



*From Washington D. C.*

# Legislative News for PBA

## Senate proposal boosts funding for Florida law enforcement

*Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senator*

*I am proud to represent Floridians in the U.S. Senate, where one of my goals is to make sure our state receives its fair share of federal funds. These funds give our cities and communities the tools necessary to improve the quality of life for all Floridians. And as law enforcement now plays a greater role in the fight against terror, I understand the importance of making sure you receive adequate federal resources.*

One of Congress's most important responsibilities is ensuring law enforcement officers have the resources they need to do their jobs – and do them in a way that addresses the significant challenges facing Florida and our nation.

As the debate continues in Washington on next year's funding for law enforcement programs, I have secured money for a number of important initiatives in the Senate's version of the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations bill for FY 2008. This legislation now awaits action by the full Senate.

Here is a sampling of some of the programs slated to receive funding under the proposal:

**Anti-gang initiative.** One of the most urgent law enforcement priorities in South Florida is combating the growing presence of criminal gangs that originated in Central America and now pose a threat to communities across America. Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, the most violent and notorious of these gangs, bears responsibility for robberies, extortion, drug trafficking, rape and murders. The gang now is attempting to make South Florida a significant base of operations. In response to my request, Senate appropriators have allocated \$700,000 to assist the South Florida Anti-Gang Task Force – composed of federal, state and local law enforcement – in combating MS-13's criminal activities.

**U.S. Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force.** Florida has experienced a sharp increase in violent crime –

especially in major metropolitan areas such as Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Miami – which is likely caused in part by the growing number of fugitives who continue to avoid apprehension and are violent repeat offenders. Congress established the Regional Fugitive Task Forces (RFTF) around the country to support a combined federal-state effort to target fugitives. Under the Senate bill, \$12.5 million will be allocated for the creation of an additional RFTF in Florida.

**COPS Program.** Finally, I continue to work hard to ensure strong support for the COPS program. In addition to putting more than 118,000 new police officers on the streets, the COPS program has improved the ability of law enforcement officers to do their jobs more effectively. Overall Senate appropriators have approved \$900,000 in new funding for communities throughout Florida. These funds will support: fingerprint identification equipment for Marion County; upgraded communications equipment in Flagler County; a VHF radio system for the City of Melbourne to replace an outdated one; and new interoperable communications equipment for the City of Temple Terrace to help the city improve first-responder communications in an emergency.

In the weeks and months ahead, I will work to ensure that the funding approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee remains intact, and I will strongly urge President Bush to sign the bill when it gets to his desk. ●

### Veteran Officers Take Down Fleeing Suspect Experience and knowledge lead to arrest of deputy's shooter

The quick thinking and decisive action of three Hollywood police officers led to the arrest of the man who gunned down **BSO Deputy Maury Hernandez** on August 6. And they did it in less than 15 minutes.

The "officer down" call came through at 1150 hours. Officers from the Hollywood Police Department established a perimeter around the crime scene. Using their knowledge and experience, three veteran cops positioned themselves along potential escape routes. **Lt. Jeff Marano, Detective Keith Wadsworth** and **Officer Lance Moore** chose their positions not only to foil an escape, but to protect the residents of the Hillcrest neighborhood from an encounter with a dangerous fleeing felon.

Detective Wadsworth spotted the subject trying to hide in a parking lot near his position and immediately notified all units in the area. Lt. Marano and Officer Moore were already close by and on their way. The three officers approached from different directions and apprehended the suspect as he attempted escape by hijacking a vehicle driving through the lot. The total time it took to catch the bad guy: 12 minutes from "officer down" to apprehension.

Jeff Marano and Keith Wadsworth are both members of the Broward County PBA's Board of Directors. Jeff is the charter's treasurer and Keith is a representative for the Hollywood PD.

All three officers have received a well-deserved commendation from the Hollywood Police Department. We at the Broward PBA are very proud to be associated with these men.



### 13 Minutes

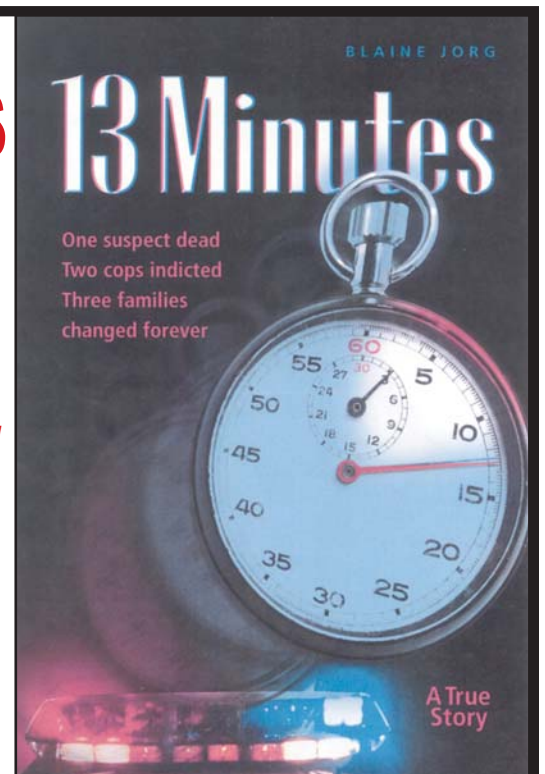
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Former Police Officer

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