

# BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LATEST DEPUTY SLAYING HIGHLIGHTS DANGERS OF JOB**

**Ft. Lauderdale** – As the South Florida Law Enforcement community grieves the loss of another of its members, the Broward County Police Benevolent Association (PBA) is going on the offensive and urging those in power to take the lead in protecting those who protect others.

“If it wasn’t clear before, it is now... South Florida is a dangerous place for our law enforcement brothers and sisters,” says Dick Brickman, Broward PBA President. “Four shootings in four months should be a wakeup call to our citizens and elected officials that we need to make more resources available to our departments to prevent such tragedies and help apprehend those responsible before they can do harm to the citizens we are charged with protecting.”

The PBA feels that elected officials need to more proactive where law enforcement needs are concerned. Recent columns in local newspapers have decried the pension benefits given to law enforcement without considering the price these officers and their families can pay. “Once the need for budget cuts comes up, the police – those we charge with standing between the public and the criminals – are always targeted, and we’re tired of being blamed for tax problems. We’ve had four officers shot in a four-month period – just for doing their jobs. How can anyone say that they don’t deserve to be paid a decent salary and aren’t entitled to a decent retirement?” Brickman says. “And how can anyone say that the families they leave behind don’t deserve these benefits?”

Additionally, adequate pay and benefits enable law enforcement agencies to recruit new officers. The current pool of qualified applicants is dwindling. As city and county commissions are deciding their budgets for the next year, Brickman hopes they will keep in mind the need for a strong, well-equipped, well-trained, professional police force. “If we want to attract the best of the best to patrol our communities and secure our families and businesses, we have to offer them a good living and the tools they need to get the job done,” concludes Brickman.

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.