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OUR TWENTY EIGHTH YEAR

FRANK R PINTER CHAIRMAN- PETER L STEVENS PRESIDENT

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE "THINK TANK" MEETING

Plantation Police Department hosted this meeting on January 17th 2006. Attending were Frank Pinter, Peter Stevens, Jim DePelisi and Tony Acamporo from the Crime Commission; also, Monica Hofheinz, Broward State Attorneys Office; Howard Harrison and Jim Larsen, Plantation P.D.; Tom Maher, Pembroke Pines P.D.; Keith Dunn, Miramar P.D.; and John Wilson, Memorial Health Systems.

Jim DePelisi and Frank Pinter reported on their inquiry into the LEO recruitment process in Broward County. It is obvious that all Departments are attempting to tap into the same potential recruitment pool and are essentially vying against each other.

Under consideration is the possibility of a potential central recruiting agency for Broward County, perhaps operated through the Broward County Crime Commission whereupon potential applicants inquiries would be automatically submitted to all Departments. This is a novel approach to the recruitment problem which bears some further in-depth study to determine its feasibility. The Crime Commission will be working toward that goal.

In the interim, it has been decided by the Crime Commission that a recruitment site will be added to the Crime Commission internet site, **browardcrime.com** as a generic recruitment ad in an effort to determine what kind of response that will bring.

The Crime Commission will seek assistance from the local Departments in preparing this internet site. This entire recruitment assistance effort on the part of the Broward County Crime Commission may well lead into a major undertaking requiring funding from some sources. The local Departments would have to assist in this effort. Possible grant funding for this project will be investigated.

More on this effort later.

Assistant State Attorneys Salaries Lacking

MONICA HOFHEINZ, Executive Assistant at the Broward State Attorneys Office and Vice Chairperson of the Broward County Crime Commission brought attention to the serious recruitment and retention that the State Attorneys Office is also experiencing. She noted that young attorneys just getting out of law school and entering the Prosecutors Office are earning a salary of \$38,700 while being encumbered with major student loans which need payment. As a result, as soon as they build up some experience and contacts, they move on to better paying positions and the State Attorneys Office are losing valuable experienced prosecutors.

REPRESENTATIVE ARI PORT has sponsored House Bill #81 and **Senator Skip Campbell** has sponsored Senate Bill#362 which would give prosecutors, after three (3) years of service, \$3,000 toward loan payments; from six (6) years to twelve (12) years, if they stay on-board, they could receive \$5,000 toward their loan payments. In all, they could receive up to \$44,000 total. The Broward County Crime Commission will stay on top of both of these bills as they move toward the Legislature.



HURRICANE DISASTER FRAUD PREVALENT

In conjunction with attorney General Charlie Crist's battle against consumer fraud, especially in the area of hurricane repair, BCCC Director James DePelisi has embarked on an inquiry in an attempt to see how far reaching fraud has been in the Sunrise Lakes Area. He has received a number of complaints and is assisting the victims in seeing that their complaints reach the appropriate investigative authorities. More on this later.

POLICE CHIEFS RECOGNIZE CRIME COMMISSION.

THE Broward Chiefs Association presented Chairman Frank Pinter with a plaque in appreciation of assistance to the police academy in sponsoring the graduates family orientation classes. BCCC Directors, Jim Depelisi, Mazen Sukkar, Joe Setticase, pledged the \$250.00 cost for each class for one year. We were happy to be of assistance

ANTI-METHAMPHETAMINE PROGRAM

Chairman Frank Pinter was invited by the National Assn. Of Crime Commissions to Portland Oregon and attended a seminar by the Portland Police Dept. On the nationwide menace of illegal meth labs and insidious effects of meth use on willing victims. The program was developed by meth expert Sargent Eric Schober, of Portland PD. Sgt. Schober encouraged BCCC to see that all agencies in Broward receive a copy of the basic program on CDROM, which BCCC will distribute shortly. Portland PD has allowed Sgt. Schober to teach a one to three course to any agency interested, with charge, except for transportation and logging expenses. He can be reached at **Portland PD, Drug & Vice Div, 1111 SW 2nd , Portland OR. Tel 503-823-0246. BCCC would recommend this training to any agency!**

Hollywood Police Department Promotes Their Finest

Members of the Broward County Crime Commission attended the promotional ceremony in December 2005 of the following Veteran Officers.

Captains Mike Brown and Frank McGarry to Major; Lieutenants Mark May and Mark Smith to Captain; Sergeants Diana Pereira-Pabon, Chuck Roberts and Scott Pardon to Lieutenant; Officers John Marino, Michael de Jesus and Julio Gonzalez to Sergeant; and Telecommunicator II Cindy Schiller to Communications Shift Supervisor

Welcome New Members

BCCC is pleased to welcome aboard our newest members and supporters.

Signed on as members are **Tony Acamporo**, owner of Steadfast Investigations in Pompano. Tony has a wide ranging investigative background.

Juan Arias, former assistant state attorney, **Frank Messana**, owner Tropical Springs Realty, and **Jonathan Bleiweiss**, BSO Deputy,

Signing on as Directors are **Al Ortenzo**, ret. Asst. Chief, Ft. Lauderdale, and **Michael Mc Manus**, Ret. DEA, and owner of The McManus Group, investigative agency.

Welcome aboard, all!