



The **BROWARD COUNTY
CRIME COMMISSION**

**36th Annual
Criminal Justice Dinner**

DATE:

Thursday

November 5th, 2015

ADDRESS:

Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel

400 Corporate Drive

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33334

www.BrowardCrime.org

"Evil Triumphs When Good People Stand Idly By"

THE BROWARD COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION YEAR IN REVIEW:

Making In-roads:

The Broward County Crime Commission exercised many programs in 2015 while working in concert with the Criminal Justice System to provide solutions against crime and social issues that can transpire into crime.

Continuing with its Building Bridges Mental Health Conference Series, in May of 2015, the Crime Commission hosted its fifth Building Bridges event in 18 months, holding the first ever Child on Child Sexual Abuse symposium in Florida. 250 stakeholders, criminal justice representatives, law enforcement representatives, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, academics, and school teachers and principals were on hand. Two adept panels, accompanied by several expert speakers, shed palpable insight toward a problem in which 596 cases were reported in Broward County in 2014 [which unfortunately led the state of Florida]. Specific problems were identified and pin-pointed, and tangible solutions were proposed.

The Future of America:

During the summer, with great success, the Crime Commission implemented the first ever Leadership and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Summer Camp. Deemed as CSI: STEM, children were instilled to Create, Shape and Inspire (CSI) future inventions. The premise is, that if children focus on creating, inventing, and making a difference in the world, then there would be little time for delinquency and a life of crime. Children were taught:

1. Leadership and Management Skills; Making the Right Choices
2. Critical Thinking and Logic and Reasoning Skills
3. Criminal Justice and Courtroom Procedure
4. Self Esteem Building Skills
5. Professional Standard's and Common Courtesy and Social Graces
6. Core Values and Ethics

Ambassadors and Role Models:

In the third quarter, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), the Crime Commission continued its work in developing High School Criminal Justice programs. The goal is to eventually have these programs become certified within the Career Technical Education component of the education curriculum. Moreover, children enrolled in these programs can serve as ambassadors and positive influences in society to prevent potential social unrest and juvenile crime. Currently, 70 schools, representing 35 school districts and 10,000 students across the state of Florida are enrolled in the program, including seven schools here in Broward County.

Welcome Message

Broward County Crime Commission

Criminal Justice Dinner

Thursday, November 5th, 2015

The Broward County Crime Commission welcomes you to the 2015 Criminal Justice Dinner! Annually, the Crime Commission seeks to recognize and honor those criminal justice stalwarts who serve and protect, and provide public safety for the community at large.

This is a vocation of great responsibility, one in which countless people rely and depend. It is an occupation whereby the constitution has established officers of the law, to enforce statutes created by legislative bodies. Sometimes, this correlation is misunderstood by society with unjust reverberations. Yet, regardless of whether the sentiment is “cloudy or sunny”, whether fair or unfair, all of you here tonight still consistently proceed to do meritorious and competent work, day in and day out! It takes great mental toughness and self-discipline to do this, and that is certainly a testament to everyone in attendance.

It is a profession that is rewarding on so many fronts, and yet, sometimes, unreasonably ridiculed and criticized by some. It is a profession, where misinterpretations are sometimes arbitrarily amplified in the media. Yet, in contrast, life-saving situations go unheralded, and law enforcement deaths, such as police officer suicide and police officer killings, rarely get reported.

It is for this reason the Broward County Crime Commission hosts this event, year after year. We care *because you care!* And despite some of the isolated negative tones at large, it is important that you understand that *Main Street also cares*. Moreover, schools need you, communities need you, victims of crime need you, and society needs you; because without a constitutional, professional, public safety plan in place, anarchy and disorder would surely run amuck.

Therefore, in the words of Steve Jobs, perhaps the greatest inventor of our time: “Don’t be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other people’s thinking. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions doubt your own inner voice of logic and reason. Most importantly, continue to have the courage to follow your heart, intuition, and training *of what you know to be right versus wrong*”!

Tonight, November 5th, 2015, the Broward County Crime Commission takes great pleasure in recognizing a fine cadre of deserving individuals: *a Community Difference Maker, 48 Stellar Detectives, a Criminal Justice Savant, and the Office of the State Attorney’s Unit of the Year*. CONGRATULATIONS!!

James DePelisi, President
Broward County Crime Commission

Credits

Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel

Audio Visual Rental & Services, Inc. (by John St. Ange)

Mark Graphics

Event Sponsors

JM Family Enterprises – Awards and Recipient Dinner Underwriter

One Beat CPR – Awards and Recipient Dinner Underwriter

Walgreens Co. (WAG)

Fort Lauderdale Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #31

Lauderhill Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #161

Point Blank Body Armor

Zebersky Payne, LLP

Dr. Brooke Foris

The Plantation UPS Store

Criminal Justice Dinner Program

Thursday, November 5th, 2015

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| Cocktail Hour | 5:15 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. |
| Seating | 5:50 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Lauren Book National Anthem, Ms. Julia Dale | 6:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m. |
| Invocation, Judge Steven DeLuca | 6:05 p.m. to 6:10 p.m. |
| Introduction, Broward County Crime Commission President, James DePelisi..... | 6:10 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. |
| Broward County Crime Commission Thomas A. Magill Community Service Award – Mr. David J. Pinsker | 6:15 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. |
| Detective of the Year Recipients..... | 6:35 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| Dinner | 7:00 p.m. to 7:25 p.m. |
| Keynote Speaker, United States Secret Service..... | 7:25 p.m. to 7:55 p.m. |
| Broward County Crime Commission Frank R. Pinter Lifetime Achievement Award – State Attorney Michael J. Satz..... | 7:55 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. |
| Office of the State Attorney’s Unit of the Year for the 17th Judicial Circuit | 8:15 p.m. |

Broward County Crime Commission Thomas A. Magill Community Service Award

During his 36 years with the Hallandale Beach police force, **Thomas A. Magill** advocated for maintaining a good rapport with residents and was especially a beacon of community service to the children and citizens of Hallandale Beach.

Tonight, Thursday, November 5th, 2015, it is the Broward County Crime Commission's privilege to honor **Mr. David Pinsker, Florida State Executive Director for Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**, with the **Thomas A. Magill Community Service Award**.

About Mr. David Pinsker:

Dave Pinsker has spent the past 25+ years in the Broward County non-profit world. While spending the first 21 of those years as District Executive Director for the YMCA of Broward County, Dave was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Weston Family YMCA. That process included running and overseeing an 8.5 million dollar Capital Campaign as well as the initial programmatic pieces of the services offered in the new facility once completed.

More recently Dave joined Mothers Against Drunk Driving as the Florida State Executive Director in 2011 and has led the State of Florida in many new directions. Dave helped to create a new structure for the State designed to improve communication between staff and volunteers through a regionalization of the 14 different locations that existed in 2011. Today, MADD Florida has 7 regions with 7 Advisory Boards which allow for the sharing of programmatic ideas as well as the ability to work together on legislative issues that arise in the world of drunk driving. This system has allowed for expansion of staff, as well the growth in MADD'S one and only fundraising efforts known as Walk Like MADD.

Under Dave's leadership, the Walk Like MADD program has grown from 4 events annually in 2011 to 9 walks throughout the State in 2015 raising just over \$500,000. These funds are used to provide staff and recruit volunteers for the free programs offered by MADD which include Victim Services for families effected by drunk driving crashes as well as youth prevention programs which help to explain the dangers of Underage drinking.

On a personal note Dave is married to his lovely wife Caroline and has 3 high school age daughters which include his daughter Kate and two step daughters Carli and Sophia.

2015 Detective of the Year Recipients Listed Alphabetically by Last Name

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| 1. Corporal John E. Baker | Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) |
| 2. Detective Susie Boldin | Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department |
| 3. Detective James Boudreaux | Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department |
| 4. Detective Alexander Briz | City of North Lauderdale District – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 5. Detective Tim Bush | City of Pompano Beach District/Area 2 – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 6. Detective Dimos Charoudis | City of Deerfield Beach District – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 7. Detective Paul Christman | City of Margate Police Department |
| 8. Detective Brian (Todd) Christie | City of Parkland District – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 9. Detective Roberto Colon | Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport District – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 10. Detective John Curcio | Broward Sheriff's Office – Criminal Investigations Division – Homicide Unit |
| 11. Detective Robert Feick | Broward Sheriff's Office – Criminal Investigations Division – Economic Crimes Unit |
| 12. Detective Michael Gelske | City of Pompano Beach District/Area 1 – Broward Sheriff's Office |
| 13. Detective Andrew Gianino | Broward Sheriff's Office – Strategic Investigations Division |
| 14. Detective Oscar Gonzalez | City of Wilton Manors Police Department |
| 15. Detective William Gordon | City of Sunrise Police Department |
| 16. Detective Adam Granit | Town of Davie Police Department |
| 17. Detective Alyssa Guerres | City of Tamarac District – Broward Sheriff's Office |

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| 18. Detective Jerry Hopkins | City of Oakland Park District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 19. Detective James Hoy | Court Services District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 20. Detective Brad Hyatt | City of Pembroke Pines Police Department |
| 21. Detective Saied Jadallah | City of Pembroke Park District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 22. Detective Paul Kempinski | City of Coral Springs Police Department |
| 23. Detective Andrew Kiefer | City of Lauderhill Police Department |
| 24. Detective Michael Kravec | City of Weston District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 25. Detective Michael “Shane” Kruse | City of Lighthouse Point Police Department |
| 26. Detective Ian Kuechler | Broward Sheriff’s Office – Criminal Investigations Division – Special Victims Unit |
| 27. Detective Ira Marrich | Port Everglades District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 28. Special Agent Tony Martindale | Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) |
| 29. Special Agent Larry Masterson | Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) |
| 30. Detective Peter McGowan | City of Dania Beach District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 31. Detective Wissem Mejdoub | City of Hallandale Beach Police Department |
| 32. Detective Jennifer Montgomery | Broward Sheriff’s Office – Strategic Investigations Division |
| 33. Detective Cesar Morales | Broward Sheriff’s Office – Strategic Investigations Division |
| 34. Detective Mark Moretti | City of Miramar Police Department |
| 35. Detective Danny Mursell | Town of Lauderdale by the Sea District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 36. Detective Robert O’Neill | Town of Hillsboro Beach Police Department |

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| 37. Detective Rob Petoskey | Cooper City District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 38. Detective Edna “Angie” Pollock | Broward District Schools Police Department |
| 39. Detective Christopher Pullease | City of Sunrise Police Department |
| 40. Detective Nicholas Romano | City of North Lauderdale District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 41. Detective Larry Scates | City of Coconut Creek Police Department |
| 42. Detective Christian Silva | City of Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 43. Detective Lisa Sokol | City of North Lauderdale District – Broward Sheriff’s Office |
| 44. Detective Leann Swisher | City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department |
| 45. Detective Leonard Tinelli | City of Hollywood Police Department |
| 46. Special Agent Chris Vastine | Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) |
| 47. Detective Michael Venezia | Broward Sheriff’s Office – Strategic Investigations Division |
| 48. Detective Robert Zaragoza | City of Plantation Police Department |

2015 Detective of the Year Summaries Listed Alphabetically by Agency

Detective Edna "Angie" Pollock, Broward District Schools Police Department:

Detective Pollock has served the Broward Schools District Police Department [formally titled Special Investigative Unit (SIU)] for the past 22 years. During the past year, Detective Pollock spearheaded the department's role in the school districts "Promise Program" initiative. Detective Pollock has always taken on the responsibility of doing whatever it takes to provide the students of Broward County the opportunity to be successful in all of their future endeavors. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Angie Pollock as Detective of the Year for the Broward District Schools Police Department.**

Detective John Curcio, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Curcio is a 36 year Broward County Law Enforcement Officer who has dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Broward County. He is second to none when it comes to his ability in analyzing the facts and evidence presented before him. Detective Curcio has an uncanny ability of proficiently developing action plans that normally constitute solutions, results, and most importantly prosecutions. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective John Curcio as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Robert Feick, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Feick is one of Broward Sheriff's Office's most experienced investigators. Throughout the years, his skills and tenacity have consistently allowed him to conduct complex and lengthy investigations successfully. He requires little supervision, and is often entrusted to train and supervise new investigators in his unit. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Robert Feick as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Andrew Gianino, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Gianino has been a law enforcement officer for 35 years with an extensive investigative background. He possesses a core competency for Fraud related cases. His hard work and dedication has resulted in dozens of felony arrests, Detective Gianino is deemed an expert in this field and has provided training and mentorship to co-workers, other agencies, and insurance industry professionals. **It is for this reason, that the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Andrew Gianino as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Ian Kuechler, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Kuechler has consistently been lauded by his BSO supervisors for proficiency in solving cases regarding special victims whom are senior citizens and young children, even when these cases have been extensively profiled in media outlets. Detective Kuechler's professionalism is an example for others to emulate. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Ian Kuechler as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Jennifer Montgomery, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Montgomery is an exceptionally gifted on-line investigator. She possesses a core competency in apprehending child predators. Detective Montgomery has an affinity of analyzing open/incomplete investigations and vigorously pursuing them, especially on behalf of victims who seek closure. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Jennifer Montgomery as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Cesar Morales, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Morales has been considered a primary investigator by all echelons of law enforcement in Broward County and south Florida.

Detective Morales' diversification and versatility, with working with various agencies, in any environment, allows him to bring indictments to fruition, that otherwise would not matriculate. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Cesar Morales as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Michael Venezia, Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Venezia is the epitome of a proactive investigator. He does not simply wait for assignments, but assesses wrongful situations in Broward County, and initiates investigations, seeking to dismantle infrastructures related to such affiliated crimes. His vigilance normally culminates with multiple arrest on whichever case he is working. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Michael Venezia as Detective of the Year for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Larry Scates, City of Coconut Creek Police Department:

Detective Scates is an investigator that displays great dedication, compassion, and tenacity in his work. Moreover, Detective Scates has an uncanny ability in comforting victims when carrying out his investigations. Detective Scates is someone who is not only dependable, but a team player who will take on any task which is given or presented to him, without hesitation. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Larry Scates as Detective of the Year for the City of Coconut Creek Police Department.**

Detective Rob Petoskey, Cooper City District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Petoskey has demonstrated characteristics of a superior detective during 2015, making arrests in over 15 different residential burglaries, and possessing the highest clearance rate of any other detective in the Cooper City district. Detective Petoskey is always willing to assist other detectives, and provide exceptional service to all victims with which he deals. In the words of his supervisors, *"Detective Petoskey is a pleasure to supervise. He shows up early, goes home late, and never complains"*. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Rob Petoskey as Detective of the Year for the Cooper City District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Paul Kempinski, City of Coral Springs Police Department:

Detective Kempinski has been a stalwart performer for the City of Coral Springs' Detective Bureau. In 2015, he was responsible for quelling a serial rooftop copper burglary ring, resulting in over \$200,000.00 of damage. Detective Kempinski was also the detective liaison for the agency's License Plate Reader program which resulted in the recovery of eleven stolen vehicles in two months. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Paul Kempinski as Detective of the Year for the City of Coral Springs Police Department.**

Detective James Hoy, Court Services District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Hoy is a 30 year law enforcement veteran with a propensity of being a relentless investigator. Possessing a background with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Detective Hoy oversees investigations to all four Broward County courthouses. His dedication, as well as his attention to detail, in carrying out investigations, sets a standard for others to emulate. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective James Hoy as Detective of the Year for the Courthouse District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Peter McGowan, City of Dania Beach District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective McGowan is a dedicated investigator who responds to the needs of victims. He has proven to be an excellent example of what professionalism means in being a detective. In 2015, Detective McGowan's prowess allowed \$10,000.00 of stolen marine equipment to be returned to a maritime employer. Through other investigations in 2015, Detective McGowan has recovered and returned over \$12,000.00 in stolen property to their rightful owners. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Peter McGowan as Detective of the Year for the City of Dania Beach District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Adam Granit, Town of Davie Police Department:

Detective Granit's contributions have been proclaimed as immeasurable by his superiors. Detective Granit is continuously called upon by his supervisors and peers to assist them. His response is always, "Yes. How may I help?" Detective Granit's is also a highly regarded "Expert Witness" for the 17th District Court Judicial System, in regards to juveniles, and juvenile related matters, in both civil and criminal cases. His work ethic, without question, is exemplary, and his abilities are limitless. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Adam Granit as Detective of the Year for the Town of Davie Police Department.**

Detective Dimos Charoudis, City of Deerfield Beach District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Charoudis is a ten year veteran of the Broward Sheriff's Office. He displays superior initiative, a keen sense of observation, and excellent interviewing skills in the areas of Property Crimes. Detective Charoudis is a dedicated employee who is self-motivated in protecting and serving the citizens of Deerfield Beach and Broward County. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Dimos Charoudis as Detective of the Year for the City of Deerfield Beach District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Special Agent Tony Martindale, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE):

Special Agent Martindale has served to be an invaluable resource for the FDLE. His broad experience and proficiency in investigating Economic Crime has served worthy in protecting the citizens of south, west, and central Florida against financial fraud and misrepresentation. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Special Agent Tony Marindale as Detective of the Year for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).**

Special Agent Larry Masterson, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE):

Special Agent Masterson has served to be vigilant as a Special Agent for the FDLE. His tenacity, in working with Special Agent Vastine, helped investigate an illegal operation of brokering the buying and selling of precious metals. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Special Agent Larry Masterson as Detective of the Year for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).**

Special Agent Chris Vastine, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE):

Special Agent Vastine has served to be vigilant as a Special Agent for the FDLE. His tenacity, in working with Special Agent Masterson, helped investigate an illegal operation of brokering the buying and selling of precious metals. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Special Agent Chris Vastine as Detective of the Year for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).**

Corporal John E. Baker, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP):

Corporal John E. Baker is a 28 year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol and has been assigned to the Traffic Homicide Investigation Section for seven years. He has been nominated for his unselfish dedication to investigating crashes and fatalities in Broward County. Corporal Baker has assisted other investigators with their cases and training new members assigned to the section. During the past year, Corporal Baker investigated 16 fatalities, one of which was a tragic loss of lives, regarding a wrong way driver on U.S. 27. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Corporal John E. Baker as Detective of the Year for the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).**

Detective Roberto Colon, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Colon has been with the agency for the past 13 years and has shown to be a valuable asset and tenacious investigator with the Airport Criminal Investigations Unit. He has served worthy in solving numerous high profile cases involving Organized Auto Theft Rings, Credit Card Fraud, and Identity Theft. Due to Detective Colon's excellent interpersonal skills, cases assigned to him are solved at a very high rate. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Roberto Colon as Detective of the Year for the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Leann Swisher, City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department:

Detective Swisher has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. In 2014, Detective Swisher's dedication, and thorough investigative skills, played a pivotal role in apprehending three active burglars. These arrests resulted in solving 25 residential burglaries, and one home invasion robbery. Moreover, over \$100,000.00 of stolen property was recovered. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Leann Swisher as Detective of the Year for the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department.**

Detective Wissem Mejdoub, City of Hallandale Beach Police Department:

Detective Mejdoub has consistently demonstrated to be one of Hallandale's finest investigators. He has superior ability to excel as a Detective in the areas of Homicide, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Domestic Violence. Detective Mejdoub has an uncanny talent in drafting warrants, obtaining court orders, obtaining confessions, garnering arrests and working proficiently with the State Attorney's Office in attaining prosecutions. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Wissem Mejdoub as Detective of the Year for the City of Hallandale Beach Police Department.**

Detective Leonard Tinelli, City of Hollywood Police Department:

Detective Tinelli has served to be somewhat of a superhero in the City of Hollywood. He has a tenacity to quickly solve cases that involve armed robbery and physical battering to its victims. Due to his efforts and vigilance, more than 53 years of sentencing have recently been handed out to such perpetrators. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Leonard Tinelli as Detective of the Year for the City of Hollywood Police Department.**

Detective Robert O'Neill, Town of Hillsboro Beach Police Department:

Detective O'Neill continuously distinguishes himself with his perseverance, professionalism and dedication in the Town of Hillsboro Beach. Detective O'Neill, in working with other agencies, was instrumental in contributing to the arrest of a foreign burglary ring that burglarized homes from Juno Beach to South Miami, taking over \$3 million from multiple locations. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Robert O'Neill as Detective of the Year for the Town of Hillsboro Beach Police Department.**

**Detective Danny Mursell, Town of Lauderdale
by the Sea District - Broward Sheriff's
Office (BSO):**

Detective Mursell has been assigned as the sole investigator for the Town of Lauderdale by the Sea for the past 2 – ½ years. Among Detective Mursell's accolades in Detective work, one of his more devout cases involved locating a homeless man and returning \$9,500.00 to him, which had been found at a county bus stop. **For this reason, and others, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Danny Mursell as Detective of the Year for the Town of Lauderdale by the Sea District for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Christian Silva, City of
Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward District -
Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):**

Detective Silva has been instrumental in defeating emerging crime trends within the Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward District. Detective Silva identified and dismantled crime rings associated with Identity Theft and Organized Auto Theft. Due to his tireless efforts, tens of thousands of dollars in asset forfeitures were garnered, as well as the effective prosecution of over a half dozen crime ring members. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Christian Silva as Detective of the Year for the City of Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Andrew Kiefer, City of Lauderdale
Police Department:**

Detective Kiefer is a proficient investigator in Homicide Crimes, Child Abuse Crimes, Sex Crimes and Sexual Offender Crimes. He is highly respected by his fellow peers, the State Attorney's Office, and all service providers who assist in special victim's crimes. Finally, Detective Kiefer serves as a role model, and mentor, in the training and development of younger detectives. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Andrew Kiefer as Detective of the Year for the City of Lauderdale Police Department.**

Detective Michael "Shane" Kruse, City of Lighthouse Point Police Department:

Detective Kruse has investigated numerous cases of robbery, burglary, larceny, sex crimes, fraud, and death investigation during the 2014 and 2015 annum's. He investigated two bank robberies and subsequently arrests were made in those cases. Moreover, Detective Kruse was responsible for the return of \$150,000.00 in cash and jewelry to a resident, where the property was taken as payment during a confidence scam. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Michael "Shane" Kruse as Detective of the Year for the City of Lighthouse Point Police Department.**

Detective Paul Christman, City of Margate Police Department:

Detective Christman has investigated and solved some of the most difficult cases to work in Margate, as they involved children and crimes that start with predators on the internet. With one particular case, Detective Christman was able to identify a suspect who was using multiple Facebook personas. The suspect was identifying underage girls and using predator tactics to convince the underage girls to meet and engage in sexual acts. Detective Christman through diligent investigation was able to locate 12 victims during the course of his investigation. The subject, through Detective Christman's year long investigation, has been arrested and is now facing multiple counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, and other human trafficking charges. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Paul Christman as Detective of the Year for the City of Margate Police Department.**

Detective Mark Moretti, City of Miramar Police Department:

Detective Moretti has proven to be a diligent detective that goes the extra mile to render compassion to the victims of his assigned cases. During one particular instance, Detective Moretti investigated a grand theft case involving an 87 year old victim. The suspect defrauded the victim of \$8,000.00, and relocated to another state. The bank refused to refund the money. Detective Moretti appealed to the media and the bank subsequently reimbursed the victim. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Mark Moretti as Detective of the Year for the City of Miramar Police Department.**

**Detective Alexander Briz, City of North
Lauderdale District - Broward Sheriff's
Office (BSO):**

Detective Briz has been praised by his superiors of being one of the major detective difference makers in the city, along with two others, that had 169 arrests in 2014. From this vigilant approach, Detective Briz, and others, have been able to locate suspects, obtain confessions, and close cases. These efforts have positively impacted the prevention of crime in the city of North Lauderdale. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Alexander Briz as Detective of the Year for the City of North Lauderdale District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Nicholas Romano, City of North
Lauderdale District - Broward Sheriff's
Office (BSO):**

Detective Romano has been praised by his superiors of being one of the major detective difference makers in the city, along with two others, that had 169 arrests in 2014. From this vigilant approach, Detective Romano, and others, have been able to locate suspects, obtain confessions, and close cases. These efforts have positively impacted the prevention of crime in the city of North Lauderdale. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Nicholas Romano as Detective of the Year for the City of North Lauderdale District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Lisa Sokol, City of North
Lauderdale District - Broward Sheriff's
Office (BSO):**

Detective Sokol has been praised by her superiors of being one of the major detective difference makers in the city, along with two others, that had 169 arrests in 2014. From this vigilant approach, Detective Sokol, and others, have been able to locate suspects, obtain confessions, and close cases. These efforts have positively impacted the prevention of crime in the city of North Lauderdale. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Lisa Sokol as Detective of the Year for the City of North Lauderdale District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Jerry Hopkins, City of Oakland
Park District - Broward Sheriff's Office
(BSO):**

Detective Hopkins is assigned to the Crime Suppression Team that tracks all Gang Activity and Drug Activity in the City of Oakland Park. Detective Hopkins has an uncanny ability to track and apprehend known gang members through traditional and modern surveillance techniques. Due to this commitment, he has been able to arrest numerous subjects, committing acts of criminal mischief and burglary. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Jerry Hopkins as Detective of the Year for the City of Oakland Park District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Brian (Todd) Christie, City of
Parkland District - Broward Sheriff's Office
(BSO):**

Detective Christie proficiently handles a variety of tasks with little or no supervision. Possessing a strong desire to succeed, Detective Christie analyzes relevant issues while gathering intelligence and investigating crimes. This includes, and is not limited to, street level narcotics, street level vice, and other quality of life issues. He does this in conjunction with apprehending criminal suspects, and assisting with their prosecution. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Brian (Todd) Christie as Detective of the Year for the City of Parkland District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Saied Jadallah, City of Pembroke
Park District - Broward Sheriff's Office
(BSO):**

Detective Jadallah possesses exceptional investigative skills and has a great relationship with the community. He conducts investigations which lead to numerous arrests, the confiscation of massive amounts of narcotics, stolen property, and guns. Detective Jadallah recently assisted Miramar Police Department with locating a shooting subject, and placed him into custody. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Saied Jadallah as Detective of the Year for the City of Pembroke Park District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Brad Hyatt, City of Pembroke Pines Police Department:

Detective Hyatt has distinguished himself during 2015 by completing comprehensive investigations that resulted in numerous arrests. He is extremely motivated and works very hard in managing and solving his case load. Detective Hyatt has demonstrated core competency in solving armed robbery cases, as well as armed take over type robberies. He was also instrumental in capturing a bank robbery bandit that robbed six bank branches in Pembroke Pines. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Brad Hyatt as Detective of the Year for the City of Pembroke Pines Police Department.**

Detective Robert Zaragoza, City of Plantation Police Department:

Detective Zaragoza developed Plantation's Human Trafficking Task Force in January of 2015. This included all controls and processes associated with the unit. Due to his yeoman efforts, the unit has grown from one individual to a functional unit that consistently works Human Trafficking cases seamlessly with other local and federal agencies. To date, the unit has had five arrests, including one federal indictment, and one state indictment. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Robert Zaragoza as Detective of the Year for the City of Plantation Police Department.**

Detective Michael Gelske, City of Pompano Beach District/Area 1 - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Gelske diligently pursued and and quelled a trend of residential burglaries seemingly targeting elderly victims while they slept during overnight hours. The suspect in question was forcing his way into residences and taking jewelry and electronics. In one particular case, the suspect victimized a 93 year old World War II veteran of his wedding ring. Through Detective Gelske's relentless investigation, the suspect was identified and charged with several crimes and the wedding ring was ultimately returned to the rightful owner. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Michael Gelske as Detective of the Year for the City of Pompano Beach District, Area 1, of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Tim Bush, City of Pompano Beach
District/Area 2 - Broward Sheriff's Office
(BSO):**

Detective Bush has been praised by his supervisors in investigating a case where a 96 year old victim and a fellow neighbor had over \$10,000.00 of jewelry stolen from their homes. Detective Bush's vigilant investigative prowess enabled much of the stolen jewelry to be recovered. **For this reason, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Tim Bush as Detective of the Year for the City of Pompano Beach District, Area 2, of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Ira Marrich, Port Everglades
District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):**

Detective Marrich is currently assigned to the Compliance Unit of Port Everglades where he is responsible for inspecting and monitoring the security operations at the Port. Detective Marrich goes above and beyond dedicating his time and patience to solving security/compliance issues, enhancing operations, and communicating intelligence to co-workers and other law enforcement regulated agencies. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Ira Marrich as Detective of the Year for the Port Everglades District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

**Detective Susie Boldin, Seminole Tribe of
Florida Police Department:**

Detective Boldin has been lauded by her supervisors as an asset to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department. She has been instrumental in diligently pursuing fraud cases. In this manner, she has developed a niche for investigating and solving various types of fraud to include identity theft, check washing, counterfeit credit cards and fictitious driver licenses. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Susie Boldin as Detective of the Year for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department.**

Detective James Boudreaux, Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department:

Detective Boudreaux has been a commensurate Detective for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department. He is well respected within the community and is assertive to incoming information that can lead to solving cases. Moreover, Detective Boudreaux's dedication and commitment to researching evidence, has set the standard for others to follow. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective James Boudreaux as Detective of the Year for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Police Department.**

Detective William Gordon, City of Sunrise Police Department:

Detectives Gordon and Pullease have proven, through their hard work and dedication, of how valuable they are to not only the Sunrise Police Department, but also other local and federal agencies, as well. In 2014, detectives Gordon and Pullease were tasked with starting up a Crime Suppression Unit. During this time, Detectives Gordon and Pullease initiated and completed over 200 arrests, in addition to being responsible for the seizure of over \$1,000,000.00 in currency and assets. The investigations conducted by these detectives resulted not only in state level charges, but also federal indictments and convictions, as well. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detectives William Gordon and Christopher Pullease as Co-Detectives of the Year for the City of Sunrise Police Department.**

Detective Christopher Pullease, City of Sunrise Police Department:

Detectives Pullease and Gordon have proven, through their hard work and dedication, of how valuable they are to not only the Sunrise Police Department, but also other local and federal agencies, as well. In 2014, detectives Pullease and Gordon were tasked with starting up a Crime Suppression Unit. During this time, Detectives Pullease and Gordon initiated and completed over 200 arrests, in addition to being responsible for the seizure of over \$1,000,000.00 in currency and assets. The investigations conducted by these detectives resulted not only in state level charges, but also federal indictments and convictions, as well. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detectives Christopher Pullease and William Gordon as Co-Detectives of the Year for the City of Sunrise Police Department.**

Detective Alyssa Guermes, City of Tamarac District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Guermes is one of the most conscientious detectives assigned to the Tamarac Criminal Investigation Unit, who actively pursues her cases from start to finish. Due to Detective Guermes' innovative methods to solving crimes, within the past year, she investigated and made arrests in cases involving hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Alyssa Guermes as Detective of the Year for the City of Tamarac District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Michael Kravecz, City of Weston District - Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO):

Detective Kravecz is a veteran investigator who takes extreme pride in his work. He accepts any assignment without question, and maintains a calm and professional demeanor when dealing with complex cases. During the past year, Detective Kravecz was instrumental in solving several high profile cases which led to the arrests of multiple career criminals throughout Broward County. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission honors Detective Michael Kravecz as Detective of the Year for the City of Weston District of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).**

Detective Oscar Gonzalez, City of Wilton Manors Police Department:

Detective Gonzalez is a 30 year veteran for the City of Wilton Manors Police Department. His accomplishments range from implementing the first K-9 Unit for the city in 1993, to working with the Broward County Sheriff's Office's Drug Task Force from December 2007 to present. Detective Gonzalez's dedication in ridding not only the streets of Wilton Manors, but also Broward County, of countless narcotics dealer, users and suppliers, has set the standard for others to follow. **For these reasons, the Broward County Crime Commission recognizes Detective Oscar Gonzalez as Detective of the Year for the City of Wilton Manors Police Department.**

Criminal Justice Dinner Keynote Speaker

Robert Villanueva, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge (ATSAIC), United States Secret Service (USSS):

Mr. Villanueva was raised in South Florida and is a Fort Lauderdale resident. He has been with the United States Secret Service (USSS) for over 24 years and has been assigned to various offices (Miami, South America and Wash DC) as an agent and a supervisor.

Mr. Villanueva has also served in both an investigative and undercover capacity in various countries around the world in Latin America, Eastern/Western Europe and Asia.

While in Wash DC, Mr. Villanueva was a supervisor at the Dignitary Protection Division and *was the founder of the U.S. Secret Service's Cyber Intelligence Section which coordinates Global Cyber Operations*. Throughout his time Wash DC, he briefed various members of the U.S. Government regarding the threat of Financial Cybercrime that originates from the Eastern European region of the world.

Presently he is the: The Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge (ATSAIC) at the Miami Field Office and specializes in Transnational Cybercrimes, Access Device Fraud, Network Intrusions and Identity Theft Data Breaches.

ATSAIC Villanueva also headed the U.S. Secret Service's Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force (MECTF) which has over 821 members from the South Florida Private Sector, Academia and Local/Federal Law Enforcement communities.

He has received numerous awards to include the U.S. Secret Service Director's Distinguished Service Award and the International Association of Financial Crime Investigator's Global Cyber Investigator of the Year.

Broward County Crime Commission Frank R. Pinter Lifetime Achievement Award

Frank R. Pinter was appointed as the first Chairman/President of the Broward County Crime Commission in 1976, and will forever be remembered as the founding father of the agency. As a 17 year veteran of the Broward Sheriff's Office, he had previously been appointed by several Governors as a Special Investigator for the Broward County Grand Jury to investigate corruption of public officials. He had also been the Chief Investigator for the Broward County State Attorney's Office. Over the 30 year span from 1976 through 2007, under Mr. Pinter's leadership, the Broward County Crime Commission grew to one of the foremost Crime Commission's in the United States.

Tonight, Thursday, November 5th, 2015, it is the Broward County Crime Commission's privilege to award the **Frank R. Pinter Lifetime Achievement Award to Michael J. Satz, State Attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit.**

About Mr. Michael J. Satz:

Mike Satz, a native of Pennsylvania, is a graduate of the University of Miami's School of Law. Following graduation, Mr. Satz became an assistant prosecutor in Broward and quickly developed a reputation as a tough courtroom litigator.

In 1976, he was elected State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit here in Broward County, and has been re-elected every four years since, including last November. As State Attorney, Mr. Satz continues to personally prosecute capital-crime cases while responding to Broward's diverse and changing crime problems. During his tenure, he has instituted and expanded specialized prosecution units that focus on cases such as: sexual battery and child abuse, domestic violence, public corruption, elderly abuse and organized crime.

Mr. Satz, recognizing the needs of victims of crime, instituted a Victim Advocate Unit to provide counseling and assistance to victims. For his efforts, he received the 2004 President's Award by the Broward Victim's Rights Coalition.

Concerned about issues and institutions that affect the people of Broward, Mr. Satz initiated grand jury investigations into Pain Clinic 'Pill-Mills', Broward County School Construction, Youth Gang organizations, Foster Care, Organized Crime activity, the Broward Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Mental Health services and Child Abuse Protections. In 1995, Mr. Satz sponsored the Broward County Elder Abuse and Exploitation Seminar and in 1999, organized Broward's first Foster Care Summit.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Satz has received numerous professional accolades. Leadership Broward presented Mr. Satz its annual "Profiles in Leadership" award

in 2006. And in 2005, the National Association of Social Workers honored him with the Elected Official of the Year award. Mr. Satz was honored with the “Community Safety Award” by Legal Aid of Broward County in 2003 and the Broward County Bar Association Board of Directors presented him with the Government Lawyer award the very same year. In 2001, the Broward County Bar Association presented Mr. Satz with the Lynn Futch Professionalism in Practice award. He has also received the “Heart Award” by the Broward County Children’s Consortium in 2000. And he proudly accepted the 1998 Sharon Solomon Advocate Award in commemoration of Broward’s late child advocate Sharon Solomon.

Mr. Satz has been recognized by the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association, the B’nai B’rith Justice Unit #5207, the Anti-Defamation League and the Sexual Assault Treatment Center of Broward County, which he helped, create. Mr. Satz was recently presented with the University of Miami’s School of Law Alumni Association’s annual ‘Alumni Achievement Award’.

2015 Broward County Crime Commission Office of the State Attorney's Unit of the Year Award for the 17th Judicial Circuit

The Sexual Battery Unit:

The Sexual Battery Unit is made up of seventeen hardworking and dedicated prosecutors and a ten member support staff. Three of the seventeen prosecutors function as the unit's case filers; two are assigned to file the "In Custody (IC)" and one case filer handles all the "Not In Custody Cases (NIC)." The Sexual Battery Unit prosecutes cases involving Sexual Battery, Attempted Sexual Battery, Sexual Offenses against Children, Child Abduction, Child Abuse, Child Neglect, Child Pornography and Internet Crimes against Children.

The unit is also responsible for filing all cases involving the Failure of Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders to Report and most recently the unit has expanded to include a prosecutor dedicated to the prosecution of Human Trafficking cases.

The unit also has one prosecutor who is dedicated to the Jimmy Ryce and Civil Commitment cases. In addition to the case filing and trial work, the prosecutors are all responsible for assisting law enforcement officers with arrest and search warrants, answering questions from other agencies, and from the public in general. The attorneys in the Sexual Battery Unit are assisted by a phenomenal team of victim advocates and detectives who work diligently with the prosecutors to seek justice for the victims of Sexual Abuse, Child Abuse and Child Neglect.

Unit Team Members:

Neva Rainford-Smith - Assistant State Attorney in Charge

Stacey Honowitz - Senior Supervising Attorney/Case Filing Attorney/In Custody Cases

Dennis Nicewander - Senior Supervising Attorney/ Case Filing attorney/ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children)

Lauren Covitz - Case Filing Attorney/Not in Custody Cases

Jodie Gress - Supervisor/Trial Attorney

Christine Adler - Case Filing Attorney

Justin Griffis - ICAC (Internet Crimes against Children)/Trial Attorney

Ori Silver - Trial Attorney/Elderly Abuse

Kerrie Harper - Trial Attorney

Danielle Dudai - Trial Attorney/Human Trafficking

Kristine Bradley - Trial Attorney

Katie Bogenschutz - Trial Attorney

Meghann Dowers - Trial Attorney

Amanda Graham - Trial Attorney

Molly McGuire - Trial Attorney

Patyl Oflazian - Trial Attorney

Tara Sullivan - Jimmy Ryce/Civil Commitment



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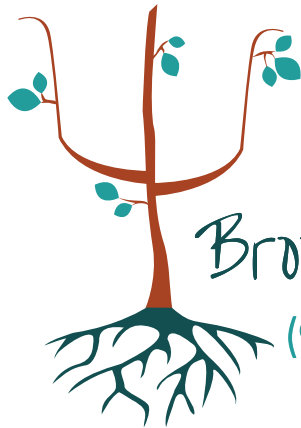
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Congratulations to Detective Andrew Kiefer

Lauderhill Police Department recipient for
Broward County Crime Commission 2015 Detective of the Year

Opinion

The Editorial Board has a lot to say. Go online at SunSentinel.com/talkbacksouthflorida

Inmate deaths: Lengthy appeals process the real problem

By Al Ortenzo

Death row should be a short term holding facility.

That inmates sentenced to death "often die before execution" (*Sun-Sentinel* Feb. 23) does expose a legitimate problem, but that prob-

lem is neither the prison health care system nor the prison environment. The problem is not that convicted killer Marvin Johnson died from a heart attack 21 years after he was sentenced to death.

The real problem is that Marvin Johnson was still alive and taking advantage of a dysfunctional appeal process 21 years after he was convicted and sentenced to die.

Carrying out a sentence of death is arguably the most serious action taken by any government or system of justice. Each and every case, no matter how egregious the crime, certainly deserves several layers of careful and exhaustive reviews. But the National Bureau of Jus-

tice statistics demonstrate just how cautious and limited our criminal justice system has been in its application of the death penalty.

While there are an average 20,000 murders and 10,000 murder convictions each year in the United States, we sentence an average of only 125 killers to die out of 3,000 eligible and execute an average of only 50 condemned per year. In recent years, executions have become even more restricted with only 37 carried out in 2008.

Granted, no one is suggesting that it is easy to decide when "enough is enough" when a life is in the balance.

But 23 years on death row for child killer Wayne Tompkins and 19 appeals over a 31 year period for rapist-killer James Hitchcock should be far more than enough to meet even the highest standards of fairness and reason. Even with a

generous five to ten year period for appeals, most of these convicted killers are living well beyond the time they are due.

Death row should be a short term holding facility with very basic and humane living conditions. It is not intended to be a model medical facility or a place that promotes mental health.

While our prisons have both a moral and legal duty to utilize every reasonable means to prevent suicides, they cannot not be expected to nurture the psychological well being of some of the most demoralized minds on the planet.

Studies show that all prisoners, including those on death row, typically receive a far better level of medical care from taxpayers than they would otherwise have provided for themselves outside the prison walls.

Those sentenced to death who do

fall "victim" to fatal diseases while on death row made their own choices in life that determined the place they would die. Choices their victims never had an opportunity to make.

The survivors of the victims of these convicted killers, including parents, spouses and siblings, deserve to see justice served, and they, too, often die long before executions are carried out. That is a far greater concern for law abiding citizens.

The best way to solve the "problem" of death row deaths before executions is to process death sentence appeals in a reasonable time so that justice can be carried out in a timely fashion for all.

Al Ortenzo is vice-president, Broward County Crime Commission

MAY 16, 2015

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Opinion

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

Policy endangers officers and citizens

BY AL ORTENZO



Ortenzo

On the face of it, the recently announced policy by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office to require an immediate supervisor response and tracking of all incidents in which officers draw and point

their firearms sounds reasonable. But it is not. It is dangerous for both the officers and the public.

Police officers are authorized by law and appropriately trained to have their firearm un-holstered and/or in a "ready position" when confronted with any situation in which they perceive a potential deadly threat. We do not train or rely on police officers to be "quicker at the draw" than the bad guys. We rightfully expect the men and women we rely on to protect us to have the advantage of approaching such situations with their gun in the ready before a violator decides to draw or use his. Many violent encounters are in fact de-escalated and shooting incidents prevented when armed individuals realize they have little chance of overcoming an officer who has his or

her gun drawn.

A policy of requiring an immediate supervisor response and the documentation and tracking of every such defensive action will no doubt have a chilling effect on police officers and may cause some to think twice about approaching a dangerous situation with their weapons drawn. Police officers already have enough to think and worry about in such circumstances.

Officers working in high crime areas or those with greater exposure to high-risk encounters due to their assignments will be legitimately concerned that such statistics will be used against them in the future. Does anyone doubt that those stats will be the first the media will demand when a police shooting does occur? An officer who has already called upon a supervisor to respond and report one or more legitimate gun drawn incidents during a shift may decide to leave his/her weapon holstered in a potentially dangerous situation so as to not appear to be "over doing it".

While the vast majority will continue to work in a prudent manner, some officers may be discouraged from stopping suspicious vehicles or engaging in proactive work because their gun drawn stats have either been brought to their attention or

they fear appearing to be "overly defensive." It is even more troublesome that such policies are being promoted at a time when police officers are being increasingly threatened and targeted for assault and even assassination.

We may never know if or when this policy results in the death of a police officer for the only thing a crime scene will show is a dead officer with his/her gun still holstered.

Drawing a firearm is a serious but non-injurious defensive measure police officers need to prevent escalating deadly encounters and to save lives. If an officer improperly displays his/her firearm and a citizen feels they have been offended by such action there are measures in place to report, investigate and take any action deemed necessary. There is no room for political correctness or appeasement in life and death policies and practices. There are plenty of legitimate ways to supervise and monitor the actions of police officers. This is not one of them.

Al Ortenzo served for 30 years with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and retired as assistant chief. He is an adviser to the Broward County Crime Commission.

Opinion

The Editorial Board has a lot to say.
Go to SunSentinel.com/theslant.

Drug sentences: Reducing penalties a step backward

Our community will bear a much higher financial and human cost.

By Al Ortenzo
We should not be so quick to celebrate the reduction of prison sentences for crack dealers ("Cocaine Sentences Being Cut for Some," *Sun-Sentinel*, Sept. 21).

The enhanced penalties for selling crack cocaine were enacted in response to legitimate factors that still exist today. Law abiding citizens, especially in African-American communities, who have been victimized the most by this drug and its dealers sent a loud and clear message to law enforcement and lawmakers that crack dealing was an extraordinary problem that required extraordinary measures.

One of the most vocal leaders promoting those enhanced penalties was a special narcotics prosecutor and now federal judge in New York named Sterling Johnson. Judge Johnson, a respected leader in the community, had extensive experience prosecuting crack cases and serves on the Commission of U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

While true that both crack and powder are different forms of the same drug, smokeable crack is recognized as having a significantly higher risk for addiction and danger to the community.

Few would question the rationale of enhanced penalties for trafficking nuclear bombs over conventional bombs, the very comparison Judge Johnson used when he declared crack was the nuclear version of cocaine and therefore justified enhanced penalties.

We find objectionable any attempt to present convicted drug distributors and manufacturers such as Anthea Harris and Sean Johnson (both of South Florida), as victims, wrongly imprisoned and now being liberated.

They are not. They are, as chairman of the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics Charles Rangel once declared, "dealers in death on the installment plan". Many lives are destroyed and many more are at risk by someone caught selling crack, 550 at a time.

Because someone's crime may not be classified as "violent" does not mean they are not a danger. Driving under the influence of alcohol is not a violent crime, until someone is killed.

Comparing 50 grams of crack to a "Snickers" bar was misleading. Crack, with a much lower density, would generate a far greater volume and number of dosages than the candy bar comparison represented. Fifty grams of crack would provide hundreds of dosages of a drug in which a single use has been compared to playing "Russian Roulette."

Reduced sentences with alternate use of probation for even first time high level drug distributors is not a responsible way to save tax dollars.

Our community will bear a much higher financial and human cost by putting dealers back on our streets. Keeping them incarcerated as long as possible is a good investment in our children and community. The article failed to adequately

take into consideration the innocent victims of Ms. Harris's crime, such as families victimized by addiction or overdose, residents victimized by fear of crack related crime or businesses owners victimized because customers were afraid to patronize them. Harris created the very kind of place that she was herself afraid to be in.

Fixing bad sentencing guidelines is good public policy. Putting more than 19,000 drug dealers back on our streets is not.

The better solution would have been to raise penalties for trafficking in cocaine powder to match those of crack or to consider enhanced penalties for other similar higher risk drugs.

That would have been a step forward instead of backward. That would have been a victory for the good guys instead of the bad guys.

Al Ortenzo is vice-president, Broward County Crime Commission.

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