



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Greg Cook

Phone: 941-413-6169

E-Mail: gcook@iupa.org

I.U.P.A. President Calls for Florida Commission on Ethics to Examine Conduct of DeLand Chief of Police

International Union of Police Associations President, Sam A. Cabral, is asking the Florida Commission on Ethics to examine the conduct of DeLand Chief of Police Jason Umberger.

DeLand Police Officers Leslie Goins and Austin LaFleur were terminated from their employment following an internal affairs investigation into a narcotics arrest they made in January of 2019.

The officers were accused of skewing facts in their report that would constitute a lawful search and justify the arrest. Ironically, it has been alleged that Chief Umberger directed investigators to create an investigative report that supported his own desired, pre-determined outcome.

Chief Umberger excluded exculpatory evidence and manipulated facts so that his decision to fire the officers would seem justified. These allegations are supported by emails between the Chief, his Assistant Chief, and the investigators.

Additionally and ironically, there were two civilian witnesses to the events surrounding the arrest; neither was interviewed by Internal Affairs Investigators, who instead relied on their statements as recorded in the police report written by men they later accused of fabrication. This clearly illustrates either an incomplete inquiry or one designed with a specific outcome in mind.

A review of the case and all evidence by the Office of the State Attorney reached different conclusions, after reviewing both the internal investigation and footage from the officers' body worn cameras.

On this, President Cabral stated, “We believe that, clearly, Chief Umberger acted unethically and manipulated the investigative process to comport with his preconceived and biased personal conclusions. We are asking that his conduct be investigated and that he be afforded the very due process his behavior denied those he leads.”

END

NOTE:

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. More information is available at www.iupa.org.*