



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
BROWARD DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

July 25, 2022

Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida

State of Florida

The Capitol

400 South Monroe Street.

Tallahassee, FL 32399

The International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, the union representing the Department of Law Enforcement Deputies and Sergeants for the Broward County Sheriff's Office, currently represents approximately 1200 members. The I.U.P.A., Local 6020 has conducted research into line of duty death statistics, law enforcement officer suicide statistics, various studies into the life span of a law enforcement officers after retirement, and mental health challenges law enforcement officers face as a result of their employment. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 researched the line of duty deaths for law enforcement officers from 2012 until present and the number of suicides by law enforcement officers from 2016 until present. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 discovered over 3,700 lives of law enforcement officers were lost between the data found from line of duty and suicide deaths. Studies have indicated that career law enforcement officers due to the high stress of their daily work, also have up to a four times higher incidence of cardiac disease and metabolic syndrome that persons in lower stress environments. *1

Prior to July 2011, law enforcement officers were required to perform 25 years of service in the Florida Retirement System before being able to collect a pension benefit with a cost of living adjustment each year. In July 2011, the Florida Retirement System increased the number of years a law enforcement officer is required to work from 25 years to 30 years before they can collect a pension benefit and removed the cost of living benefit as well.



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The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 also conducted research into multiple municipal pension plans. The City of Tampa, City of Miami, and City of Orlando all have retirement eligibility at 20 years of service for law enforcement officers. The City of Fort Lauderdale and City of Tallahassee allows law enforcement officers the ability to retire after 25 years of service.

There is a nationwide problem of retaining and recruiting quality personnel. Departments are actively recruiting experienced officers to their jurisdictions to address these problems. Amending the retirement benefits for the State of Florida would assist all Florida agencies in retaining trained, experienced and high quality officers.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 respectfully requests that you and other law makers in the Florida Legislature create and pass legislation to reduce the amount of years a law enforcement officer is required to work in the Florida Retirement System back to 25 years.

The work law enforcement officers provide is vital to society being able to function. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 and the law enforcement profession as a whole would be extremely grateful for your support on this matter. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 would extend the full support and any resources to include the assistance of I.U.P.A. attorneys, the I.U.P.A. Legislative Department, and the assistance of the International and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 leadership in helping accomplish creating and passing this legislation. The I.U.P.A Local 6020 believes providing law enforcement officers the ability to retire sooner would prolong life expectancy by reducing the number of years the honorable men and women of this profession need to be exposed to some of the worst situations society can encounter.

Thank you very much for your consideration. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 looks forward to working with you on this matter.



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Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowart

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President, I.U.P.A. Local 6020

*1 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4671563/>