

BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWARD COUNTY PBA CALLS FOR GREATER RESOURCES FOR POLICE IN WAKE OF MIAMI-DADE AND BROWARD SHOOTINGS

Ft. Lauderdale – The members of the Broward County Police Benevolent Association (PBA) send their prayers and heartfelt condolences to the family of slain Miami-Dade officer Jose Somohano and the entire Miami-Dade Police Department. We all wish a speedy recovery to Officers Jody Wright, Tomas Tundidor and Christopher Carlin, who were also injured in Thursday’s incident.

While the law enforcement family is mourning the loss of yet another member, we are reminded of the inherent danger in police work, and the 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.

With the promise of major cuts in property taxes to come, many cities and counties across the state are considering making cuts where the community can least afford it: police and fire protection. “Once the need for budget cuts comes up, the police – those we charge with standing between the public and the criminals – are always targeted. We’ve lost two officers in less than a month, and two more face long rehabilitations and my never do police work again – 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?” says Dick Brickman, President of the Broward County PBA.

In addition to the question of salaries and pensions, Brickman calls on cities and counties to step up and ensure that our police departments have the resources they need to protect both the community and individual officers. “In police work, you can’t ask to do more with less because the criminals always have ‘more,’” says Brickman. “You can’t fight an inferno with a garden hose.”

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.