

A Message From Your Executive Director



David Murrett

Let It Go, Louie!!

Here we go again. Check out the below story, entitled "Bosses Say No Way," which appeared in the September 2009 edition of the *American Police Beat*. It seems that some Florida law enforcement agencies are still fighting to stop PBA's SB 624 which, as you may remember, is the legislation designed to give officers a fair shake in the internal affairs process and penalize those who would "intentionally" break the law know as the "Law Enforcement Officers' and Correctional Officers' Bill of Rights." This is also the legislation that the sheriffs and chiefs had agreed to, in public and in writing, and then did a dishonorable double cross at the last minute. They were for it before they were against it, you might say.

"Bosses Say No Way" is a classic example of being careless with the truth and being a day late and a dollar short. First, we completely disagree with the statement that "A good cop does not need this bill, and bad cops don't deserve it." Rather, the truth is that good agencies and individuals have nothing to fear from the bill, but bad agencies and individuals have plenty to fear. Fortunately, almost all agencies and individuals seem to be falling in line

and will not be adversely impacted by the legislation. But for the bad agencies and individuals, those who want to bully officers and flagrantly disobey state law, the day of reckoning will be upon them. Just treat your officers fairly, as human beings, and follow the law which officers (including administrators) are sworn to uphold. A simple concept that some individuals have great difficulty in grasping and embracing.

Second, it is a little too late to stop SB 624. It passed the House 116-0, the Senate 24-14, and was signed into law by **Governor Crist** on June 18.* Also amusing was a *Palm Beach Post* editorial (printed on June 22nd) which called for the Governor to veto this bill. The *Post*, as the usual lackey for unscrupulous management and anti-PBA, was really on the ball with that one.

The moral to this story for those who can't face reality: "Let it go, Louie." SB 624 is the law of the land, so just get used to it and do your best to follow the law which is your sworn duty to uphold.

*See Senate roll call votes below. ●

American Police Beat

Bosses Say "No Way"



A proposed bill in the state of Florida isn't sitting well with law enforcement officials. The bill was written after a case in Tampa where some officers were going home to sleep during their shift. GPS devices planted on the officers' vehicles without their knowledge showed that the accused officers were indeed at home when they were supposed to be working.

During internal investigations, the officers denied any wrongdoing, not knowing that the agency had the GPS evidence against them.

The bill now sitting on the Governor's desk would provide any officer under investigation with any evidence to be used against them before they were questioned.

In an interview with WDBO news, Captain Mike Fewless with the Orange County Sheriff's Office said that officers should always tell the truth regardless of the situation, and fails to see how the proposed legislation would help.

"A good cop does not need this bill, and bad cops don't deserve it," Captain Fewless said.

Both the Florida Sheriff's Association and the Florida Police Chiefs are opposing the bill.

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The handsome movie actor stopped the policeman and asked for directions. Then he waited for some sign of recognition but none came. "Er-uh, don't you recognize me?" he asked the cop.

"Sure. You're the fellow's gonna buy that butcher shop on Seventh Avenue."

"No, no," said the actor. "Did you see me in the movies?"

"Yes. And take my advice. Buy that butcher shop."

Yeas - 24

Nays - 14

Not Voting - 2

VA	VO	MEMBER
—	Y	Alexander
—	N	Altman
—	Y	Aronberg
—	-	Atwater
—	Y	Baker
—	N	Bennett
—	Y	Bullard
—	N	Constantine
—	Y	Crist
—	N	Dean
—	N	Detert
—	Y	Deutch
—	Y	Diaz de la Portilla
—	N	Dockery

VA	VO	MEMBER
—	Y	Fasano
—	N	Gaetz
—	Y	Garcia
—	Y	Gardiner
—	Y	Gelber
—	Y	Haridopolos
—	EX	Hill
—	N	Jones
—	Y	Joyner
—	Y	Justice
—	Y	King
—	N	Lawson
—	Y	Lynn
—	N	Oelrich

VA	VO	MEMBER
—	Y	Peaden
—	Y	Pruitt
—	Y	Rich
—	N	Richter
—	Y	Ring
—	N	Siplin
—	Y	Smith
—	Y	Sobel
—	N	Storms
—	Y	Villalobos
—	N	Wilson
—	Y	Wise

Presiding: Villalobos

President: Jeff Atwater

'VA'=Vote After Roll Call

'VO'=Chamber Vote



"Now, when the traffic leaves the football stadium parking lot you fake to the left, Ed, and zoom to the right. Jo, you zigzag up the middle..."