



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

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

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Ed Hooper
Florida State Senate District 21
3450 East Lake Road South
Suite 305
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Dear Senator Hooper:

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, the largest sheriff's office in Florida, currently represents approximately 1,200 members. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 supports Senate Bill 224 which seeks to create equal retirement eligibility for special risk members in the Florida Retirement System by placing the years of creditable service to be eligible to retire at 25 years and placing the retirement eligibility age at 55.

Strong public safety is paramount for society to be able to function. Short comings from poor public safety trickle down and harm our communities such as lowering property values, making it more difficult for businesses to operate, and resulting in less safe environments for families to live and raise children.

Senate Bill 224 will strengthen the age of the workforce of our first responders, improve recruitment and retention for public safety agencies, and alleviate the mental health impact on our first responders which the nature of their employment cause. The fiscal cost Senate Bill 224 will have initially and over a generation is minuscule, however; the return of this minuscule investment in terms of strengthening public safety for our communities is truly enormous.



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

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

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 through this letter of support is proud to have partnered with Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar and Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony, in their individual capacities, in supporting Senate Bill 224. Broward County Property Appraiser Kiar and Broward County Sheriff Tony are elected officials who serve the residents for Florida's second largest county which consists of a population of approximately 2 million people.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020, Broward County Property Appraiser Kiar, and Broward County Sheriff Tony look forward to working with you on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Marty Kiar
Broward County Property Appraiser
Former Broward Mayor (15-16)
Florida House of Representative (06-12)

Gregory Tony
Broward County Sheriff