



# International Union of Police Associations

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **An Open Letter to Gregory Tony, Sheriff, Broward County**

Dear Sheriff Tony:

On April 10, 2020, you formally suspended the duly elected President of BSO Deputies Association, Jeff Bell, for statements he made advocating for his members in trying to obtain protective equipment for them during this horrific pandemic.

This brazen display of power abuse is unbecoming of any law enforcement leader. Deputy Bell has been trying to meet with you privately over mutual concerns for more than a year, without success. Your actions clearly illustrate your complete disregard for any input from the representatives of the men you are supposed to lead. You have not, at any time, offered to sit down with the elected leader of these men and women to seek their input or their concerns.

You state that Deputy Bell is trying to promote “his own political agenda”.

Sheriff Tony, the only one involved in this tragic event with a political agenda is you. Deputy Bell’s agenda is that of protecting the brave men and women who voted for him to represent their interests. By ignoring the requests of Deputy Bell to meet and confer, you ignore the concerns of the men and women he represents.

Deputy Bell’s suspension is nothing more than an effort to mute his members’ concerns about their well-being and the health of their community and their families.

Sam A. Cabral, International President  
International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO

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](http://www.iupa.org).*