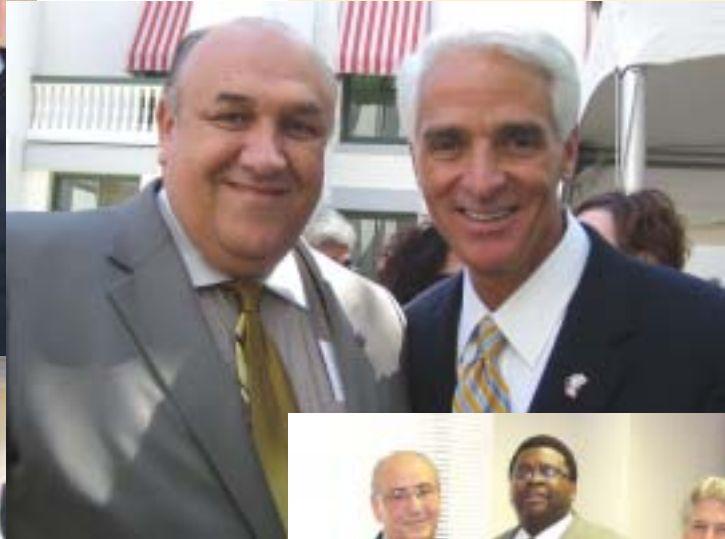


*Legislative Director Mike Casey, Secretary Debbie Reggio and Rep. Bob Allen with FHP troopers after the passing of HB 73*



# The PBA Working For You

Each year, representatives from the Broward PBA travel to Tallahassee to meet with lawmakers and urge them to support bills that benefit our members. Our lobbying efforts, along with support for candidates statewide and locally, help to build relationships that get things done for you.



# An Open Letter To BSO Deputies

## BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



To: Broward County PBA Members - BSO  
 From: Dick Birkman, President  
 Date: April 26, 2007  
 Re: Response to IUPA Attacks

Recently some members have received a "Seek the Truth" letter written by IUPA (writer unknown) which incorporates several false attacks against the PBA all of which are misleading and/or factually wrong.

IUPA talks about receipt of a record number of PERC cards but, when asked how many, they don't know the number! They talk about how many agencies they represent across America, but fail to tell you how many in the State of Florida (last count 2, Riviera Beach, and North Miami Beach).

The letter also talks about the PBA giving back benefits. The PBA has never negotiated a loss in benefits. A small example of what we have done is: 1) Increase your sick time payout from 480 hours to 1,040 hours; 2) Increase medical benefits upon your retirement from single coverage to family coverage; 3) Provided all specialized units with assignment pay, including alpha shift pay differential. These are just a few benefits that have been added to your BSO contract. Additionally, the PBA is very aggressive in representing its members administratively as well as criminally. In fact, the PBA has spent more than \$400,000.00 in legal representation expenses, just in this past year, for our members. Just ask any member who has received or is receiving representation from the PBA. Our members have not lost an arbitration case against BSO. We have consistently fought aggressively for our members and we will continue to do so.

Before signing a card ask these questions:

1. What has IUPA done for its membership when they were the Bargaining Agent?
2. Why did FHP, Jupiter Police Department and others vote them out just this past year?
3. Where is their office?
4. Who are their so-called attorneys who specialize in contract negotiations?
5. Who will represent you in an IA investigation; a Rep or an Attorney?
6. What possibly could they do for you politically in Broward County?

As usual, IUPA merely misrepresents the actual facts and, instead of documenting their so-called accomplishments in the State of Florida, they spew out false promises.

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# Births

**P**BA Vice President **Neil Vaughan** and his wife, **Stacy**, welcomed their first child on April 9. **Grace Annabelle** weighed in at 8 lbs. and was 20 inches long. Mom, Dad and baby are all doing well.

Hollywood Detective **Alex Perez** and his wife, **Gia**, were joined by a daughter on March 31. **Jaelyn Marie Perez** weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. and was 10.9 inches long. All the Perezes are healthy and happy.



BSO Deputy **Frankie Torres** and his wife, **Angie**, welcomed **Matthew Nicholas** on March 19. Matthew weighed in at 8 lbs., 5 oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches long. Everyone is doing well.

Coconut Creek Officer **Tammy Kilgore Alois** and her husband, **Dan**, welcomed their first child on February 16. **Isabella Donna** weighed in at 7 lbs., 3 oz. and was 18 1/2 inches long. The new family is doing well.

BSO Sgt. **Thomas Palmer** and his wife, **Courtney** are the proud new parents of a baby girl. **Kaitlyn** was born on March 16, weighing in at 9 pounds. She was 20 inches long. Kaitlyn is the granddaughter of BSO's Chief **John Palmer**.

BSO Sgt. **Richard Anton** and his wife, Deputy **Gloria Anton**, welcomed a set of twins to their family. **Jared Anthony** and **Angelina Reese** entered the world together on March 4.

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# Letters & Thanks



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2007

Pat Hanrahan, Senior Vice President  
Broward County Police Benevolent Association  
10680 PBA Memorial Boulevard (NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Pat:

It was a pleasure visiting you recently in Tampa! Thank you for your continued support on the Anti-Murder Bill, I am proud to see an issue as important as this set a new precedent for our beloved Florida. I am certain it will help keep our citizens and their families safer as we venture into the future.

Please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

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- *IRAs*
- *§72(t) explanations*

*The Law Enforcement Retirement Advisory Service can guide you towards determining the best investment strategy for your unique situation. **Matthew Oppedisano**, registered representative and **Al Oppedisano**, registered representative are licensed professionals with over 40 years of combined experience. They are dedicated to helping Law Enforcement employees reach their retirement goals. Their success is the result of a continuing commitment to provide the most comprehensive selection of high quality products and services offered in the industry.*

Contact **Matthew Oppedisano** to schedule a **free consultation** at your Department, Home or PBA Office

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