

# BREAKING "GOOD" NEWS: GOVERNOR CRIST VETOES PAY CUT



*David Murrell*

Just before this publication went to press, **Governor Charlie Crist** vetoed the proposed pay cuts which would have affected our state law enforcement, correctional and correctional probation officers who make more than \$45,000 per year. **President Rivera** and I were able to make the case to the Governor that this proposed pay cut in the 2009-2010 budget would be adding insult to injury for our state officers. No pay raises for several years, fewer employees to handle a greater work load, basically having to do much more with much

less—all of these we argued were taking a terrible toll on our state workers and that the time to stop was now. The Governor listened, agreed, and then did something about it. We know that the state economy, like the national economy, is suffering tremendously. This translates into state government having an especially hard time making ends meet. But sometimes you just have to draw the line and decide what is a true priority. Thanks, Governor, for again making law enforcement the highest priority in these difficult times. ■



*David Murrell meets with Governor Charlie Crist on May 19, 2009 at the Florida PBA about vetoing the salary reductions and to discuss other legislative matters.*



## FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement Officers*

May 27, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor  
PL 05 The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

We want to thank you for the veto of the proposed pay cut for our state law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers. We are especially appreciative that you were willing to hear us out personally and listen to our concerns about this issue. The men and women who proudly protect our state are most grateful that you have been willing to step up to the plate and do what is right and just.

In vetoing this pay cut, we know that in helping our officers you also ended up helping all other state employees. They, too, are deserving of being thrown a lifeline.

In the end, what you have done is not only help our officers and others monetarily, but also have lifted their morale tremendously. Knowing that someone values their service and cares enough to intervene is certainly a psychological boost to all state employees.

We can't say enough about your support of the officers represented by the Police Benevolent Association. You have always been there for our officers—whether as a State Senator, Education Commissioner, Attorney General, or now as Governor. This says it all.

Your Friend,

*John Rivera*  
John Rivera  
President

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### The Top Ten Law Enforcement Casualties of the Recession

1. Take home cars
2. Regional drug task forces
3. Ratified contracts
4. Hiring
5. Interoperability/ designated law enforcement channel on digital broadcast spectrum
6. In service training
7. Public alerts: Amber, silver or terrorist threat by color charts
8. Caliber of new recruits
9. Fuel and maintenance funds for air support and mobile command centers
10. Less money, more work