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For Immediate Release

**State Representative Bruce Antone and State Senator Randolph Bracy
Announce Legislative Proposals for Police Reform and Accountability Legislation**

Orlando, Florida - Most of America is aware of the tragic deaths of George Floyd (Minneapolis, MN), Breonna Taylor (Louisville, KY), and Ahmaud Arbery (Brunswick, GA), During the George Floyd Peaceful Protests, Americans have witnessed live or recorded instances of questionable conduct by Law Enforcement Officers, including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protesters for a President Trump Photo Op, Minneapolis law enforcement officers slashing tires, two Boston law enforcement officers shoving a 75 year old man to the ground, Atlanta law enforcement officers tasing and dragging two unarmed college students from an automobile, and the prevalent use of tear gas and rubber bullets by law enforcement agencies across the United States.

George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor died as a result of Unnecessary Use of Deadly Force by law enforcement officers. Ahmaud Arbery was murdered by armed citizen that took the law into their own hands, and the Brunswick George District Attorney attempted to coverup the murder for two months. In addition, the prevalent use of tear gas and rubber bullets, tire slashing, and heavy-handed community policing tactics used in some minority communities calls into question some of the longstanding and questionable tactics used by law enforcement officers and agencies. These incidents, tactics and practices have a common denominator and several things in common: (1) Questionable and Unlawful Use of Deadly Force. (2) An attempt to cover up, and falsify official documents. (3) The lack of accountability, no disciplinary or punitive action taken against the law enforcement officers involved in the incidents. (4) No accountability, punitive measures or punishment for the District Attorney that covered up the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, and (5) Questionable conduct by sworn law enforcement officers that have the responsibility to ensure the safety and quality of life of the communities they serve.

In response to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Trayvon Martin, and other persons that died as a result of Use of Deadly Force by Law Enforcement Officers and private citizens, and the questionable use of force by law enforcement officer incidents captured on video by camera phones and media outlets during the Peaceful Protests in the aftermath of the George Floyd Murder, **Florida State Representative Bruce Antone and members of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus** announce our ideas and proposals for **(Police Reform, Police Accountability, Anti-Police Brutality Legislation)** during the 2021 Florida Legislative Session to address common aspects of the three murders and questionable use of force conduct by law enforcement officers. Our plan also includes other important recommendations, issues, concerns that must be addressed, but may be specific to local government ordinances, and local law enforcement agency policies and procedures pertaining to Use of Force, Body Cameras, Cellphone Camera Videotaping of Law Enforcement Officers, Collective Bargaining Agreements, The Police Bill of Rights, Civilian Review Boards, and associated law enforcement training pertaining to the aforementioned policies and procedures that should and must be reviewed and revised when deemed necessary. Nothing in this proposal relates to Defunding Law Enforcement.

FBLC Plan and Proposals for Police Reform, and Police Accountability

- Review, Refine, and Establish civil and criminal punitive measures and punishment for:
 - o (1) Florida Law Enforcement Officers found guilty of Unlawful Excessive of Use Force that results in serious bodily injury or death.
 - o (2) Florida District Attorneys found guilty of involvement in an attempt to coverup: malfeasance, a crime, murder or serious wrongdoing.
- Work with the Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Police Chiefs Association to Review and Revise “The Police Bill of Rights “
- Codify in Florida Statutes, requirement for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to create, implement, and maintain a **FDLE Excessive Use of Force Statewide Database**, that captures data on reported incidents of Excessive Use of Force that causes Serious Bodily Injury Incidents involving Florida Law Enforcement Agencies and Officers (**see list of law enforcement agencies**), and persons employed by private companies that are contracted with the State of Florida, and acting in an official capacity as a corrections officer, detention facility officer, or security for the State of Florida, and State of Florida facilities and buildings.
- Require the above **FDLE Excessive Use of Force Statewide Database** to be updated monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly, and in alignment with the **FBI’s Use of Data Collection Initiative launched January 1, 2019.**
- Require the Florida Legislature to annually fund the maintenance of the **FDLE Excessive Use of Force Statewide Database** Force causing Serious Bodily Injury Database, and submit annual reports to the Governor, Speaker of the Florida House and Senate President on January 1st of each year, detailing Florida Law Enforcement officers and Florida Law Enforcement Agencies that have an excessive number of complaints involving the Use of Force.
- Require all Law Enforcement Agencies in the State of Florida to review and revise policies regarding Use of Body Cameras, persons using a recording device (i.e. cellphone camera, camcorder, or other recording devices, etc.) to record a law enforcement officer or incident involving an interaction with law enforcement.
- Require all Law Enforcement Agencies in the State of Florida to review and revise policies, processes, and procedures regarding Law Enforcement Agencies’ Internal Affairs investigations.
- Require Law Enforcement Agencies to establish, or review, revise and update policies and procedures related to the Pursuit of Fleeing Drivers and Fleeing Felons.
- Establish punitive measures for Law Enforcement Officers that intentionally disregard the policies and procedures for the Use of Body Cameras, repeatedly fail to activate their Body Cameras or seek to edit Body Camera recordings.
- Require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create, establish a maintain a Statewide Registry Database of officers and correctional officers related to misconduct and prohibition of being rehired to work for a law enforcement agency in the State of Florida.
- Prohibit use of Chokeholds by Law Enforcement Officers
- Prohibit use of a knee on the neck of a suspect by Law Enforcement Officers
- File legislation to create the “Amy Cooper Law” that makes it a felony for an individual that makes false claims accusing a person of another race of committing a crime (i.e. rape, apprehension, kidnapping, etc.)
- Require Statewide Consistency in all Use of Force, Body Camera, Training Policies, etc.
- Prohibit Use of No-Knock Warrants by Law Enforcement Agencies and Officers for minor crimes and some drug crimes.
- Require all Law Enforcement Agencies in the State of Florida to review and revise policies, procedures, training manuals, online courses, and classes pertaining to the Use of Force.
- Require all Florida Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct training classes in accordance with the new policies and procedures pertaining to Use of Force.
- Require all Florida Law Enforcement Agencies to include in writing in their Use of Force Policies and Procedures, a “duty to intervene” if they see or anticipate excessive force being used by their colleagues. (**See recent Policies enacted by Dallas, TX, Oakland, California, Orange County, Florida Sheriff Policy).**
- Revise and or Require the elimination of “Jump Out Tactics and Squads” that are sometimes used to intimidate, initiate confrontations, and harass young black males that are not involved in a crime or wrongdoing when the “Jump Out” occurs.
- Review Collective Bargaining Agreements between Cities and County Law Enforcement Agencies that provide protection to Law Enforcement Officers that violate the law, and use unlawful and excessive use of force to seriously injure or kill suspects.

FBLC Plan and Proposals for Police Reform, and Police Accountability (Continued)

- Require all local Florida Law Enforcement Agencies to establish a community review board that meets with the Chief Law Enforcement Officer or a designated representative of each agency on a quarterly or as needed basis to review and address community policing concerns.
- Review, Revise and Rewrite Florida Statute that establishes Civilian Review Boards and provide ability for Civilian Review Boards to subpoena officers when investigating the behavior and conduct of Law Enforcement Officers.
- Codify in Florida Statutes, language that addresses 1967 Supreme Court Qualified Immunity Doctrine, that shields law enforcement from liability.
- Require a review and revision of all policies, procedures and training associated with Officer Standards and Credentials.
- Require each local law enforcement agency to create and establish a database and reporting procedure for citizen complaints when law enforcement has intimidated, harassed or stopped persons for no cause, mistaken identity, etc. There are countless instances when local law enforcement agencies have stopped and detained persons and cars, shown up at residences without a warrant or just cause, requesting to search the person, vehicle or home without a warrant, and held persons at gunpoint, then claimed mistaken identity. It is incidents like this that results in citizens being arrested without just cause, or leaves citizens shaken, traumatized, or in fear of their life when they have not been involved in a crime.

Florida Law Enforcement Agencies affected by FBLC proposals and plan:

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- County Sheriff
- City Police Agencies
- State University and State College Sworn Officers
- Public School District Sworn Officers
- Correctional Officers at State Prisons, Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Facilities, Private Prisons and DJJ Detention Facilities contracted with the State of Florida

Senator Bracys' 10 Steps to Police Reform

- 1) Police Shootings must be investigated by an independent agency, and not by local police.
- 2) Revise the Police Bills of Rights. The police bill of rights gives them near full immunity for any act they may commit.
- 3) Each unit must institute an Early Intervention System (EIS) to deal with officers with problem officers.
- 4) This proposal will Require that every unit will keep effective Data Collection on Police Killings.
- 5) This proposal will Require Officers to have Body Cameras and to have Vehicle Dashcams and that the Public be given Access to these Recordings when there is Alleged Misconduct.
- 6) This proposal will Mandate Officer Training on Implicit Bias and De-escalation.
- 7) This proposal will require Citizen review boards and give them the authority to independently investigate police agencies.
- 8) In Cases of Police Shootings that result in Death, this proposal will require an independent state attorney's office that will make the prosecuting decisions.
- 9) This proposal will suggest a Civilian Review Board Member as Part of an Investigative Team-Including a civilian Review board member in the initial investigation ensures transparency and goes a long way in building trust with the community.
- 10) Increase Jury Pay and Eliminate Pre-emptory Strike to Make Juries More Diverse.