



***BROWARD COUNTY PBA
DAILY CLIPS***

June 19, 2017

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Broward Sheriff's deputy surrenders after standoff at Boca Country Club

BYLINE: Aric Chokey

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/palm-beach/fl-pn-boca-country-club-20170618-story.html>

STORY: Broward Sheriff's deputy is under mental health evaluation after a two-hour standoff Sunday at Boca Country Club.

The deputy, who co-workers said was acting strange and despondent, drove his marked car from his home in Broward County to his ex-wife's house at the country club, near Congress Avenue and Boca Club Boulevard.

SWAT was called to the scene. There were reports the deputy threatened to harm himself. After two hours, officers were able to convince the deputy to surrender.

The deputy had given his weapon to a co-worker before the standoff began, said Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office spokesman Eric Davis.

Davis said it is unknown whether the deputy was on-duty at the time and whether there were any weapons in his possession.

"We weren't sure, so that's why we took the actions that we did," Davis said.

The Broward Sheriff's Office referred all questions Sunday to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

The deputy was not identified by either sheriff's office. His ex-wife was not home, and no one was injured, Davis said.

The incident ended about 2:30 p.m. when the deputy was taken into custody under the Baker Act — the statewide law allows people to be taken into custody involuntarily for psychiatric examination.

After the evaluation, Davis said the deputy's return to work will up to the Broward Sheriff's Office.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Broward voters could get chance to overhaul county government

BYLINE: Larry Barszewski

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sb-broward-charter-changes-20170614-story.html>

STORY: Broward County government could be in for a major overhaul, affecting everything from whether the county mayor is the true person in charge to whether the sheriff and property appraiser are appointed instead of elected.

The county's Charter Review Commission, which has been meeting since 2015, is brainstorming changes for voters to consider on the November 2018 ballot. Among the questions they are pondering:

-- Should the mayor be elected and have governing duties and veto power over commission decisions? Currently, the mayor is selected by the County Commission from among its members to serve a largely ceremonial one-year term.

-- Should commissioners be elected countywide instead of from districts?

-- Should Constitutional officers, such as the sheriff, supervisor of elections and the property appraiser, be appointed or elected, and should they be partisan or non-partisan?

Some proposals being discussed include a public safety advisory council to oversee the county's 911 regional communications system, expanding the role of the county's inspector general to be able to investigate how non-profit groups spend grants, and creating a revenue stream to pay for affordable housing or initiatives to combat homelessness.

Sheriff Scott Israel and Property Appraiser Marty Kiar appeared before the board Wednesday, arguing against having their offices moved from elected positions to ones appointed under the county administrator.

"It's incredibly important that all these offices stay autonomous," said Kiar, who has been criticized by county commissioners recently for a 52 percent proposed budget increase.

The board wants public input on all potential changes regarding elected officials. It's holding a hearing from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the County Commission chambers at the county governmental center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

The 19 members of the board were appointed by county commissioners, but the county has no control over what items are put before voters. Thirteen board members must sign off on any referendum item placed on the ballot. The board, which includes a number of former elected officials, has committees looking into governance, ethics, infrastructure and human services issues it might want to put on the ballot.

The committees expect to have their proposals ready by November for the whole board to consider. The changes would be to the County Charter, which is basically the constitution for county government and establishes the rules under which the county operates.

The last Charter Review Commission placed issues on the 2008 ballot, when eight of ten commission-sponsored amendments were approved. They include a ban on the county selling or giving away park land unless 60 percent of voters agree. Another created the ethics commission and a third prohibited commissioners from participating in discussions on items they could not vote on because they had a conflict of interest.

After 2018, the next time the charter commission gets an opportunity to make proposals to voters is in 2030. County commissioners also have the power to place charter amendments on the ballot.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Creek plans funding for new officers

BYLINE: Arun Sivasankaran

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/coconut-creek/fl-cspf-officers-0621-20170616-story.html>

STORY: Coconut Creek will set aside money in its 2017-2018 budget to hire police officers and purchase land for new athletic fields.

Another priority for the city is cutting its ties with the regional E911 dispatch system and going it alone as it used to.

There is a hefty price tag to bringing the system back in-house and it will "probably result in some form of a tax increase," Assistant City Manager Karen Brooks told residents at a recent meeting seeking public input for the 2017-2018 budget.

"What we are finding here is that we are not getting the kind of service that our residents are accustomed to," Brooks said. "When they call 911 and the dispatchers don't know our city because it is a regional system, we lose a lot of that personal touch that we pride ourselves on."

The city plans to hire six additional police officers, including two for community services, two for special enforcement and one for traffic. It will also look to buy parcels of more than five acres in the city for parks and athletic fields.

The city currently has five football/soccer fields and 11 softball/baseball fields, all of them extensively used. It recently purchased a five-acre parcel near Lakeside Park and intends to put in two football/soccer fields. The city is also interested in the seven acre parcel located south of the Food for The Poor building on Lyons Road, as well as the property on Northwest 74th Street that is adjacent to the Oak Trails passive park.

Almost half of the city's general fund budget goes to public safety, with police alone accounting for 32 percent. The city gets 28 percent of the total taxes paid by a property owner. The monthly tax to the city from a property with a taxable value of 185,000 is about \$70.

Three development projects are ongoing on Hillsboro Boulevard, Sheila Rose, director of sustainable development, said. The Pines townhouse project, in the western portion of Hillsboro Blvd., will have 50 units. The first residential project in the city's main street project area will have four story luxury apartments.

A medical office building is being constructed along Wiles Road while a Dunkin Donuts store will open on Coconut Creek Parkway, Rose said. An industrial complex is coming up in the city's industrial area while Clarity Pointe, a memory care facility, will be built in the north side of the city. The city will soon take up a project linking the natural areas on Hillsboro Blvd. with the commercial properties in the area.

Improvements worth \$4.5 million is currently on at Windmill Park, City Manager Mary Blasi told residents. The city will use money from its \$10 million bond issue to resurface 46 miles of city roadways in four phases, with work in the Winston Park area to commence first.

MEDIA OUTLET: Miami Herald

HEADLINE: Deputy agrees to mental evaluation after threatening self-harm, driving to ex-wife's home

BYLINE: Arun Sivasankaran

LINK: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article156864339.html>

STORY: A distraught Broward County Sheriff's deputy is being admitted to a psychiatric facility under Florida's Baker Act law after threatening to harm himself during a two-hour standoff and then driving to his ex-wife's home in Palm Beach County.

The deputy, who has not been identified, was armed with his service revolver around 11 a.m. when Broward deputies found him and took away his gun, a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office spokesman told the Palm Beach Post.

The deputy then got into his sheriff's cruiser and drove to his ex-wife's home, near the Boca Country Club, where he continued threatening self-harm. Deputies with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office were called in to negotiate with the man. No one else was threatened, and roads surrounding the area were reopened around 3 p.m., the Post reported.

MEDIA OUTLET: Hollywood Gazette

HEADLINE: Hollywood PAL receives 11 new computers donated by Memorial

BYLINE: David Volz

LINK: <https://hollywoodgazette.com/index.php/hollywood-pal-receives-11-new-computers-donated-memorial/>

STORY: The Hollywood PAL celebrated the addition of 11 new computers with a special event recently attended by City leaders.

The computers were donated by Memorial Healthcare System and refurbished by the South Florida Digital Alliance (SFDA), an organization that focuses on digital literacy. The SFDA collects and refurbishes donated computers that are then placed in schools and community organizations.

Timothy Curtin, administrative director for community services for Memorial said, “These computers came off line and we partnered with the South Florida Digital Alliance to repurpose them so they could be used by young people at the PAL. A lot of kids need access to computers so they can get better grades on their school work,” said Curtin.

James Osteen, Jr. executive director for the South Florida Digital Alliance was glad to see the PAL get the computers. “More information is going online and we want to help everyone have access to computers. We refurbish the computers and place them in various centers. We want to increase access to technology by establishing community-based Technology Learning Centers in convenient public spaces in underserved areas of the community,” said Osteen.

Patrick Agenor, a Hollywood police officer, is the school resource officer at Driftwood Middle School often works with young people at the PAL. “This will benefit young people and help them achieve some of their life goals,” he said.

Before and after the event, teenagers were using the computers.

MEDIA OUTLET: CBS Miami (Channel 4)

HEADLINE: Officer Injured In Fiery Crash Remains Hospitalized

BYLINE: CBS Miami

LINK: <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2017/06/19/officer-injured-fiery-crash-hospitalized/>

STORY: MIAMI (CBSMiami) – A Miami-Dade police officer remains hospitalized after she was involved in a fiery crash over the weekend while pursuing a suspect in Miami Gardens.

“It was an assault on a police officer which is what initiated the whole scene,” said Det. Argemis Colome.

Early Sunday, Bradys Balcinde, 38, reportedly assaulted an officer at NW 119 Street and NW 7th Avenue and then refused to stop for police.

An officer taking part in the pursuit of Balcinde collided with a black Infiniti at the intersection of NW 7th Avenue and NW 171st Street. The collision sent the officer’s cruiser into a Cadillac SUV, stopped at the light.

They both caught fire.

The police officer and the driver of the first vehicle were both taken to local hospitals, which thank God they’re both in stable conditions at this moment,” said Det. Colome.

Police say Balcinde was taken into custody within blocks of the crash and is now facing charges for assault on an officer and eluding police.

The officer, who has been with the department for three years, was taken to Memorial Hospital and the driver of the Infiniti was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital North. Both were listed as stable.

This was the second crash involving a police officer over the weekend.

On Saturday, a Miami police officer crashed into a Honda Civic at the intersection of SW 12th Avenue and 7th Street, killing its driver 71-year-old Ramon Bueno.

Police said the officer’s lights and sirens were on as it went through the intersection, but the Bueno’s family has disputed that.

The officer was treated at a hospital and released.

MEDIA OUTLET: NBC Miami (Channel 6)

HEADLINE: BSO Deputy Taken Into Custody After Stand Off Sunday in Palm Beach County

BYLINE: CBS Miami

LINK: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/BSO-Deputy-Taken-Into-Custody-After-Stand-Off-Sunday-in-Palm-Beach-County-429358973.html>

STORY: A Broward Sheriff's Office deputy was taken into custody after a standoff with deputies from Palm Beach County on Sunday.

According to NBC affiliate WPTV, members of BSO responded to the home of another deputy around 11 a.m. following reports of a domestic incident. After they removed his weapon, the deputy left the scene in his cruiser and went to the home of his ex-wife in West Boca Raton.

PBSO deputies say the man threatened to harm himself, causing the SWAT team to be called because they did not know if he had a weapon. Eventually, the deputy surrendered and was taken into custody under the Baker Act, allowing for involuntary institutionalization.

No one else was harmed and officials have not released the name of the deputy.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Broward deputy taken in under Baker Act after standoff at Boca Country Club

BYLINE: Paradise Afshar

LINK: <https://www.local10.com/news/broward-deputy-taken-in-under-baker-act-after-standoff-at-boca-country-club>

STORY: BOCA RATON, Fla. - A Broward County deputy was taken in custody Sunday under the Baker Act after a standoff at the Boca Country Club, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

Broward Sheriff's Office deputies removed the deputy's firearm when they were called to a domestic incident at his home at about 11 a.m., according to WPTV.

The deputy got into his police cruiser and worked his way to his ex-wife's home in the Boca Country Club. However, she wasn't there.

The deputy then threatened to harm himself.

After a standoff, the deputy was taken in under the Baker Act.

No one was injured in the incident.

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: 2 hospitalized after police-involved crash in Miami Gardens

BYLINE: Ian Margol

LINK: <https://www.local10.com/news/2-hospitalized-following-police-involved-crash-in-miami-gardens>

STORY: MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. - A Miami-Dade police officer and another driver were hospitalized Sunday morning after a three-vehicle crash in Miami Gardens.

Prior to the crash, the officer was involved in a chase that took place in response to an assault on another Miami-Dade police officer.

The officer was heading south near the intersection of Northwest 171st Street and Northwest Seventh Avenue when she collided with a black Infiniti.

"Once the police unit and the other vehicle collided, it redirected the police unit into the vehicle that was parked stationary at the light, which at that point, both vehicles caught on fire," Miami-Dade police Detective Argemis Colome said.

The officer was taken to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood and the driver of the Infiniti was taken to Jackson North Medical Center. They are both listed in stable condition.

The driver of the third vehicle, a Cadillac SUV, was not hurt.

Colome said the man officers were originally chasing, Bradys Balcinde, 38, was eventually taken into custody without incident just a few blocks away, police said. He was taken to the hospital as well.

Balcinde has been arrested on charges of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and fleeing and eluding.

MEDIA OUTLET: CBS West Palm Beach (Channel 12)

HEADLINE: Residents shaken after standoff between BSO, fellow deputy

BYLINE: Luli Ortiz

LINK: <http://cbs12.com/news/local/residents-shaken-after-standoff-between-bso-fellow-deputy>

STORY: BOCA RATON, Fla. (CBS12) — Tense moments hung over a Boca Raton neighborhood following a standoff with deputies and one of their own Sunday afternoon.

The man at the center of all of this is a deputy with the Broward Sheriff's Office. Plenty of people were on edge as all of this was going down.

Some people were forced to stay out of the neighborhood as deputies tried to talk down a fellow co-worker who was reportedly making remarks about harming himself.

"I'm a little frustrated because I can't go to my house, since it's Father's Day, I want to celebrate the day with my family," said resident Fabian Garcia.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said the incident began as a domestic call at around 11 a.m. in neighboring Broward County.

That is where PBSO said the deputy handed over his gun to fellow Broward deputies, but also made what's being called uncomfortable statements.

PBSO said the man then jumped in his cruiser and drove north to Boca Raton, where his ex-wife lives. "The guard said, 'No, you can't come in'," said resident Tammy Futris. "[He] tried to commit suicide, and now he's on the golf course with a AK-47 and all his guns."

"It's a bizarre situation, I've never seen anything like this," said another Boca Country Club resident, Harold Clarke.

This is the second standoff in a week involving a law enforcement officer.

A former Miami-Dade officer surrendered after a standoff, psychologist Dr. Rachel Needle said law enforcement is a high stress career, but the men and women behind the badge are still human.

"Because of the prolonged stress that they often go through and the experience of witnessing trauma on a regular basis, I think it is important for them to have somebody to speak to about it," Dr. Needle said.

The unidentified Broward Sheriff's deputy is being evaluated at a local hospital.

His ex-wife was not home at the time.

MEDIA OUTLET: CBS West Palm Beach (Channel 12)

HEADLINE: Broward Sheriff's deputy surrenders after standoff in Boca

BYLINE: Gary Detman

LINK: <http://cbs12.com/news/local/large-law-enforcement-presence-at-boca-country-club>

STORY: BOCA RATON, Fla. (CBS12) — A Broward County Sheriff's deputy is being taken to the hospital for an evaluation under the Baker Act following a standoff at Boca Country Club.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said the incident began as a domestic call at around 11 a.m. at the deputy's home in Broward County.

Authorities had the deputy surrender his gun based on the statements he was making. Investigators said the deputy drove to Boca in his patrol car and did not respond to requests for him to surrender.

The Broward Sheriff's Office called PBSO for assistance, according to spokesman Eric Davis.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office brought in a number of resources as a precaution.

Residents of the community were not allowed in our out for awhile. CBS12 crews saw several command posts, deputies, and FHP troopers blocking one entrance to the neighborhood off Boca Club Boulevard and Congress Avenue.

The deputy ultimately surrendered peacefully, said PBSO. He has not been identified. No word yet on whether he had any weapons.

Authorities reopened the entrances to the country club around 3 p.m.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said no charges will be filed.