



**For Immediate Release:**

Thursday, July 8, 2021

**Contact:**

William Stander, (850) 212-3250, [william@williamstander.com](mailto:william@williamstander.com)

## **Florida Police Chiefs Association Inducts New Leadership, Welcomes Gov't Leaders** *Legislator of the Year Awards Announced*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) welcomed Florida's elected leaders at the FPCA's 69th Annual Summer Conference. The FPCA also inducted its 2021-2022 leadership team, and announced the recipients of their 2021 Legislator of the Year Awards.

"FPCA was honored to welcome and hear from U.S. Senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, Governor Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody, and Agriculture & Consumer Services Commissioner Nikki Fried, as we honored the service and sacrifices of the law enforcement profession," said newly installed president of the FPCA, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department Director Stephan Dembinsky. "FPCA also stood with Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis who could not join us as he led the State Fire Marshal Office's response at the Surfside building collapse."

FPCA further recognized Governor DeSantis, General Moody, and CFO Patronis with awards for their consistent actions in support of law enforcement. "Whether working to protect officers against those who would disrupt the rule of law, honoring the heroism and nobility of the law enforcement profession, or helping first responders meet the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder, their actions have

helped protect and save lives, and the FPCA appreciates each of them coming and sharing their commitment to public safety in Florida,” said Dembinsky.

In addition to Director Dembinsky, the following individuals took positions on the FPCA Board:

1st Vice President: Chief Michael Kessie, New College of Florida PD

2nd Vice President: Chief Keith Touchberry, Fellsmere PD

3rd Vice President: Chief Charles "Chuck" Broadway, Clermont PD

Secretary Treasurer: Chief Melanie Bevan, Bradenton PD

Immediate Past President: Chief Jeff M. Pearson, Satellite Beach PD

Past President at Large: Chief Butch Arenal, Coconut Creek PD

Parliamentarian: Chief Daniel Slaughter, Clearwater PD

District #1 Chief Todd Garrison, Northport PD

District #2 Chief Gary Goble, Orange Park PD

District #3 Vacant

District #4 Chief Ed Hudak, Coral Gables PD

District #5 Chief Larry Krantz, Casselberry PD

District #6 Chief David Currey, Vero Beach PD

District #7 Chief John Lau, Titusville PD

District #8 Vacant

District #9 Chief Shawn Chamberlain, Lee County Port Authority PD

District #10 Chief Robert Bage, Ft. Walton Beach PD

District #11 Chief Jonathan Shaw, Margate PD

District #12 Chief John Barkley, Treasure Island PD

District #13 Chief Javaro Sims, Delray Beach PD

District #14 Chief Robert Hicks, Leesburg PD

District #15 Chief Charles Vazquez, Tampa International Airport PD

District #16 Chief Jamie Cruse, Perry PD

District #17 Chief Ed Book, Sante Fe College PD

FPCA also named the recipients of its 2021 Legislator of the Year Award. “Every year, FPCA honors those legislators who demonstrate leadership and a commitment to the betterment of law enforcement and public safety in Florida,” said Dembinsky. “FPCA’s recipients represent a true cross-section of Florida, from the most rural of jurisdictions to the largest metropolitan areas. We applaud each of these Senators and Representatives.”

Award recipients were Senate President Wilton Simpson (R-Spring Hill) and Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls (R-Clearwater) for their leadership as presiding officers, Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and Representative Juan Alphonso Fernandez-Barquin (R-Miami), sponsors of House Bill 1 relating to public disorder, and Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and Representative Robert Charles Chuck Brannan III (R-Lake City) sponsors of House Bill 371, to toughen penalties for filing

false reports of crimes, otherwise known as “anti-swatting.” Representative Cord Byrd (R-Jacksonville Beach) also received an award for his leadership as chair of the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee and sponsor of House Bill 7051, that enhanced law enforcement and correctional officer practices.

### **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](http://www.fpca.com).

###