



Fraternal Order of Police **FLORIDA STATE LODGE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 18, 2006

TO: Clay County Area Media

FROM: James W. Preston, Vice President
Florida State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

RE: Clay County FOP claims resounding victory

By an overwhelming vote today, Clay County Sheriff's Deputies elected the Clay County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 104 together with FOP Florida State Lodge Labor Council to become their collective bargaining agent. Of 187 rank and file deputies and detectives eligible to vote, 150 cast a ballot. The vote totals were 126 for the FOP and 24 votes for No representation, giving the FOP a margin of victory of 84%. The Sergeants and Lieutenants had 60 eligible votes. Fifty two (52) cast ballots, 31 for the FOP, 21 for No representation for a 60% margin of victory. There were 80 eligible correctional officers, 50 cast ballots, 27 for the FOP and 23 for No representation for 54% victory.

Following close on the heels of a labor election in Pasco County on March 23rd where the FOP was overwhelmingly endorsed by the rank and file deputies, the Clay County FOP is following a trend in Sheriff's Offices across the State of Florida to represent their deputies in collective bargaining.

The FOP Labor Council and the labor team of Clay County Deputies from Clay County FOP Lodge 104 will now begin the process of setting up their negotiating team. The FOP is looking forward to meeting with Sheriff Rick Beseler and his representatives to put together the first ever labor contract for the deputies. Clay County deputies will join with over half of the 67 Florida sheriff's agencies in voting for union representation, since the Florida Supreme Court first authorized them to bargain 2 years ago through PERC (Public Employee Relations Commission).

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