

BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY DISPATCH BLUNDERS THREATEN OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY

Hollywood, Fla. – December 16, 2014 – The safety of Broward residents, workers and police officers is at risk due to a below par police dispatch system in Broward County. In response to complaints from police officers, the Broward PBA sent a letter to the County Administrator on November 7, 2014. The County Administrator has yet to respond.

In the letter, Broward PBA President Jeff Marano cited several incidents that put officers in danger. “Our members have told us that dispatch workers do not know where officers are even after they have checked out on the air. On October 27, 2014, Hollywood units called for assistance during an emergency situation and dispatch erroneously sent back-up to the wrong location.”

In addition to life-threatening dispatch errors, there appears to be an inadequate understanding of jurisdictional boundaries. “For example, Hollywood Officers have been sent on calls for service in the City of West Park and, when questioned about it, dispatch reportedly became argumentative with a Hollywood Supervisor.”

In speaking with its members, the Broward County PBA concluded that there is inadequate training of dispatchers and not enough of them. To remedy the situation, the Broward County PBA made several suggestions to County Administrator, Bertha Henry.

-More-

County dispatch blunders threaten community, page 2

The remedies included splitting dispatcher workload and adding additional dispatchers to busier cities.

“Dispatch is a lifeline. We don’t understand what’s taking so long to respond. The current situation is endangering the men and women who so bravely protect and serve. It is unacceptable and unsafe to the community,” added Marano.

Read a copy of the letter at the link below:

<http://www.bcpba.org/pdf/County-Dispatch-Letter-to-Berth-Henry-Nov-7-2014.pdf>

About the Broward County Police Benevolent Association

The Broward County Police Benevolent Association is a non-profit organization providing labor relations assistance and collective bargaining services for its members. The PBA’s mission is to promote professionalism in law enforcement and to protect the rights and privileges of individual law enforcement officers and civilian employees, as well as to keep citizens informed of the challenges facing law enforcement today.

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