



FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement Officers

April 6, 2015

The Honorable Frank Artiles
Florida House of Representatives, District 118
204 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Artiles:

I am writing to offer our support for your efforts to clarify provisions contained within the Miami-Dade County Human Rights Ordinance.

In your letter to Miami-Dade County Attorney Robert Cuevas, you ask for answers to specific questions that under the ordinance may create ambiguity for law enforcement officers while conducting their duties and activities (please see attachment of February 23, 2015 letter). Mr. Cuevas' response on March 4, 2015 (also attached) stated that even as County Attorney, he is "not in a position to offer an opinion as to whether any of the scenarios you present violate the Human Rights Ordinance." The Florida PBA is considerably concerned by the lack of clarity and direction provided to the local officers by the County Attorney on behalf of their employer, Miami-Dade County. Without clear direction, law enforcement officers may unintentionally violate someone's rights under the ordinance.

Our larger concern is that perhaps other counties or municipalities may soon enact similar ambiguous ordinances throughout our state. We believe a local government has an inherent obligation to provide clear direction to its employees, particularly when ensuring that individuals in certain classes are protected from discrimination. We appreciate your efforts to clarify this situation at the state level and we urge local governments to consider all scenarios prior to enacting similar ordinances.

Please contact me if you are in need of further feedback, or assistance.

Sincerely,



Matt Puckett
Executive Director