

Florida police union official accused of using excessive force suspended



Miami, June 11 (RHC)-- The president of a Fraternal Order of Police chapter in Florida was suspended by a sheriff's office as it investigates him for a social media post over the weekend that encouraged officers linked to departments accused of using excessive force during recent protests to apply for jobs in Florida.

Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey said at a news conference Tuesday that Lieutenant Bert Gamin had been suspended from his agency as an internal investigation is conducted. "I'm embarrassed by it. I'm infuriated by it, and I'm having it investigated," Ivey said.

Earlier in the week, Gamin, president of the Fraternal Order of Police lodge in Brevard County, Florida had called his post "in poor taste" in a statement sent to local news media.

The message posted over the weekend on the Brevard FOP Facebook page said, "Hey Buffalo 57 ... and Atlanta 6 ... we are hiring in Florida. Lower taxes, no spineless leadership or dumb mayors rambling on at press conferences ... Plus ... we got your back!" It ended with the hashtags "lawandorderflorida" and "movetowhereyouare."

In related news, in Atlanta, two officers were fired and face criminal charges after video showed them using stun guns on two college students pulled from a car that was in traffic during a large protest. Four other officers were placed on desk duty.

In Buffalo, New York, dozens of police officers stepped down from the department's crowd control unit last week, objecting to the suspensions of two fellow officers in the shoving of a 75-year-old protester who fell and injured his head.

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