

BROWARD COUNTY PBA DAILY CLIPS

November 3, 2016

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Broward courthouse employees want out

BYLINE: Brittany Wallman

LINK: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-courthouse-employees-relocation-20161101-story.html

STORY: Prosecutors and support staff in the Broward State Attorney's Office are so worried about poor air quality in the courthouse, 134 of them have asked to be moved out. The cost, estimated in the millions, would be borne by the county.

County commissioners left the potentially costly relocation issue undecided Tuesday, awaiting more information.

Reeling in the face of allegations they've subjected employees and the public to unsafe air, county commissioners pushed the county administrator for details Tuesday about whether any of the county's public buildings is properly maintained in the South Florida humidity.

They set a Nov. 15 deadline for Administrator Bertha Henry to propose a staff restructuring so that an employee independent of the risk management department would be responsible for proactive building maintenance and air quality.

It was the third straight Tuesday in which courthouse illness complaints overtook a portion of the County Commission meeting. Broward Commissioner Mark Bogen, who has taken up the cause, lambasted top county staff and suggested their offices be moved into the courthouse so they could breathe the same air as those complaining.

"Why don't you go work over there and put your office there? Why don't you go sit in that?" Bogen said to the directors of public works, risk management and county facilities.

Commissioner Lois Wexler has said public building maintenance decreased because of cuts after the Great Recession.

At the State Attorney's Office last week, executive director Monica Hofheinz sent out a mass email: "If you work in the East, West or Central wing of the courthouse and have seen your doctor or are experiencing an illness related to the building and air quality we may be able to temporarily relocate you."

Henry said she expected 20 or 25 employees to sign up. She was surprised to learn that 134 did. About 231 employees in the State Attorney's Office are slated to move to the new courthouse.

The county is conducting a major cleaning of the courthouse in response to the latest round of complaints and air quality testing that turned up water stains, high dust levels and visible mold. But even the cleaning is drawing negative reviews. On Tuesday, two employees in the State Attorney's Office detailed their encounters with workers they said were wearing masks.

Sheila Oldershaw, a legal assistant, said she asked a maintenance worker why he was wearing a mask and employees were not.

"He said, 'Well, I know what's going on, and I'm not going to put myself at risk,' " she relayed.

Employee Geri Ann Massaro said she, too, saw a masked worker last week. She said she also inhaled foul fumes from the air conditioning vent that made her dizzy, and that she could taste for three hours.

"Now I'm angry," she said Tuesday. " ... What did I breathe that day? ... What am I breathing that I'm not smelling? What's going to happen in the future to me and to my co-workers? Our health is at risk in that courthouse."

Employees in the State Attorney's Office have complained of skin rashes, respiratory difficulties, body aches, even cancer, and alleged that it was caused by mold and poor air quality in the courthouse. The issue is not new; they say they've complained for years, only to be told that air quality readings turned up nothing out of the norm.

Bogen has alleged that problems were covered up, or downplayed. County Risk Management Director John Burkholder has said that every complaint was investigated, and that when air quality reports turned up troubles, they were addressed.

The county is building a new courthouse because of the old courthouse's history of floods, asbestos, mold and employee health lawsuits. But the new courthouse tower, next door to the old courthouse between Andrews and Third avenues just south of the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale, is late in opening, and it remained unclear Tuesday when that day might come.

Some of the complaining employees work in the east wing, which is not slated for demolition. The central and west wings will be torn down.

A county estimate to relocate 134 employees into space at 110 Tower across the street was \$2.9 million for the first year. A five-year commitment would be required, a county memo said, or costs would be higher. The estimate includes private space for the 83 employees whose jobs require confidentiality.

Henry said that was a quick estimate, and the figures could drop in negotiations. She said she'd prefer to get the employees into the new courthouse, and would allow the State Attorney's Office workers to move in faster than originally planned.

Even still, employees who work in the courthouse east wing likely will be moved out. That wing is slated for a \$26 million renovation, Henry said. And according to a memo from one of her assistants, it won't be complete until 2018.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Pembroke Pines restarting red light traffic program

BYLINE: Brian Ballou

LINK: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-pines-restarting-traffic-cameras-20161102-story.html

STORY: A scaled down version of the city's suspended red-light traffic program is expected to be running by early next year.

The city shut down its 22-camera program in 2013 because it cost more to run than it netted in fines.

The redone program will use eight cameras, mostly on Pines Boulevard, and is designed to avoid the type of legal challenges facing numerous cities across Florida. Several pending class-action lawsuits claim such red light programs are unconstitutional because they rely on a third party vendor to screen possible violations.

At least eight South Florida cities, including North Miami Beach, Boca Raton, Margate and Fort Lauderdale, have suspended or ended their programs. Other cities, like Bal Harbor and Boynton Beach, tweaked their programs to avoid litigation.

Under the new Pembroke Pines system, a police officer and a police aide will screen for violations.

The city is negotiating with Redflex Traffic Systems, based in Glendale, Ariz., to manage the camera system.

"Our 24/7 streaming video will allow Pembroke Pines Police Department real time access to HD video cameras at each location," said Michael Finn, president of Redflex.

He said police will also be able to review stored video to assist accident investigations.

The city expects to take in about \$254,000 in fines in the first year, but the numbers decline from there, to about \$135,000 in the fifth year, as drivers become more aware of the cameras.

"This new arrangement promises to generate revenue that will offset expenses," said city commissioner Angelo Castillo.

"However, for me, that's not the motivating factor," he said. "Rather, I've always judged the program on safety value. It has proven to be successful at reducing red light violations and the associated serious crashes that cause avoidable injuries and death."

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: As lone Republican on commission, LaMarca says it's time he be county mayor

BYLINE: Brittany Wallman

LINK: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-pines-restarting-traffic-cameras-20161102-

story.html

STORY: Should Broward County, the state's liberal bastion, have a Republican mayor?

Chip LaMarca, a Republican, thinks so.

LaMarca is the only Republican on the nine-member Broward County Commission. And each year, when it's time for the board to appoint a ceremonial mayor, LaMarca is passed over. When the mayor's post is referred to as a "rotation," LaMarca bristles.

Tuesday he let it be known that this year he wants to be considered. At the very least, he argued, the decisionmaking process should be transparent, and shouldn't appear to have been done out of public earshot. Seniority should be considered, he said, as well as qualifications. A lineup of men and women from the business community spoke up in support of that idea Tuesday.

"When the time is right," LaMarca said, "I'll be presenting my record of accomplishment and not my voter registration card for your serious consideration."

Every one of the nine commission districts leans Democrat. There are no countywide elected Republicans in Broward. And the voter registration skews to the left, with 50.6 percent registered as Democrats, 26 percent independent and 22 percent Republican. The remainder are registered in smaller parties.

The mayor and vice mayor for the next year will be selected Nov. 22. By custom, this year's vice mayor, Barbara Sharief, would be named mayor. But it would be her second turn as mayor in just three years.

Commissioner Lois Wexler gave LaMarca a boost of support — and a dose of reality. She said he'd proven himself in his six years on the dais, and she'd support him for mayor. But she leaves office next week, so she has no say in the matter.

"I sign up for transparency," she said. "But this is a partisan body. Let's not forget that this is a partisan body."

Commissioner Mark Bogen said he'd support LaMarca, too, on one condition: "If you switch over to the Democratic Party, I'm definitely supporting you 100 percent."

Bogen said partisan politics and the granting of leadership positions to the dominant party are a "fact of life."

Still, his colleagues didn't rule it out. Sharief said she looks at LaMarca as an accomplished colleague, not "an R."

"There have been many ceilings and records that have been broken," she told him, "and who's to say that you can't break one?"

MEDIA OUTLET: Broward Beat

HEADLINE: Broward Courthouse: So Many New Judges They Need Extra Robing Ceremonies

BYLINE: Buddy Nevins

LINK: http://www.browardbeat.com/broward-courthouse-so-many-new-judges-they-need-extra-robing-ceremonies/

STORY: There are so many new judges waiting to be officially robed that there will be three separate ceremonies.

Judges are traditionally robed – a swearing-in and introduction to the community – at one event in January.

This year will be at least 15 new judges to be robed – roughly two thirds of them elected and the rest recently appointed by Gov. Rick Scott.

"Nobody wants to sit through all that," Chief Judge Peter Weinstein told a Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court meeting this week.

Weinstein has planned three ceremonies featuring different new judges starting mid January.

Customarily a new judge's family, friends and the legal community attend robings, which are strictly ceremonial. Many judges actually begin work earlier, shortly after they are appointed.

With 15 new judges in the 90-judge Broward Courthouses, Weinstein predicted, "there will be a tremendous amount of change."

MEDIA OUTLET: Florida Bulldog

HEADLINE: Broward grand jury to review death of black man tasered by Coconut Creek police

BYLINE: Dan Christensen

LINK: http://www.browardbeat.com/broward-courthouse-so-many-new-judges-they-need-extra-robing-ceremonies/

STORY: Broward's grand jury will convene next week to consider whether four Coconut Creek police officers should face criminal charges in the death of a black man who was shot multiple times by police firing Taser stun guns.

Calvon "Andre" Reid, a 39-year-old meat salesman, died on Feb. 4, 2015 – two days after being shot down in a parking lot of the large, and largely white, Wynmoor retirement community.

"At long last," said West Palm Beach attorney Jack Scarola, who represents Reid's family. "We are all very anxious to see what happens in the course of this proceeding and even more anxious to get past this so we can conduct our own investigation."

Details about the death of Calvon Reid have been shrouded in secrecy from the moment the first Taser was fired about 1:30 a.m. outside 1701 Andros Isle, awakening residents to a sound like a firecracker going off. Coconut Creek police did not disclose the police-involved shooting, or announce that someone had died in police custody until after the Florida Bulldog published eyewitness accounts on Feb. 27, 2015.

The shooting, and the resulting heavy media scrutiny, cost city police chief Michael Mann his job. He was forced to resign in early March, days after publicly declaring at a press conference that there had been "no cover-up" by police.

In addition to questions about possible police use of excessive force, the grand jury must sort through several mysteries when it meets on Nov. 9.

Police have said Reid was wearing torn and bloodstained clothes, had cuts on his hands and body, and was in an "agitated, combative and incoherent state" when they encountered him inside the gated community. But why was Reid there? How did he get there? And was he visiting someone? Witnesses heard Reid repeatedly cry out, "Baby! Baby! They're gonna kill me!"

Broward Assistant State Attorney Yael Gamm will present the case to the grand jury on behalf of longtime State Attorney Michael Satz. The proceedings are closed to the public by law.

State Attorney's track record

Satz's track record in such cases: since 1980, just one police officer in Broward – BSO Deputy Peter Peraza in 2015 – has been indicted for killing someone while on duty. A judge dismissed the manslaughter charge against Peraza in July. Satz's office is appealing.

The four Coconut Creek officers being investigated by the grand jury are Sgts. David Freeman and Darren Karp and Officers Thomas Eisenring and Daniel Rush. Freeman, Karp and Eisenring are white. Rush is African-American.

Broward Medical Examiner Dr. Craig Mallak declined to discuss his findings in the case, citing state law that exempts information about ongoing criminal investigations from public disclosure.

Last year, however, Florida Bulldog reported that Mallak's office ruled Reid's death a homicide and the cause electrocution. Attorney Scarola called that "consistent with having been over-Tased."

Taser electroshock guns long have been promoted and sold to police departments as a non-lethal alternative to handguns. The company's website says, "Taser products protect lives, prevent injuries, reduce litigation and save agencies money."

In 2009, however, Taser International warned police agencies that use their stun guns to avoid chest shots, saying they posed a risk of injury. A 2012 study reported in the medical journal Circulation found that Taser shocks to the chest could cause cardiac arrest and sudden death.

Attorneys for the police officers, who by law are excluded from grand jury proceedings, have challenged the medical examiner's findings in pre-grand jury discussions with prosecutors. They argued that toxicology reports prepared by a privately retained expert found something the medical examiner's office missed: traces of flakka in Reid's body. Flakka is the notorious and powerful synthetic stimulant that fueled a short-lived, yet frightening epidemic in Broward two years ago.

"He was on flakka"

"The issue here is more than just the Taser," said attorney Michael Dutko, an ex-Fort Lauderdale policeman. "Why was he there? We don't know. But he was on flakka and his somewhat out-of-control behavior was consistent with that."

Dutko said the Coconut Creek officers committed no crime.

"Our position essentially is these officers were dispatched to a call for a citizen acting erratically and upon their arrival their observations as to his condition gave them cause for great concern and great alarm," Dutko said. "They had reason to be alarmed for the safety of others, their safety, and his safety and had the absolute need for his compliance."

Dutko declined to discuss the case in more detail. "Obviously this is an important story and one that will be reported about, but our office is really very concerned about maintaining a balance of responding appropriately, but not invading the province of the grand jury."

Scarola, who represents Reid's family, said he had not heard about the flakka finding, but said it wasn't a revelation.

"It's not a surprise because that would be a reasonable approach as a defense of these officers to try and break the causal connection between their excessive use of force and Andre's death," Scarola said. "But they are going to have a hard time defending based upon any contention that there was no excessive force. That's pretty well established and corroborated by eyewitnesses."

Two of those eyewitnesses are Wynmoor residents John Arendale and Bonnie Eshelman, who were jolted awake early that morning by a violent commotion outside the front door of their ground-floor apartment.

The couple observed the fatal encounter through their windows. In interviews, they said that as many as four officers fired four Taser shots in two volleys. They said Reid, a father of two sons, was struck at least twice in the chest by wires tethered to the high-voltage stun guns that can deliver a painful and immobilizing shock from as far as 35 feet away.

Among other things, they heard Reid cry out "I can't breathe" while on the ground under several officers.

Nevertheless, city detectives didn't interview Arendale and Eshelman until shortly after their accounts were published on Feb 27, 2015. A month later, they were re-interviewed by detectives Frank Fuentes and James Dingus, accompanied by a crime scene technician who took photographs of the view out their windows.

Former Miami Police Chief Ken Harms, a police policy expert and trial consultant, told Florida Bulldog last year that the detectives' actions appear to have been an improper attempt to discredit their testimony.

"It gives the impression to me that the police were trying to protect the officers' interest as opposed to getting down to the issues at hand, which ought to be was the use of force justified under the circumstances and if so what amount of force," said Harms.

Arendale and Eshelman are among a number of witnesses expected to testify before the grand jury next week.

MEDIA OUTLET: Miami Herald

HEADLINE: Deal reached after GOP claims absentee ballots were handled improperly in Broward

BYLINE: Amy Sherman, Patricia Mazzei and David Smiley

LINK: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article112183717.html

STORY: A clash between the state Republican party and Broward County's elections office over the handling of absentee ballots was settled Wednesday night only hours after it began.

At issue: whether Broward Supervisor of Elections Brenda C. Snipes had broken the law by opening scores of mail-in ballots in private, and without the supervision of a canvassing board appointed to oversee and certify elections.

Snipes — whose office has dealt with a series of mishaps and complications this election cycle — received a letter Wednesday afternoon from Republican state party chairman Blaise Ingoglia alleging the elections department had illegally processed and opened scores of the more than 153,000 ballots that have been cast by mail so far in Broward.

Ingoglia said Snipes had erred by failing to convene Broward's canvassing board while opening "tens of thousands" of absentee ballots, and by denying the public potential opportunities to contest problematic ballots.

"These illegal actions must stop immediately," he wrote. "The Republican Party of Florida is prepared to take all necessary legal actions to ensure that Broward County conducts its election in compliance with the law."

Snipes and current and past canvassing board members contested Ingoglia's assertions when contacted Wednesday.

"The canvassing board has never opened the ballots," Snipes said. "We have procedures we follow that are approved in our security manual sent to state. We don't feel like we are doing anything illegal — this is the process we have always used."

Still, within hours of receiving Ingoglia's letter, sources said Snipes' office had brokered a two-step compromise.

- Starting Thursday morning, board member Judge John D. Fry will be at the supervisor's office in person to oversee canvassing of mail-in ballots.
- Both the state Republican and Democratic parties will also be allowed to have a representative onhand at at all times as ballots are canvassed.

The agreement — forged on a day when Republican nominee Donald Trump brought his allegations of "rigged" elections to South Florida — likely averts an election eve imbroglio in a county with about 600,000 registered Democrats, the most in the state. It also potentially avoids yet another legal challenge for an elections department that recently went to court after ballots were discovered to be missing a medical marijuana amendment.

"I am pleased that Broward County has quickly agreed to take corrective actions in response to the concerns raised in our letter," Ingoglia said in a statement late Wednesday night. "The Republican Party of Florida will continue to monitor the canvassing process to ensure there are no further violations of the law."

The issue over Broward's handling of absentee ballots arose one week ago when David Shestokas, a Florida Bar-certified attorney, was sent by the Republican National Lawyers Association from Chicago to watch the election in Broward.

Like all of Florida's 67 counties, Broward has a three-person canvassing board appointed to oversee the counting and certification of election results. Normally, the board would be manned by the elections supervisor, a county judge, and a county commissioner, but the board is comprised only of judges this election season because of Snipes' reelection effort and the political activities of Broward's commissioners. Alternates are also appointed.

Under state law, the board's responsibilities include discretion over questionable or missing signatures on the sealed envelopes that hold mail-in ballots.

It wasn't clear Wednesday to what detail the board must be involved in the vetting of ballot signatures — a 2005 Division of Elections advisory says the board must order the processing of absentee ballots but the "clerical" work of opening and running the ballots need only be done in the presence of one board member. But in four separate visits to the elections headquarters in Lauderhill, Shestokas said he never saw the canvassing board convene or supervise the opening of ballots, even though a public notice published by the elections office suggests the board is meeting daily.

He also says he was only allowed to observe ballot counting from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

In a secure room inside a warehouse, Shestokas said he watched how elections department staff sorted ballot envelopes, examined signatures and opened ballots. On one occasion, he said, another person was also observing: a witness sent by the county government.

In addition to questioning why the canvassing board wasn't present, Shestokas said he wondered why members of the public couldn't view mail ballots before they were accepted and opened. Florida law allows the public to challenge ballots they consider invalid.

"Essentially, they're opening the ballots in secret," said Shestokas, who said he passed along his observations to the RNLA without contacting the party or any campaign.

Snipes and members of Broward's canvassing board defended their handling of absentee ballots Wednesday. Judge Daniel Kanner, a current member of the board, said flagged ballots are set aside to be handled by the board and only cleared ballots are opened and processed.

"The ballots that have been opened are not the questionable ballots," he said.

Judge Sharon Zeller, who served as the chairwoman of the canvassing board during the Aug. 30 primary election, said Broward has operated the same way for years under the guidance of the Florida Division of Elections, with clerical staff trained by handwriting experts reviewing each ballot. The problematic ballots are set aside, she said, to be handled by the board.

"When [the Republican Party] talks in that letter about not allowing a protest, the protest would be filed for a ballot that one would argue should be illegal," Zeller said. "Well, they're only processing the ones that are legal. There is a signature in the box, and the signature matches the one on record. They've been doing this for years."

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Fallen officers: 52 shot dead this year

BYLINE: ABC Miami

LINK: http://www.local10.com/news/national/fallen-officers-52-shot-dead-this-year

STORY: (CNN) - The killing of two Iowa police officers Wednesday brought the number of US and Puerto Rican law enforcement officers shot to death this year to at least 52 -- well ahead of last year's 12-month total, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The most recent shootings, in the Des Moines area, appear to be ambush killings, authorities said. Urbandale police Officer Justin Martin and Des Moines police Sgt. Anthony "Tony" Beminio were shot on November 2 while they sat in squad vehicles at intersections roughly 2 miles apart, authorities said. A suspect has been taken into custody.

The 2016 shootings have spanned the nation, from California to Massachusetts, and they've exceeded the number of firearms-related police deaths in all of 2015. According to the fund, firearms were responsible for 41 of 123 officer fatalities in 2015.

The decade's highest total came in 2011, with 73 officers shot dead.

This year's shooting deaths include a 28-year-old officer on her first day on the job and a 65-year-old sheriff's corporal who was about to retire. The total of 52 includes two incidents in which the officer was accidentally shot by another officer. Here's a look at all the officers shot and killed in the line of duty this year, as of November 2:

ALASKA

SGT. ALLEN BRANDT

Brandt, an 11-year veteran of the Fairbanks Police Department, was shot multiple times October 16 while responding to reports of gunfire. He was wearing body armor but was struck by bullets in a leg and shrapnel in an eye.

He died October 28 of complications experienced during surgery. After the shooting, the father of four had been well enough to speak at a community council meeting, saying he had predicted to his family he would be shot. The suspect, who fled in Brandt's patrol car, was arrested.

ARIZONA

OFFICER DAVID GLASSER

Phoenix police Officer Glasser, 35, was responding to a report that a man was stealing guns from his father's home when he was shot on May 18, CNN affiliate KTVK-TV reported, citing police.

Glasser died a day later.

He and other officers had arrived outside the home in Phoenix's Laveen area. The caller's son was in a van when Glasser and his partner parked their squad car but got out of the van and shot Glasser, KTVK reported. Other officers returned fire, killing the gunman.

Glasser was survived by a wife and two children, KNXV reported.

ARKANSAS

SHERIFF'S CPL. BILL COOPER

The 65-year-old Sebastian County sheriff's deputy was on the verge of retirement when he and other officers responded to a 911 call at a manufactured home August 10 in rural western Arkansas, between Greenwood and Midland.

The caller said a man had pulled a gun on his father. When deputies and officers arrived, the son, wearing body armor, fired a rifle repeatedly, killing Cooper and injuring another officer and a police dog, authorities said.

The gunman eventually surrendered and was arrested, police said.

CALIFORNIA

OFFICER JONATHAN DeGUZMAN

DeGuzman, 43, of the San Diego Police Department, and another officer were shot as they tried to stop someone in the city's Southcrest section on the night of June 28, police said.

A fellow officer arrived and rushed DeGuzman to a hospital, where he died. His wounded colleague survived. Police arrested a 52-year-old man in connection with the shootings.

SGT. STEVE OWEN

Owen, 53, of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department died October 5 after a suspect shot him while he was responding to a residential burglary. He was a 29-year department veteran. The suspect was apprehended.

OFFICERS JOSE GILBERT VEGA AND LESLEY ZEREBNY

Vega, 63, and Zerebny, 27, both of the Palm Springs police, were shot and killed October 8 while responding to a domestic disturbance. The officers were trying to negotiate with a distraught man who was inside a residence when he fired through the closed front door.

The suspect was arrested after barricading himself in the house for 12 hours.

Vega was a 35-year veteran nearing retirement, and Zerebny has just returned to work from maternity leave.

DEPUTY SHERIFF JACK HOPKINS

Hopkins, of the Modoc County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed October 19 while responding to a disturbance report. A suspect was arrested by other officers.

SGT. ROD LUCAS

Lucas, of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, was accidentally shot dead in the chest during a chat with a detective about firearms on October 31, the sheriff said.

The shooting happened in a special investigations unit building. The detective and two other employees tried CPR and other attempts to save Lucas, but he died at a hospital.

COLORADO

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY DEREK GEER

Geer, 40, of the Mesa County Sheriff's Department died February 10, two days after he was shot as he tried to detain a man in Grand Junction.

The deputy had responded to a report of a person walking past an office building with a handgun under his armpit, near railroad tracks south of the Interstate 70 business loop, police said. Geer saw someone matching the person's description and tried to stop him, even Tasering him, but the person shot Geer, police said. A suspect later was arrested.

Geer was an organ donor. In May, CNN published a story about a patient who received Geer's heart.

SHERIFF'S CPL. NATE CARRIGAN

Carrigan, 35, of the Park County Sheriff's Department, was fatally shot while he and two other deputies were trying to serve an eviction notice near Bailey on February 24.

The gunman -- a man who was being evicted -- also shot the other two deputies, wounding them. The deputies returned fire and the man was killed, police said. Carrigan was a 13-year veteran in the department.

GEORGIA

MAJ. GREG BARNEY

Barney, of the Riverdale Police Department, was helping police in Clayton execute a drug-related warrant at an apartment when he was fatally shot on February 11, police said.

Barney was a 25-year veteran of the department and had a wife and two children, CNN affiliate WSB reported.

OFFICER TIM SMITH

The Eastman, Georgia, policeman was responding to a call about a suspicious person when he encountered a man who shot him and fled the scene. Smith died at an area hospital.

Smith died just two days before his 31st birthday.

He left behind a fiancee, two sons, a 5-month-old daughter and a stepson, his fiancee told CNN.

INDIANA

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY CARL KOONTZ

Howard County sheriff's Deputy Carl A. Koontz, 27, was shot and killed March 20 in a shootout at a Russiaville trailer park while trying to serve a warrant for a man accused of failing to appear in court on charges of illegally possessing a syringe, police said.

One of Koontz's colleagues also was injured in the shooting. The shooter -- the man who was named in the warrant -- then fatally shot himself in the head, police said. Koontz, a former Marine, had nearly three years on the job.

IOWA

SGT. ANTHONY "TONY" BEMINIO

Beminio, of the Des Moines Police Department, was one of two central lowa police officers shot while they sat in squad vehicles at intersections roughly 2 miles apart shortly after 1 a.m. on November 2, authorities said. A suspect was taken into custody.

OFFICER JUSTIN MARTIN

Martin, of the Urbandale Police Department, was one of two central lowa police officers shot while they sat in squad vehicles at intersections roughly 2 miles apart shortly after 1 a.m. on November 2, authorities said. A suspect was taken into custody.

KANSAS

DETECTIVE BRAD LANCASTER

The Kansas City, Kansas, detective was shot and killed May 9 while responding to a call of a suspicious person near a casino.

The gunman fled in the detective's vehicle and stole two more vehicles before being arrested, police said.

CAPT. ROBERT DAVID MELTON

The Kansas City, Kansas, officer was shot and killed on July 19 while chasing people who'd allegedly been involved in a drive-by shooting, police said.

Melton, 46, was his department's second officer to be shot dead in the line of duty after Lancaster (above).

LOUISIANA

SHERIFE'S DEPUTY DAVID F. MICHEL JR.

The Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputy was shot dead on June 22 during a confrontation with a man he had approached on the street, authorities said.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY BRAD GARAFOLA

Garafola, 45, of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, was one of three law enforcement officers shot dead -- and one of six shot in total -- on July 17 by Gavin Long in Baton Rouge, police said.

Long shot the officers after posting a YouTube video in which he spoke about recent protests and officer-involved shootings, and said that victims of bullying needed to resort to bloodshed.

The officers' deaths came nearly two weeks after a police officer shot and killed Alton Sterling, a Baton Rouge resident. That death, as well as a July 6 shooting of a man by police in Minnesota, kicked off days of national turmoil that included a gunman shooting and killing five police officers in Dallas on July 7.

OFFICER MATTHEW GERALD

Gerald, 41, of the Baton Rogue Police Department, was one of three Louisiana law enforcement officers shot dead -- and one of six shot in total -- on July 17 by Gavin Long in Baton Rouge, police said.

(See entry for sheriff's Deputy Brad Garafola).

CPL. MONTRELL JACKSON

Jackson, 32, of the Baton Rouge Police Department, was one of three Louisiana law enforcement officers shot dead -- and one of six shot in total -- on July 17 by Gavin Long in Baton Rouge, police said.

(See entry for sheriff's Deputy Brad Garafola).

MARYLAND

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY PATRICK DAILEY

Dailey, of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, was one of two deputies fatally shot at or near a restaurant in Abingdon on February 10.

Dailey was called to a Panera Bread restaurant to investigate a man, but as Dailey talked to him the man shot him in the head, police said. The man fled toward nearby apartments, where he shot and killed Deputy Mark Logsdon (below), police said. Other deputies shot the gunman, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY MARK LOGSDON

Logsdon, of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, was one of two deputies fatally shot at or near a restaurant in Abingdon on February 10. (See entry for Deputy Patrick Dailey, above.)

OFFICER JACAI COLSON

Colson and other Prince George's County police officers were in a shootout with a gunman who'd ambushed them outside their police station when Colson was shot and killed by mistake by a fellow officer on March 13, police said.

Colson, a 28-year-old undercover narcotics detective, was in plain clothes when he drove up to the station to find the gunfight under way. An officer shot him when he left his car to confront the gunman, police said.

MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICER RONALD TARENTINO JR.

The 42-year-old Auburn police officer was making a traffic stop in the early morning of May 22 when an occupant of the car fatally shot him and fled, police said.

MICHIGAN

COURT BAILIFF RONALD KIENZLE

Kienzle, 63, was one of two court bailiffs shot and killed July 11 in a courthouse in Berrien County by an inmate who had grabbed a deputy's gun outside a holding cell, police said.

SUPERVISING COURT BAILIFF JOSEPH ZANGARO

Zangaro, 61, was shot and killed along with Kienzle (above) on July 11 in a courthouse in Berrien County by an inmate who had grabbed a deputy's gun outside a holding cell, police said.

SGT. KENNETH STEIL

The Detroit police's Steil was wounded by a carjacking suspect with a sawed-off shotgun during a foot pursuit. Steil was expected to recover but developed a blood clot in the hospital and died two weeks later on September 17.

MISSISSIPPI

SPECIAL AGENT LEE TARTT

Tartt, 44, an agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, was fatally shot on the morning of February 20 as he and other officers entered a home in luka, trying to end a six-hour standoff with a man inside, police said.

Police had been called there on a report of a domestic disturbance. Tartt was a 22-year veteran of law enforcement and had been with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics since 2000, CNN affiliate WREG in Memphis reported. He left a wife and two children.

MISSOURI

OFFICER BLAKE SNYDER

Snyder, 33, of the St. Louis police died October 6 while responding to a disturbance call. The officer walked up to a vehicle, and a suspect shot him once with a 9 mm pistol. His partner shot and wounded the suspect.

NEW MEXICO

OFFICER JOSE CHAVEZ

Chavez, 33, had just arrived to help an officer with a traffic stop in Hatch on August 12 when a passenger of the stopped vehicle exited and shot him, police said.

Chavez was taken to a hospital, where he had surgery before he was pronounced dead, police said. Three people were taken into custody.

OFFICER CLINT CORVINUS

Corvinus, a 4½ year veteran of the Alamogordo Police Department, was shot and killed September 2 as he and another officer pursued a wanted suspect on foot.

NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICER TIM BRACKEEN

Brackeen of the Shelby Police Department was shot September 10 while serving an arrest warrant. He died two days later at the hospital. The suspect was arrested a few days later in Rhode Island and charged with murder.

NORTH DAKOTA

OFFICER JASON MOSZER

Moszer, 33, of the Fargo Police Department was shot February 10 during a standoff that followed a report of a domestic disturbance at a home in Fargo, police said.

He died the next day. He was six-year veteran of the department and left a wife and two stepchildren, CNN affiliate WDAY-TV reported.

OHIO

OFFICER THOMAS COTTRELL

Cottrell was fatally shot behind the municipal building in the village of Danville on the night of January 17.

A suspect eventually was arrested. Minutes before Cottrell was killed, authorities said, the suspect's exgirlfriend called them to say he had taken off with his weapons and was looking to kill an officer.

Cottrell was one of Danville's six police officers at the time of his death.

OFFICER STEVEN SMITH

Columbus police Officer Steven Smith was in an armored vehicle April 10, serving on a SWAT team that was trying to serve a warrant for alleged arson, when a man inside an apartment fired a shot into the vehicle, hitting Smith, CNN affiliate WCMH reported.

Smith, 54, died two days later. He left a wife and two adult children, WCMH reported.

The man suspected of shooting Smith was arrested.

OREGON

SGT. JASON GOODDING

Goodding and another officer were trying to arrest a wanted man on a street in the Pacific coast town of Seaside on February 5. The suspect resisted arrest and shot Goodding, who returned fire and hit him, police said.

Both Goodding, a 39-year-old Seaside police officer, and the suspect later died at a hospital.

PUERTO RICO

SGT. LUIS A. MELENDEZ-MALDONADO

Melendez-Maldonado of the Puerto Rico Police Department was shot and killed October 12 while he and other agents conducted a narcotics investigation.

SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICER ALLEN LEE JACOBS

Greenville police Officer Allen Lee Jacobs, 28, was fatally shot on March 18 by a 17-year-old boy, police said.

Jacobs and at least one other officer were trying to interview the teen about a weapon purchase, but the teen ran. After the officers gave chase, the teen opened fire, hitting Jacobs, according to police. The teen eventually fatally shot himself, police said.

Jacobs left two sons and a wife who was pregnant.

TENNESSEE

SPECIAL AGENT DE'GREAUN FRAZIER

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent was working undercover in Jackson, trying to buy illicit drugs from someone as they were sitting in a vehicle during in a sting operation, when the target pulled out a gun and tried to rob Frazier and an informant on August 9, authorities said.

Frazier, 35, was shot once and died at a hospital, the bureau said. The person accused of shooting him was arrested.

Frazier had joined the bureau only six months earlier. He was the first TBI officer ever killed in the line of duty.

OFFICER KENNY MOATS

The 32-year-old Maryville police officer and a partner went to a home to check a report of domestic violence involving someone with a gun on August 25. They parked their vehicle behind the house, found the alleged victim and helped that person to safety, police said.

The officers then took cover behind their vehicle to wait for help, but a man opened fire on them from a garage, hitting Moats in the neck, police said.

Other officers eventually arrested the shooter, police said. Moats died at a hospital.

TEXAS

OFFICER DAVID HOFER

Hofer was fatally shot in a park in Euless on March 1 while responding to a call of a suspicious person.

The suspect opened fire when Hofer and a partner arrived, police said.

SENIOR CPL. LORNE AHRENS

Ahrens, 48, of the Dallas Police Department was one of five law enforcement officers shot and killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7.

The gunman, whom police eventually killed, had expressed that he was upset about recent police shootings, wanted to kill white people and white police officers, and "expressed anger for Black Lives Matter," Dallas police Chief David Brown said.

The protest was over two shootings earlier in the week in which officers fatally shot black civilians in Louisiana and Minnesota.

OFFICER MICHAEL KROL

Krol, 40, of the Dallas Police Department, was one of five law enforcement officers shot and killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7. (See entry for Cpl. Lorne Ahrens).

SGT. MICHAEL SMITH

Smith, 55, of the Dallas Police Department, was one of five law enforcement officers shot and killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7. (See entry for Cpl. Lorne Ahrens.)

OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

Thompson, 43, a Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer, was one of five law enforcement officers shot and killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7. (See entry for Cpl. Lorne Ahrens.) Thompson had gotten married less than two weeks earlier.

OFFICER PATRICK ZAMARRIPA

Zamarripa, 32, of the Dallas Police Department, was one of five law enforcement officers shot and killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7. (See entry for Cpl. Lorne Ahrens.)

UTAH

OFFICER DOUGLAS BARNEY

Barney, 44, of the United Police Department of Greater Salt Lake was shot and killed while investigating a traffic accident January 17.

Barney and other officers had responded to the accident and then began to search for two people who had fled the scene. Barney found a suspect who shot the officer, police said. A shootout followed, leaving the gunman dead and another police officer injured, authorities said.

VIRGINIA

TROOPER CHAD P. DERMYER

Virginia State Police Trooper Chad Dermyer, 37, was participating in a training operation with other troopers at a Greyhound bus station in Richmond on March 31 when a man walked away from his luggage.

Dermyer approached the man, and after the two talked for a few seconds, the man pulled a gun from his waistband and fatally shot the trooper, police said.

Dermeyer and his colleagues had been training to look for suspicious activity. The shooter was not involved in the training program.

OFFICER ASHLEY GUINDON

On her first day on the job with Prince William County police, Guindon, 28, was shot and killed February 27 while responding to a report of domestic violence at a Woodbridge house, police said.

Two other officers were shot and injured. A man suspected of shooting them also is accused of killing his wife, whose body was found inside the home, police said.

Guindon had taken her oath of office the day earlier.

WISCONSIN

DEPUTY SHERIFF DAN GLAZE

Glaze, 33, of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office was shot and killed October 29 while investigating a suspicious vehicle. A suspect was taken into custody.

An earlier version of this story mistakenly included deceased Sgt. Craig Hutchinson of the Travis County Sheriff's Office in Texas.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Secret audio implicates Hallandale Beach city attorney in alleged improper conduct

BYLINE: Bob Norman

LINK: http://www.local10.com/news/bob-norman/secret-audio-implicates-hallandale-beach-city-attorney-in-alleged-improper-conduct

STORY: HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. - After a recent commission meeting, Hallandale Beach City Attorney V. Lynn Whitfield vehemently denied playing politics with commissioners in her city.

"I don't give campaign advice. I don't give election advice," said Whitfield, who has held the post since 2011. "I don't do elections."

That's a good thing since Whitfield engaging in campaigning in her own city would constitute not only a clear conflict of interest, but could also possibly be a violation of law, as Florida statutes make it a misdemeanor for public officials to use their authority to interfere with elections in their own cities.

What Whitfield didn't know when she made that denial is that Local 10 News obtained an audiotape of an inadvertently recorded conversation she had with her city's vice mayor, Bill Julian, in which she clearly provided Julian campaign advice and guidance.

In the audiotape, Whitfield is speaking with Julian after they had both just listened to a robocall attacking him for his vote to approve a \$450 million high-rise development a the Diplomat Golf & Tennis Club in his city.

"Vice mayor let me say this, I can't advise you on personal stuff and definitely I can't advise you on election stuff, OK?" she tells Julian on the recording.

But then she immediately turns around and gives him campaign advice.

"When they do stuff to you, my advice, personally, is to plan, because you are going to do a lot of speaking for this election," she tells Julian. "Plan out, list out, 'This is how they are going to come after me."

"I have to be ready for that," Julian replies.

"Be ready for that and just smile," Whitfield said.

Whitfield also explains to Julian how he can politically attack fellow Keith London, a fellow Hallandale Beach commissioner and a longtime Julian foe, telling London also voted for the development and that "technically" he too voted against forcing the Diplomat developers to provide additional money for parks, a fire truck and other amenities for residents. After hearing the recording for the first time, London said he was "livid."

"Obviously, she doesn't know the basics of the city charter that says you work for the city," London said. "It doesn't say you work for Bill Julian. She's not here to give personal advice to Bill Julian, and she's certainly not here to give election advice to Bill Julian, and that's what she's doing."

The recording is sure to add yet more bitterness to the politically divided city -- and it is just one of many that Julian inadvertently left behind when he called a number to listen to the negative robocall attacking his vote.

At the end of the robocall was a beep, signaling that it was going to a voicemail recording.

On no fewer than 10 of his calls, the vice mayor apparently failed to hang up his phone properly and inadvertently left behind audio recordings of private conversations that have been obtained by Local 10 News.

"She gave personal and campaign advice to Bill Julian, she's got to go," Commissioner Keith London said. The first recording released was a bombshell: In it Julian admitted that he had agreed to accept secret gifts from the Diplomat -- including a van for his favorite charity and 300 workers to help with his campaign -- before his vote for the development.

On the Whitfield recording, the city attorney tells Julian that she's certain is yet another commissioner, Michele Lazarow, whose voice is on the robocall.

"That's Lazarow's voice," Whitfield said on the recording. "I know her voice."

Lazarow is a close ally of London and the two of them have called for Whitfield to be removed from her job several times in the past. When London threatened to terminate Whitfield last year, Whitfield accused him of racial discrimination and hired special counsel to investigate him.

London was cleared in the investigation.

Lazarow said that not only is it not her voice on the robocall, but that she had absolutely nothing to with the call whatsoever and had no advance knowledge of it.

"I'm filing a bar complaint (against Whitfield)," Lazarow said after hearing the recording. "It's really a vile accusation, considering it's a political agenda."

At a recent commission meeting, Whitfield refused to listen to the recording and wouldn't comment on it.

"I'm not listening to that," she said. "I don't know how you have my voice on anything. I'm not answering your questions."