



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

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

September 19th, 2022

Politics Over Public Safety: Pembroke Park Mayor Downsizes Police Services

The International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020 represents approximately 1200 Deputies and Sergeants who provide law enforcement services to Broward County residents which includes the Town of Pembroke Park. The men and women of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 work tirelessly to provide excellent service to the citizens of Broward County.

On September 14, 2022, the Town of Pembroke Park held a regular commission meeting where the decision was made to terminate police services with the Broward County Sheriff's Office effective September 30, 2022. The meeting was recorded and is available to be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A73QqB7Y0iI>. Approximately 6 minutes and 12 seconds into the recording of the meeting, the Town of Pembroke Park Attorney, Melissa Anderson, states that the Town of Pembroke Park's new police department would not be open until February 2023, and urged Mayor Geoffrey Jacobs to renew the contract with the Broward County Sheriff's Office as the City Commission still has an obligation to provide police services to the residents of the Town of Pembroke Park. At approximately 23 minutes and 40 seconds into the meeting, Pembroke Park Police Chief David Howard stated the "new" police department is not ready to open. Chief Howard stated he would be able to open the police department earlier, however he would not provide an exact date and stated there will be a gap in coverage. Despite these facts, Mayor Jacobs has voted to terminate services with the Broward County Sheriff's Office on September 30, 2022.

Mayor Jacobs has accused the hardworking men and women of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 of neglect of duty by falsely stating that 21% of calls for service from the residents of the Town of Pembroke Park, one out of every five, are not answered. That claim is not true and creates a false public safety crisis where one simply does not exist. The members of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 ALWAYS answers the call from the community. Mayor Jacobs also accused the men and women of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 of not conducting traffic enforcement despite hundreds of citations and warning be issued this year so far in the Town of Pembroke Park. Mayor Jacobs claims he respects the hard working men and women of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 but his false claims of neglect of duty say otherwise.

Mayor Jacobs has ultimately chosen to downsize policing services and end contracting services with the Broward County Sheriff's Office which jeopardizes the safety of the very residents of the Town of Pembroke Park which he swore to protect. By ending contractual services, Mayor Jacobs no longer has unlimited access to numerous specialized investigative units at the Broward County Sheriff's Office to include numerous experienced detectives within the Violent Crimes Unit, Special Victims Unit, Robbery Unit, Special Weapons and Tactics Team,

Burglary Apprehension Team, Canine Unit, Aviation Unit, Real Time Crime Center, Threat Management Unit, and numerous other specialized units. Mayor Jacobs replaced all of those specialty units with one detective in his “new” Town of Pembroke Park Police Department plan moving forward.

The Center for Public Safety Management conducted research into policing services provided by the Broward Sheriff’s Office to the Town of Pembroke Park and revealed that since 2011 the quality service provided by the men and women of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 resulted in a significant decrease in the overall crime rate. It can only be expected that this downsize in police services available to the Town of Pembroke Park will reverse the hard work by the members of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 and possibly result in an uptick in crime.

Whenever a police department has had funds reallocated, been defunded, or downsized police services, it has been proven to fail and results in an increase in crime as seen in cities throughout the United States that have done so. Unfortunately the Town of Pembroke Park will soon follow suit and it will ultimately be the residents and businesses who pay the price for this ill-advised decision to downsize the police services available to the residents of Pembroke Park by Mayor Jacobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cowart". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Cowart

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