



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

March 16th 2020

Sheriff Greg Tony:

Today marks 385 days since you and I have had a face to face meeting to discuss ANY Agency wide issues. Effective and regular communication between a Sheriff and Union leadership is key when providing necessary information and when providing answers to urgent matters.

Governor Ron DeSantis has declared a State of Emergency due to the Corona virus pandemic and is doing everything possible to help limit the spread of the virus .However, our Deputies are still responding to calls for service without masks, gloves or sanitizer provided by the Agency. Our PPE kits that were initially issued after 9/11 have long since expired and most have been returned to central property in recent years by most Deputies because items had dry rotted from sitting in the trunks of cars for almost 2 decades. The Union would like to know what steps are being taken by the Agency to protect the Deputies during this Pandemic, and what steps are being taken to provide the most basic level of protection to the first responders.

The Union and it's members need to hear that you, will supply the Deputies of Broward County with the necessary equipment in order to continue providing service to the citizens of Broward County. Facial masks, gloves and sanitizer are not too much to ask for and should have been ordered a long time ago. If we cannot obtain this equipment immediately, then please consider ordering Deputies to take as many precautions as possible to include handling such calls as lost property, damaged property, delayed calls for service and other such calls the phone whenever possible.

Jeff Bell

President

Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association Local 6020



FLORIDA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, INC. LABOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE



April 11, 2020

Richard Lemack, Town Administrator
Town of Davie
6591 Orange Drive
Davie, FL 33314

Mr. Lemack:

On behalf of the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, and our members employed by the Davie Police Department, I am writing this letter to bring a serious matter to your direct attention. Recently, several police employees expressed various concerns regarding their risk of exposure to the Covid-19 virus, and inquired about agency safety protocols and protections that would mitigate their exposure and/or provide coverage for them, if infected. Knowing the professionalism of the Davie PD, I would have hoped their concerns would have been addressed with reassurances and empathy.

In response to our members' concerns, Davie Police Chief Dale Engle chose to instead retaliate against our members. On April 7, 2020, Chief Engle allegedly attended a patrol briefing wherein he belittled our members, ordering them to the parking lot and into formation (like cadets back in the police academy), and ordered an inspection (rarely done). Chief Engle then proceeded to berate these members about the issues they raised, yelling about their "baseless" concerns. During this, members were shocked when Chief Engle cited the tragic death of BSO Deputy Shannon Bennett who recently succumbed to the Covid-19 virus. Chief Engle allegedly yelled about a "backstory" which proclaimed that Deputy Bennett contracted and died from the virus because he was a "homosexual who attended homosexual <sexual> events." He intimated that it was because of this homosexual lifestyle that Deputy Bennett first contracted a serious underlying disease which aggravated the Covid-19 virus and lead to his death. His rant continued for some time, with the presumable desired effect of intimidating the members and discouraging any other department employees from complaining or expressing concerns in the future.

Later, Chief Engle sent a departmental email wherein he attempted to walk back some of his comments and minimize them as an attempt to "provide as much information as possible," and that they may have been "taken out of context." Members were directed to contact Chief Engle directly if they wanted to discuss, something intimidated subordinates would obviously not do, especially in the wake of this incident.

Chief Engle's actions were unacceptable and are not representative of the longstanding professionalism of the Davie Police Department. Moreover, his derogatory references to homosexuality and Deputy Bennett are shameful, and conflict with the inclusive values of the Town of Davie and the FOP who proudly support and embrace employees of all races, creeds, genders, religious beliefs and sexual orientations.

Chief Engle's actions constitute a hostile work environment and warrant an immediate and thorough investigation. As the department's Internal Affairs Unit should be presumed to be conflicted of conducting a full and impartial investigation against their own Chief, we respectfully request that the investigation be conducted by an outside agency

242 Office Plaza, Tallahassee, FL 32301
Labor Council: (888)485-0351 • Fax: (800) 873-3670 • State Lodge: (850) 656-9881
Website: www.floridastatefop.org



BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION

April 4th 2020

Press contact (954) 662-5740

Jbell@iupa.org

For Immediate Release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association President Jeff Bell stated "the Union offers our most sincere condolences to the family of Deputy Shannon Bennett". The Coronavirus is clearly challenging all First Responders in a way that we have never been challenged before. However, just like anything else, in order to confront an issue and succeed, you must have the proper equipment in order to defeat your enemy. President Bell further stated "the Union has sent unanswered memos to the Sheriff's Office on March 16th and March 23rd expressing our concerns over the lack of PPE equipment. One memo offered the donation of 1,400 N95 masks to the Sheriff himself but he has failed to answer." The passing of Deputy Bennett is now highlighting the need for the proper PPE equipment in the field. The Union will continue to be vocal against our Sheriff who seems to think posting Instagram videos of himself working out, photo ops and censoring critics on social media by deleting their comments is more important that protecting his employees. The Union is concerned for the safety of the membership and other employees under the leadership ,or lack of leadership, of Greg Tony. #UNQUALIFIEDSHERIFF