

Jim Spearing

PBA In Action With Your Political Consultant

Love vs. Fear... It's A Matter Of Respect

It has to be one of the bedrocks of “touchy feely” psychology—the deep seated human need to be loved. We seek love in our relationships with family, our spouses and children and even interpersonal relations with our friends and neighbors. Subconsciously, we try to be nice in the hopes of winning affection and devotion from others.

In the bare knuckled world of politics and labor relations, seeking love will get you killed.

After 18 years of campaigning on behalf of law enforcement, I am continually amazed that the desire to be nice, to the Sheriff, City Manager, and the Mayor is so strong. To me, there is little to be gained from kissing the hand of your executioner.

There is a time to be nice... and a time to be not so nice.

Our recent battle involving the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office offers an insightful example. In Tampa, our deputies had been struggling to win some pretty basic concessions from management, a fair wage package and a pledge to address serious understaffing at their agency. Time and again, representatives of the Sheriff told them to pound sand. They did not fear PBA and their behavior at the bargaining table literally dripped with disrespect. So we took them to the mat.

PBA launched an unprecedented public information campaign, mailing hundreds of thousands of appeals to voters, radio broadcasts and a door-to-door business outreach. Sure, we ticked off management something awful. But while they may not like us, they have learned to respect our guts and willingness to “take our issues to the people” today and in the future.

Management's latest ploy is a decertification effort to toss out the PBA. We consider that the ultimate compliment and a testament to the effectiveness of our campaign to win mutual respect from the Sheriff and his henchmen. There is a reason why management is so eager to make the PBA, and its political clout, go away.

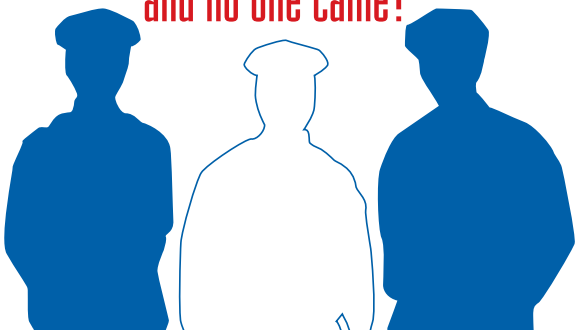
I'm confident that our troops will stay united and that the lesson has been learned, no matter how nasty things got sometimes, that rank-and-file deputies have a right to be heard and their views respected by those in power in Hillsborough.

Should they get around to loving us down the road... all the better.

Stay safe out there. 🍌

Editor's Note: Check out the radio spot on the Florida PBA website at www.flpba.org

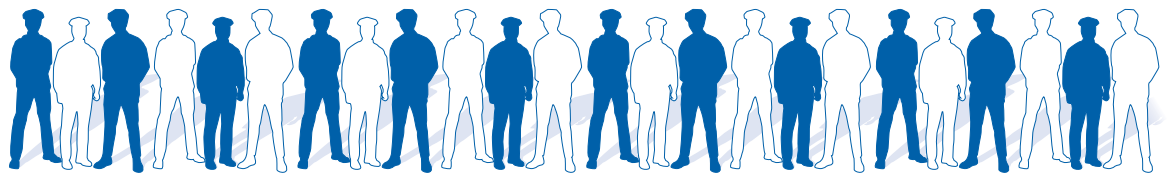
What if you dialed 911...
and no one came?



Deputies Under Siege...



The Thin Blue Line...



Hillsborough County Facing Crime Wave

**30 Murders... 207 Rapes...
3,615 Aggravated Assaults...
1,095 Robberies... 6,507 Burglaries***

You can do something about it.

**Your Deputies Are Undermanned,
Struggling Against The Tide.**

There is a crisis looming for law enforcement in Hillsborough County, a situation that is worsening day by day. For over a year now, rank and file Deputies have pleaded with Sheriff Gee and his administration to hire more troops on the front line, both on the road and in the jail, and their cries have fallen on deaf ears.

In fact, the Sheriff recently admitted to the news media that his Deputies are undermanned and that the current officer to citizen ratio for Hillsborough County, 1.37 per 1,000 residents, is dismal compared to the national average of 2.4 per 1,000**. The Sheriff recently unveiled a timid plan to address this dangerous situation, promising to raise the ratio by a mere 1/10th of one percent by 2011!

**Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Agency Profile, 2006

That's just not good enough.



**Call Sheriff David Gee,
right now. Tell him we
need more deputies on
our streets.**



Call (813) 247-8200

**Hillsborough County Crime
Wave Is Bad For Business!**

**We are 121 Deputies short on the road...
We need your help.**

You've seen the headlines: 30 murders, 207 rapes, 3,615 aggravated assaults, 1,095 robberies, 6,507 burglaries in 2006 (Source: Sheriff David Gee internal memorandum dated 11/14/07). Your deputies are struggling to defend you and your business against this mounting crime wave sweeping our community.

As you know, law enforcement is a tough, dangerous job. It is even more difficult when you realize that the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is short 121 deputies on patrol with 652 deputy positions authorized, but only 531 actively working the road (Source: Hillsborough Deputy Training Provides Real Gut Check, article by Mike Wells of Tampa Tribune dated 11/30/07).

It is the sole responsibility of Sheriff David Gee to adequately staff his agency.

It is unprecedented for rank-and-file deputies to plead with the public to pressure the Sheriff into putting more boots on the ground.

These are the facts and unless something is done, we cannot protect you or your business.

Please be OUR 911. Call Sheriff David Gee and tell him you support your Sheriff's Deputies.



**Call Sheriff David Gee,
right now. Tell him we
need more deputies on
our streets.**



Call (813) 247-8200



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