



International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020

Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association

"The Voice of Law Enforcement Officers"

May 12, 2022

Florida Legislature

400 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

On behalf of over 1200 members of the International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, the current union representing the Deputies and Sergeants for the Broward County Sheriff's Office, we endorse the Claims Bill filed for former Broward County Sheriff's Office Deputy Maury Hernandez. On August 6, 2007, former Deputy Hernandez was severely wounded when he sustained a gunshot wound to the head from a violent suspect he was attempting to apprehend. An investigation conducted into the incident revealed the suspect was on probation. Had the Florida Department of Corrections appropriately addressed the suspect's clearly evident violations of probation, the suspect would have been incarcerated on the day in question and former Deputy Hernandez may have never had to endure this horrible, life-altering experience. Sometimes doing the right thing is not what we are required to do but what we can and should do.

On August 6, 2007, former Deputy Hernandez did what was right by performing his job duties as a law enforcement officer by trying to apprehend a violent suspect and ensure the safety of the community. Approximately 15 years later, the legislature can and should do what is right and pass this Claims Bill for former Deputy Hernandez and make him whole for the sacrifice he made trying to ensure the safety of the community. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Matt Cowart

Vice President of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020

Greg LaCerra

Secretary-Treasurer of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020