



## **NEWS UPDATE**

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

## **Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association**

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To All Members,

In our continued efforts to keep the membership informed, the International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, Broward Sheriff's Office Deputies Association, would like to discuss a few topics with you.

**Recent Court Case Victories by I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Attorneys:** The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 provides its members access to a Legal Defense Fund with over \$51,000,000 in the reserves to cover legal expenses for I.U.P.A. members criminally charged or sued for acts committed within the scope of their duty. This Legal Defense Fund includes access to excellent experienced attorneys and the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 is pleased to inform the members of the positive outcomes of recent court cases involving I.U.P.A. members who were criminally charged by the Broward County State Attorney's Office.

I.U.P.A. Legal Defense Fund Attorney Jeremey Kroll recently defended Kevin Fanti who was charged with battery and obtained him a **not guilty verdict**.

I.U.P.A. Legal Defense Fund Attorney Jeremey Kroll also recently defended Willard Miller who was charged with child abuse without great bodily harm and obtained him a **not guilty verdict**.

I.U.P.A. Legal Defense Fund Attorneys Eric Schwartzreich and Michael Finesilver recently defended Jorge Sobrino who was charged with battery and obtained him a **not guilty verdict**.

**Recent Administrative Case Positive Outcomes:** Our Attorneys Holly Oliva-Van Horsten and Mike Finesilver work tirelessly to provide the best representation for our members. Below are a few recent outcomes of some cases administratively.

A member who was recently terminated by BSO has appealed their termination and with the hard work put in by I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Attorneys Holly Oliva-Van Horsten and Mike Finesilver they have been able to get the member reinstated and back to work.

Two members who were facing termination recommendation going into their Pre Disciplinary Hearings had I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Attorney Mike Finesilver represent them and was able to get the terminations reversed to suspensions.

**Additional Homestead Exemption:** House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) has successfully passed through the Florida Legislature and will now appear on the ballot in the general election on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If this amendment passes in the general election then classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child-welfare services professionals, active-duty military members and Florida National Guard members would receive an additional \$50,000 homestead exemption. The union has been conducting visits to squads around the agency and many members have voiced support for this. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Executive Committee sent a letter to Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar requesting he assist in gathering public support for this going into the general election in November. The letter sent to Broward County Property Appraiser Kiar can be viewed at the following link [Homestead-Support-Letter-to-BCPA-Kiar.pdf \(iupa.org\)](https://www.iupa.org/Homestead-Support-Letter-to-BCPA-Kiar.pdf)

**Response from Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar to I.U.P.A. Local 6020's Letter:** "This Amendment is so very important. I and many others advocated very strongly in Tallahassee this year for its placement on the ballot! This is a huge priority of mine this November to help educate our voters as to the importance of its passage. I am excited to work with IUPA to help get this passed. Have a great day!"

**Former Broward Sheriff's Office Deputy Maury Hernandez:** In 2007, BSO Deputy Maury Hernandez was shot in the head by a suspect while attempting to take the suspect into custody. The suspect should have been incarcerated, however, failures by the Florida Department of Corrections to violate the suspect while he was on probation allowed the suspect to commit this heinous act. Former Deputy Maury Hernandez survived this tragic incident and ultimately retired on disability. Former Deputy Maury Hernandez's insurance provider discontinued payments to his providers, leaving him

with far less medical assistance and care than he requires. Former Deputy Maury Hernandez is currently seeking the Florida Legislature to pass a Claim's Bill for his injuries. I.U.P.A. President Sam Cabral and the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 are proud to endorse former Deputy Maury Hernandez's Claim's Bill. Below are links to letters written in support of the Claim's Bill which have been sent to the Florida Legislature and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Letter from I.U.P.A. Local 6020: [Claims-Bill-Signed.pdf \(iupa.org\)](#)

Letter from I.U.P.A. President Sam Cabral: [President-Cabrals-Letter-to-President-Simpson-and-Speaker-Sprows-05.12.22.pdf \(iupa.org\)](#)

**I.U.P.A. Legislative Efforts:** The I.U.P.A. is constantly advocating for and supporting legislation which benefits the law enforcement profession. I.U.P.A. President Sam Cabral and I.U.P.A. Legislative Director Dennis Slocumb are the main coordinators behind the I.U.P.A. efforts to support legislation beneficial to law enforcement. Below are just a few of many letters signed by I.U.P.A. President Sam Cabral recently advocating for legislation as well as a letter issuing a statement on the increased assaults on police officers.

President Cabral's Letter to Congressman Katko regarding benefits for officers injured in the line of duty: [President-Cabrals-Letter-to-Congressman-Katko-05.13.22.pdf \(iupa.org\)](#)

Statement of President Cabral Regarding Increased Assaults on Police Officers: [Statement of President Cabral Regarding Increased Assaults on Police Officers - The International Union of Police Associations \(iupa.org\)](#)

President Cabral's Letter to Congressman Trone regarding H.R. 6943, the "Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022": [President-Cabrals-Letter-to-Congressman-Trone-05.06.22.pdf \(iupa.org\)](#)

President Cabral's Letter to Senator Brown regarding S. 2236, "Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act": [President-Cabrals-Letter-to-Senator-Brown-05.06.22.pdf \(iupa.org\)](#)

**I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Executive Committee:** The International Union of Police Associations, has made some leadership changes to the I.U.P.A. Local 6020, Executive Committee. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020, is constantly striving to provide the best representation for its members and will always strive to be membership driven. Attached is letter from International President Sam Cabral on the new appointments. Below are the current Executive Committee members:

**President:** Matt Cowart (email: [mcowart@iupa.org](mailto:mcowart@iupa.org)) cell: 954-303-4265

**Vice President:** Don Prichard (email: [don@6020.iupa.org](mailto:don@6020.iupa.org)) cell: 954-868-4928

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Greg LaCerra (email: [glacerra@iupa.org](mailto:glacerra@iupa.org)) cell: 954-818-2655

**Transparency:** The I.U.P.A. Local 6020, is a union which strives itself on checks and balances as well as full transparency with the membership. As required by the I.U.P.A. constitution an annual audit will take place. All documents at the union office are available to any member of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 for in person inspection during regular business hours.

**Critical Incidents and Representation:** The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 provides its members with access to a Legal Defense Fund with approximately \$51,000,000 in the reserves with no caps on benefits. The Legal Defense Fund provides members full legal coverage for criminal and civil defense for acts committed within the scope of duty. If a member is involved in a critical incident such as deputy involved shooting, the I.U.P.A. will provide an on scene attorney to represent the member. Members will be receiving I.U.P.A. Legal Defense Fund cards in the mail which have a number to call, **1-888-556-5631, and an Association ID of 5321.**

Simply call the number and provide the association ID. In the event a member is involved in a critical incident and cannot recall the phone number above the member is always welcome to contact one of the Executive Committee members listed in this email 24 hours 7 days a week. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 will update members when the cards are mailed out.

**As a reminder the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 provides its members full attorney representation for all disciplinary matters.** If a member is the subject of an Internal Affairs investigation the member **WILL** be provided an attorney. For cases which are only administrative as a violation of policy, the Local I.U.P.A. 6020 provides its members Attorney Mike Finesilver. Attorney Mike Finesilver has approximately 35 years of experience as an attorney. Attorney Mike Finesilver has recently helped multiple members reverse termination recommendations to just suspensions.

**Hold Harmless Agreement between BSO and Miccosukee (Ave Maria Parking):** The Broward Sheriff's Office is still working on an agreement with Miccosukee to allow deputies and sergeants living in Collier County to park their vehicles at the Miccosukee Service Plaza. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 will update its members as soon as additional progress is made on this.

Sincerely,

I.U.P.A. Local 6020