



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

February 14, 2012

Dear PCSO Retiree:

I am writing to address some issues that I know are important to our retirees, as well as announce some new opportunities.

Foremost, please know that I have a strong commitment to our retirees and your well-being. You dedicated your professional lives to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and to making a difference in our community, thus earning the benefits of being a "PCSO retiree."

Each of you remain an important part of our agency and our extended Sheriff's Office family. I have been and am committed to making sure that our retirees stay involved with PCSO, to the extent that each of you so desire, and that we are there for you when you need us. Last year, we formed the Retired Member Support Team (RMST), facilitated by Lt. Tom Acker, which is comprised of retirees who help other retirees in their time of need. We provide training and other resources to the RMST and we welcome any suggestions on what we can do to better support RMST or expand its role to better serve our retiree community.

Due to the unprecedented and dismal economy, the last four years have been transformational years for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and for all of us personally. During the last four years we have eliminated 616 positions agency-wide and cut \$108 million from our General Fund budget. We are a much different, and reorganized agency than when the budget spiral began in 2007.

These have been tough times with tough and unpleasant decisions having to be made along the way. Nevertheless, we have survived and accomplished some things that people thought could not be done. The crime rate is down, case closures are up, arrests are up and the Jail population is down from its all time high of a few years ago. Most importantly, the values and virtues that define the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office remain.

Retiree Health Insurance

A question that I have been asked several times since taking office is about my commitment to retiree health insurance and whether there will be any efforts under my administration to eliminate any portion of that benefit to save money. I assure you with unequivocal certainty that I will never do anything that eliminates retiree health insurance benefits—this is a benefit earned by many years of hard work and something that is committed to our retirees for life. I am fully committed to meeting our obligations to our retirees so that you have the peace of mind knowing that you will have health care coverage when you most need it.

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Retiree Dental Insurance

Consistent with that commitment, I am pleased to announce an enhanced dental benefit for our retirees that will begin with the FY 2013 Plan Year (October 1, 2012). Retirees may currently enroll in our dental insurance plan but you do not receive the subsidy that current employees receive. This was a decision made in 2005 when PCSO became self-insured and left Pinellas County's plan.

Effective for the FY 2013 plan year, we will treat retirees the same as current employees for our Dental Plan and retirees will pay exactly what current employees pay and retirees will receive the agency subsidy. Bottom line for retirees with dental coverage, your monthly premium will decrease and for those of you who are not now on our dental plan but want to enroll, we will allow you to do so in the August Open Enrollment at the current employee rates.

LifeScan

I am also pleased to announce the opportunity for dependents to participate in Life Scan. When we began Life Scan it was open only to sworn members. We then opened it up to non-sworn members and retirees on our health insurance. I am pleased to announce that we will now open Life Scan to all adult dependents of members and retirees who are on our health insurance. In short, if you have a spouse or other adult dependent who you have on our health insurance, they can participate in Life Scan at no cost to you or them.

Effective immediately, eligible dependents may call Life Scan directly and schedule an appointment. They will need to know your payroll number and provide it to Life Scan when scheduling the appointment. Life Scan will then send a packet and the necessary paperwork to be completed before the appointment.

We strongly encourage each of you to participate in Life Scan once each year as part of your personal wellness efforts. Early detection and treatment is of paramount importance to keep everyone in their best health.

Firing Range and HR 218

As many of you know, we recently opened a state-of-the-art firing range on 118th Ave at the site of our old range that closed many years ago. We financed the range primarily with seized drug money. The range has 40 lanes, with 20 of those lanes capable of firing at 100 yards. We will be opening the range to other Tampa Bay area law enforcement agencies, but also offering it to our retirees who want to qualify under HR 218. As you know, HR 218 allows retired law enforcement officers who qualify on a range to carry concealed firearms in other jurisdictions.

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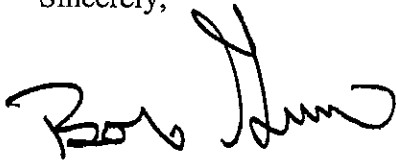
St. Petersburg College is currently the only entity in Pinellas County offering the HR 218 qualification and they charge a fee of \$100 for the course.

The Sheriff's Office will be offering HR 218 qualification to our retirees at no charge. Furthermore, if the weapon you are qualifying with was an agency issued weapon given to you upon retirement, we will provide the ammunition. If you are qualifying with another weapon you will need to provide your own ammunition. The Sheriff's Office will provide the targets and other necessary equipment.

The first HR 218 qualification day for retirees will be on March 15, 2012 at either 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 or 2:00 p.m. The qualification course will take approximately one hour to complete. We ask that you register for qualifying that day by calling our Training Division at 727-453-7971. A subsequent qualification date will be April 12 at the same times listed above. Beginning in May 2012, HR 218 qualification will be available on the third Saturday of each month at the times listed above. Please call Training at 727-453-7971 with any questions.

Again, I have a strong commitment to our retirees and my door is always open to discuss any issues of concern you may have. Feel free to come see me, call me on my cell at 727-251-5105 or send me an e-mail at rgualtieri@pcsonet.com. I thank all of you for your service and I wish you a great and well-deserved retirement!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gualtieri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County, Florida

BG/tw