



BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION LOCAL I.U.P.A 6020

June 3rd^d 2020

Governor DeSantis:

As the President of the Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association, Local I.U.P.A 6020, I am writing on a matter of great importance. On January 11th 2019, you appointed Gregory Tony as Sheriff of Broward County. This Union gave your administration our word that we would support Gregory Tony as Sheriff when you removed former Sheriff Scott Israel.

In the past month, there have been numerous revelations about the character and sworn statements made by Gregory Tony that not only would have prevented him from being appointed sheriff, but would have prevented him from ever being a law enforcement for any agency in the state of Florida.

It was discovered that Gregory Tony had never reported to any law enforcement agency that he arrested and involved in a homicide at the age of 14. Furthermore, Gregory Tony had lied on multiple applications for law enforcement positions about his past felony drug use of LSD (which is known to have "flashback" tendencies years after taking the hallucinogenic), traffic tickets, failure to disclose a criminal record for bad checks, false claims of rank and certifications that he never held, and he has knowingly provided false information on a FDLE application as recent as January 2020. Gregory Tony could not successfully submit an application for a law enforcement job in 2004 and still could not qualify to be hired as a police officer by today's standards.

On April 10, 2020, Gregory Tony violated this Union President's First Amendment right to free speech and association, by suspending me with pay, stripping me of my law enforcement credentials, and placed me under an internal affairs investigation. As a union president, I am permitted to speak out and was doing my job as a voice for the union by bringing a matter of great public concern to the media – namely the insufficiency of personal protective equipment for frontline deputies to combat the coronavirus. We have sadly lost two members of the BSO family due to the virus and continue to be concerned about the health and safety of deputies combatting an unknown public health risk and now under the heightened daily threat of civil unrest. All we wanted from Gregory Tony was communication; the lines of communication to be open. But Gregory Tony has failed to meet with the Union for 464 days.

Governor, law enforcement stood by you in 2018 and took to the news media by supporting a candidate who was a Naval JAG Officer and as someone who would respect and uphold the rule of law. We spoke about how your opponent was supported by the Dream Defenders and how they wanted to divert money away from law enforcement and divest law enforcement in general. The time has come to re-evaluate the decision of Gregory Tony remaining as Sheriff of Broward County.

Thousands of law enforcement officers go to work daily and risk their lives to uphold the rule of law. Broward Sheriff's Office employees have lost respect for and must endure a sense of disgust when employees come to work knowing that their "sheriff" has lied, cheated, and obtained the position that he holds today through deception. Gregory Tony failed to possess the qualities and qualifications to become a police officer in 2004 and would not be hired as a police officer today if he honestly completed a job application.

As the President of the Union, I am formally asking you to remove Gregory Tony from office as the Broward County Sheriff. All law enforcement officers are required to take an oath to support and defend the laws and constitution of the great State of Florida. It is a fact that Gregory Tony failed to disclose mandatory information on job applications and lied under oath by affirmatively lying and by omission. I respectfully ask you to remove Gregory Tony from office before his lack of ability, lack of qualifications and lack of judgment cost more lives at the Broward Sheriff's Office.

Jeff Bell

President

Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association Local 6020