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Florida Police Chiefs Association Announces Outstanding Chief Executive, Officers, and Agencies of the Year

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) announced the Outstanding Chief Executive and Command Officers of the Year and awards to individual agencies and officers at the FPCA's 69th Annual Summer Conference held in Hollywood, FL. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, several awards for 2019 were also given out at the conference.

FPCA President and Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department Director Stephan Dembinsky said, "The accomplishments of the officers and agencies recognized this year are impressive and extensive, and they embody the highest ideals of our profession. It is my honor and privilege to announce these awards."

The Chief Executive and Command Officer of the Year awards recognize individuals for exceptional performance and support and advancement of the law enforcement profession. The recipients were:

2019 Chief Executive of the Year – Chief Charles “Chuck” Broadway, Clermont PD
2020 Chief Executive of the Year – Chief Anthony Holloway, St. Petersburg PD
2020 Command Officer of the Year – Deputy Chief Rick Morris, West Palm Beach PD

The Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award recognizes three member agencies, based on size, that develop and implement innovative approaches to policing. The recipients were:

2019 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing, Small Agency – Florida Gulf Coast University PD
2019 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing, Medium Agency – Casselberry PD
2019 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing, Large Agency – Sunrise PD
2020 Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing, Large Agency – Coconut Creek PD

The FPCA also recognizes individual officers for outstanding police work in awards based on agency size. The recipients were:

- 2019 Police Officer of The Year, Medium Agency – Senior Officer Lauren Brown, Eustis PD
- 2019 Police Officer of The Year, Large Agency – Detective Michael Bulzone, Detective Joshua Haggard, and Detective Kari Norwood, Sunrise PD
- 2020 Police Officer of The Year, Medium Agency – Detective Rosanna Vinci, Flagler Beach PD
- 2020 Police Officer of The Year, Large Agency – Detective Diane Wantuck, Coral Springs PD

The FPCA Wall of Honor at the FPCA headquarters is a permanent recognition for retired members of the FPCA, or other persons of distinction, who made major contributions to the FPCA. The recipients were:

- Chief Gerald Monahan
- Chief Brett Railey
- Chief Paul Sireci
- Chief Ed Spooner

The Operation Cooperation Award recognizes excellence in private sector partnerships with law enforcement agencies. The recipients were:

- 2019 Operation Cooperation Award – K9s United, Debbie Johnson

The Pillars of Success Award recognizes individuals who previously served as law enforcement officers and who have successfully transitioned to the private sector. The recipients were:

- 2019 Pillars of Success Award – Robert Rose and John Blackledge, Bansbach Easylift
- 2020 Pillars of Success Award – Eladio Paez, Precise Protective Research Inc.

More detail on each of the award recipients follows.

Chief Charles “Chuck” Broadway

Chief Broadway joined the FPCA in 2012 after being sworn in as Clermont PD's fourth police chief and the first appointed African American police chief in south Lake County. He currently serves on the FPCA's Executive Board as 3rd Vice President. Chief Broadway joined the Clermont PD in 2010 as a Captain. For six years prior to that, he served as a Special Agent Supervisor for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He also served as a detective for two years with the Gainesville PD, and seven years with the New York PD where he was also a first responder on September 11, 2001. During his tenure, Chief Broadway increased the Clermont PD's sworn staff from 56 to 86 officers, with a focus on hiring military veterans and

officers who reflect their diverse community. Chief Broadway has conducted promotional testing and increased standards within the agency, leading to the Clermont PD being one of the few agencies within Lake County accredited through the Commission of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. In 2017, the FPCA gave the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing award to the Clermont PD under Chief Broadway's leadership.

Chief Anthony Holloway

Chief Holloway began his law enforcement career with the Clearwater PD in 1985. In 2007, he was appointed Chief of the Somerville, Mass. PD, and in 2010, rejoined the Clearwater PD as Chief. He became Chief of the St. Petersburg PD in 2014. Chief Holloway currently serves as Chair of the Florida Police Chiefs Association Subcommittee on Accountability and Societal Change, Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee on Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, Chair of the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute, and Chair of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Chief Holloway also serves on the Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity and the Florida Supreme Court Racial and Ethnic Disparities Advisory Workgroup. Chief Holloway has taught law enforcement to many national and international governmental, military, educational, and community organizations. As mentioned in his nomination, Chief Holloway's calm demeanor and ability to unite people, regardless of their different opinions or beliefs, makes consensus and progress possible. Chief Holloway is an asset to the law enforcement profession and a leader much needed during these uncertain times.

Deputy Chief Rick Morris

An active member of the FPCA for the past 10 years, Deputy Chief Morris of the West Palm Beach PD has had a highly decorated 40-year career. He has received law enforcement officer of the year awards from four separate law enforcement agencies and the Palm Beach Post. Deputy Chief Morris's leadership and accomplishments in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest warranted this recognition. Deputy Chief Morris implemented protocols and built outside medical partnerships to safeguard the health and safety of the 400 plus employees under his leadership, further resulting in his appointment to the Tenet Hospital District Board of Directors. In 2020, West Palm Beach saw significant protests, and during those protests Deputy Chief Morris stood side-by-side with officers and protesters in downtown West Palm Beach, taking responsibility for the events by speaking with the community, disarming agitators, encouraging officer morale in the face of intentional provocations, and generally assuring and delivering a peaceful day.

Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department

This PD took their Community Outreach and Prevention Program to a new level in 2019 by creating a dedicated position focused on crime prevention and community programs, and initiating programs with non-traditional partners such as the campus childcare center, counseling center, and the library. This included, for example, a car seat check program available to the entire FGCU community; suicide prevention campaigns and programs; bicycle safety informational signs; drug drop boxes; and partnering with high activity venues to install mass casualty kits and to provide Stop the Bleed and active shooter training. But the ultimate

testament to the effectiveness was seen in dramatic changes in student behaviors, with traffic citations dropping from 418 to 154, drug cases from 46 to 12, and DUIs from 7 to 2.

Casselberry Police Department

Two major thoroughfares in Casselberry, State Road 436 and US Highway 17-92, are the primary sources of complaints received by the city and the Casselberry PD. In 2019, the PD purchased speed monitoring and alerting devices to improve officer efficiency and help motorists understand and correct their own behavior. The two systems report the speed and direction of passing vehicles to officers, validating speed complaints and indicating violation times, and maximizing officer effectiveness. The speed alert devices help motorists “see” their own speeding behaviors to help them become more conscious and cautious drivers in the city. The speed alert devices were placed in areas after analysis of data from complaints and traffic studies.

Sunrise Police Department

The Sunrise PD advanced efforts in 2019 to address the needs of the city’s most vulnerable populations; notably, the homeless, those suffering from Alzheimer’s, and children and adults with autism, under the passionate dedication and selfless leadership of Officer Christopher Moine. The PD energized its Homeless Outreach Program, creating an internal database and a homelessness resource guide to better respond to homeless-related calls, and obtained donations to shelters from businesses and community members. Officer Moine also served as the Sunrise PD Community Alzheimer’s Resources Education (CARE) coordinator. The CARE program also incorporates the agency’s Project Lifesaver and Autism programs, which provides specialized responses and services to clients with these conditions.

Coconut Creek Police Department

In the wake of the 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Coconut Creek PD responded creatively by establishing a partnership with Vapor Wake K9, that trains dogs to identify the scent of a firearm or component and lead their handlers to the source. Officer Michael Leonard and K9 “Taylor” received the intensive training, and after some initial challenges with the school board, Coconut Creek PD was given the approval to pilot the program in four schools. After showing incredible accuracy and proficiency during the pilot program, to include alerting on a bag where a firearm was not present but had been recently stored, this year the school board expanded the program to all eight schools in the district.

Senior Officer Lauren Brown

In 2019, Senior Officer Lauren Brown became the Eustis Police Department’s Community Relations Officer, and during that time he has energized the position in unique and creative ways, generating tremendous community support. Sr. Officer Brown greatly expanded the PD’s social media presence using his own resources, creating a character called “Major Trooper” that became a city-wide celebrity with children and their parents, even appearing remotely while in character to help relieve boredom, anxiety, and social isolation. Sr. Officer Brown has more than doubled the PD’s Facebook followers and one of his videos recently approached one million views. He also frequently volunteers to cover for road patrol, and goes beyond the call of duty, finding ways to improve the quality of life for less fortunate residents by providing food, clothing, bicycles, cars seats, Christmas presents, and many other items through the coordination of community partners.

Detectives Michael Bulzone, Joshua Haggard, and Kari Norwood

In December, 2018, Sunrise PD assigned the report of a missing person Detective Bulzone, who sought the assistance of Detectives Haggard and Norwood. With foul play suspected and no real leads, Detectives Bulzone and Norwood started canvassing neighborhoods and conducting extensive research into the lives of the victim and spouse, the potential suspect. Detective Bulzone spent time building rapport with the suspect which proved vital when the suspect consented to searches of his home and cell phone. Through these and other efforts, the suspect made a partial confession, admitting he found the victim dead in their kitchen. Needing more, Detectives Bulzone and Haggard met with the suspect for dinner, where they used their keen interviews skills to obtain a complete confession.

Detective Rosanna Vinci

During the 2020 calendar year, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) clearance rate for the Flagler Beach PD was 35.4%, well above the national average. This is largely due to the efforts of Detective Vinci, the only investigator for this small department of only 15 full time sworn officers. The range of cases she has worked and solved during 2020 is a testament to her tenacity and resourcefulness, including a complex, organized scheme to defraud that extended beyond Flagler Beach and involved multiple jurisdictions, a false insurance claim that required working closely with the National Crime Insurance Bureau, and a case involving an adult male who was taking illicit pictures of his girlfriend's juvenile daughter, in which she was able to gain a full confession and the successful recovery of the evidence.

Detective Diane Wantuck

Detective Wantuck has been a member of the Coral Springs PD since October 2001. Between December 2019 and the beginning of 2021, she was assigned 107 cases of which 43 were cleared, along with a significant number of cases from prior years. During 2020, as retailers reopened with mandatory facial coverings, organized retail crime (ORC) became a booming trend. Although identifying perpetrators in these crimes is difficult, Detective Wantuck has succeeded due to her extensive knowledge of South Florida ORC crews and initiative in support of apprehending them. Her knowledge of offenders is so extensive that she has been able to assist in the direct apprehension of these offenders immediately after an offense occurred, recognizing suspects' descriptions and immediately sharing information with officers.

Chief Gerald Monahan

Chief Monahan began his 46-year law enforcement career with the Allentown, Pa. PD in 1971, retiring as Chief in 1999. He subsequently became Chief of the Port Orange PD, and during his 16-year tenure there and afterwards, his service to the FPCA was extraordinary. In 2001-2002 he served on the FPCA's Redistricting Committee, eventually becoming chair in 2006. In 2002 he became District 8 representative on the FPCA Board, and chaired the Membership Committee until being elected as 3rd Vice President in 2006. He served as President in 2008-2009 and continued to serve as Past President at Large from 2012-2015 and again in 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021. Chief Monahan also represented the FPCA on the Florida Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce, the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task force, and the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. Finally, he served as a trustee for the FPCA Education and Research Foundation from 2008-2013, and as President from 2013-2015 and 2019-2021.

Chief Brett Railey

Serving as the FPCA's President in 2015-2016, Chief Railey refocused the FPCA's attention on Florida's traffic safety initiatives, a priority for him during his 38-year career, after first serving as chair of the FPCA Highway Safety Committee from 2009-2013 and representing the FPCA on the International Association of Chiefs of Police's (IACP) Highway Safety Committee. Chief Railey also represented the FPCA on the Florida Department of Transportation's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee and the Florida Impaired Driving Coalition, and acted as a subject matter expert for the USDOJ/IACP Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Advisory Center for the purpose of encouraging law enforcement agencies to reengage in traffic safety.

Chief Paul Sireci

Chief Sireci's 44-year career in law enforcement was a model of service and leadership. In 2002 he was appointed Chief for the Tampa International Airport PD, initiating and achieving the agency's accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). He was elected President of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association in 2006. Chief Sireci served as FPCA's District 15 Director and chair of the Legislative Committee. While serving as a Board Member, he led a group to create a model Taser policy and rewrite the FPCA's strategic plan. As the FPCA's President in 2011-2012, he served on the Florida Supreme Court's Innocence Commission, and as the Intelligence Committee chair of the Florida Domestic Security Task Force.

Chief Ed Spooner

At 29, Chief Spooner was named the Director of Public Safety for the Quincy PD in 1979. He joined the FPCA, and at age 38, he became the youngest elected president in the FPCA's history. Chief Spooner later became Interim Executive Director. Chief Spooner served full-time on the Florida Parole Commission from 1991 to 1998, serving as chairman 1996-1998. He also served as administrator of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement until Governor Charlie Crist appointed him as Sheriff of Okaloosa County. In 2011 he was Presidentially appointed as the United States Marshal for the Northern District of Florida, retiring in 2016.

K9s United

K9s United is a non-profit organization that advocates and provides resources for law enforcement K9 units. Ms. Debbie Johnson founded K9s United in 2015 after hearing of the tragic death of St. Johns County's K9 "Baron." As of May, 2020, Ms. Johnson (and her eight-year-old daughter Emma) have raised nearly \$600,000 and helped over 100 law enforcement agencies across the United States purchase vital equipment, including real-time heat alarms for patrol cars that have resulted in documented saves of distressed K9s. In 2018, after the shooting death of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office K9 "Fang," Ms. Johnson set out on a new mission, successfully lobbying for Florida Senate Bill 96 to increase penalties for causing great bodily harm, disability or death to, or using a deadly weapon on, a K9 (or police horse).

Robert Rose and John Blackledge

Robert Rose is the president and chief executive officer of Bansbach easylift. Mr. Rose served in the US military before becoming a police officer, and most of his employees are former service members or law enforcement officers. Mr. Rose is active on many charitable boards. Most

recently, Mr. Rose joined the prestigious FBI National Academy Associates Charitable Foundation as a board member.

John Blackledge is the vice-president of tactical operations at Bansbach easylift, and like Mr. Rose, has a distinguished public service history. Mr. Blackledge served with the Palm Bay PD for over 35 years, retiring as Deputy Chief, and then as Operations Commander for the Sebastian PD. Mr. Blackledge also serves as a reserve with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and he helped create one of the first officer support organizations in Florida, "Survive First".

Eladio Paez

Eladio Paez is the CEO of Precise Protective Research Inc., a global leader in security, risk assessment, intelligence gathering, forensics, and investigations. Prior to taking this role, Mr. Paez served in the Special Investigations Section with the Miami PD, retiring after 25 years of service. During his career he conducted and managed high level public corruption, money laundering, and narcotics investigations with the DEA in both Central and South America, and as a recognized expert on these subjects, he has provided expert testimony before the U.S. Senate and Congress. Now in the private sector, Mr. Paez continues to produce notable successes in civil and criminal investigations while maintaining a reputation for the highest levels of ethics and professionalism.

About the Florida Police Chiefs Association

The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) is the nation's pre-eminent law enforcement professional association, speaking for more than 900 of Florida's top law enforcement executives, and providing guidance and leadership for the future of law enforcement and our communities. The FPCA serves municipal, airport, college and university, and tribal police departments, as well as private businesses and security firms and federal, state and county law enforcement agencies across every region of the state. For more information about the FPCA, please visit www.fpca.com.

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