

Public Safety

Call to Action

With the 2012 legislative session approaching, Florida's Public Safety officers are reeling from an unprecedented loss in the line of duty of 13 Florida law enforcement officers during 2011. Thirteen officers who have given their last measure of service to the grateful communities they served. Yet now, we must protect ourselves and focus on the relentless attacks of the Florida League of Cities against our pensions and benefits. We must be prepared to make a preemptive strike to defend our hard earned pensions from the drastic political agenda of the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties who have declared war on public pensions.

Local city and county elected officials are using precious tax payer dollars to pay dues into these organizations that are actively and aggressively attacking our pension benefits. It is time that you let your local officials know that we in law enforcement are deeply concerned and will hold accountable any official that supports the political agenda of these organizations, as they attack the very people that risk their lives to protect the citizens in their communities.

Write, call and email your local politicians, attend your local council, commission and pension meetings. Let them know that the "thin blue line" has been stretched to the limits yet remains intact and stronger than ever. We have fought for, negotiated and earned promised pensions made by our municipal agencies. We have honorably kept our end of the bargain, with sacrifice, blood and sweat. It is imperative the cities keep their promise and not sign on to the Florida League of Cities agenda pushing for legislation that completely gut our pensions by circulating a resolution for local government officials to sign and give to the legislature. Let your local officials know that anyone who signs these documents will be held accountable. The FOP is steadfast against any support for House Bill 365 and Senate Bill 910.

Resolved

Whereas the Florida League of Cities has attacked the hard working and dedicated men and women in public safety, continually blaming police and fire for out of control spending and budgetary deficits, and

Whereas The Florida League Of Cities has falsely inferred that special risk members are bankrupting local governments and has publically portrayed police and fire as greedy abusers of the system, and

Whereas The Florida League Of Cities has failed to honestly inform the public that officers pay their required full share into the retirement programs no matter the economic atmosphere, while some cities have opted to take "holidays" from fully funding their obligations, and pension plan benefits have been fairly negotiated, many times in lieu of raises or cost of living increases, and

Whereas The Florida League Of Cities has failed to inform the public that public safety funding has been cut by 40%, staffing and safety levels are reduced while calls for service and violent crime against the public continues, and

Whereas The Florida League Of Cities is pushing legislation that would restrict, limit or take away guaranteed constitutional rights for police and fire, cause police and fire to work mandatory overtime without credit for working those mandatory hours, take away "home rule" for local governments by limiting what a local government can negotiate with it's police and fire members, restructures local pension boards giving cities the ability to control those boards and funds that belong to the retirees and not the city, and

Whereas The Florida League Of Cities has blatantly attempted to misinform the public through misleading and false media ads that by supporting House Bill 365 or Senate Bill 910 they are trying to protect the pensions of police and fire, instead of their real goal of circumventing the law to take back promised benefits that have been earned by public safety officers risking their lives.

Be it now, therefore resolved the **Florida Fraternal Order of Police**, through our 20,000 members and the **Florida Professional Firefighters** and their _____ members, will not support any local elected official that supports the Florida League of Cities attacks or any legislation upon their pensions and livelihood and will work diligently to inform the public of the actions of public officials.