



## FLORIDA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER



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## ARE YOU READY?

### 2025 Southern States Crime Prevention Conference

This year's conference will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in the Disney Springs area. This is always a popular location so start making plans now to secure your spot! The week is guaranteed to be packed with information and will feature crime prevention experts from various organizations. Come learn about the latest tips, trends, and technology in crime-fighting and share the information with your agency to grow your program and foster positive public relations and a safer community. Just a short walk from Disney Springs and a short drive from Downtown Orlando, you'll have plenty of opportunities for evening networking and entertainment as well!



# A Message **FROM the PRESIDENT**



**Joe Bermudez, FCPA President**

Hello Fellow Crime Fighters,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying this new year! It's hard to believe that it's already been six months since our last conference, and that 2025 is flying by! The FCPA board is gearing up for another fantastic year, and we're excited to dive into the planning of our 56th Annual FCPA Crime Prevention Conference, set to take place at the Drury Plaza Hotel Disney Springs in beautiful Lake Buena Vista, FL!

This year promises to be another exceptional event, and as always, we value your input. If you've attended a class or

heard a speaker you'd love to see at the conference, or if you have ideas for sessions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Regional Director. They'll be happy to pass along your suggestions to our training committee. Do you have a successful program at your agency that you're proud of? We'd love to hear from you! You might just get the chance to share it with your peers at the conference.

I also want to highlight our Savvy Seniors program. A free, 4-hour seminar on fraud prevention for senior citizens. These seminars are available at no cost to your agency or community organizations, and they're a great way to give back while educating those who need it most.

We're also looking ahead to this year's awards season, and I encourage you all to think about those deserving of recognition. If you've seen exceptional work being done in your region, don't forget to nominate! And of course, I want to remind you that the FCPA community is always here to provide support and guidance as we work together to make our communities safer.

Thanks for all the amazing work you do — and here's to another year of progress, success, and crime prevention!

# News from Around the State

# REGION 1



By Patrick Frazier, Region 1 Director

Greetings from Region 1. Our crime trends in the Northwest Florida area have stayed pretty consistent. We are continuously seeing scams that target the elderly population. They are most often contacting the victims via phone calls, text messages, or emails with different scams that range anywhere from trying to get the victims personal information (phishing) or trying to get the victims to send them money. One new scam that started surfacing recently via text messages is the “Pay your Toll Fee” scam. These texts messages are sent out to potential victims stating that they have unpaid tolls and to keep them from being fined or losing their license they need to submit a payment via a link that is included in the text message. I know numerous people, me included, who have received these types of scamming text messages.

In other crime trends, we are still seeing residential burglaries where the car keys are being taken, and the criminals are also stealing the victim's car and using the vehicle to commit other crimes. We are also still seeing a lot of cases of vehicle burglaries where the vehicles are being left unlocked.

Other than that, Spring Break is in full swing, and the beaches are packed here in Pensacola as I am sure they are everywhere across Florida. So, you guys and gals keep fighting the good fight and Stay Safe!





## News from Around the State

# REGION 4



By Susan Pratt, Region 4 Director



The University of Florida Police Department, would like to thank Steve Daley for bringing a [radKIDS](#) Instructor Course to Gainesville, Florida. Giving these new instructors the help to empower children in an amazing way! The Personal Empowerment Safety Education of our children!



Did you know that the Gainesville Police Department partners with Safe Kids Northeast Georgia? This partnership provides officers the training needed to identify, and correct car seat misuse. Recently, Officer Manuel Remes successfully completed the required course to become a certified car seat technician.



The Marion County Sheriff's Office wants to introduce their newest Crime Fighting Partner. They have reached out to the Community to help name this beautiful Draft-Cross Mix from Amish country. Welcome!

## News from Around the State

# REGION 4



By Susan Pratt, Region 4 Director



Kudos to the **Alachua County Sheriff's Office** for recognizing the hard working ladies during the first Women's Leadership Academy in our state!



What an amazing day the **Citrus County Sheriff's Office** had at the Safety and Community Awareness Day alongside Citrus County Fire Rescue and the **Inverness Fire Department**! Teaching kids about the vital role of first responders is so important, and today's event was a perfect opportunity to bring that message to life. Two of their deputies and an amazing Communications Officer attended alongside Fire Rescue, which had a fire apparatus, a rescue, and the Fire Safety House with them!



It's essential for students to understand and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our first responders, who are always ready to help in times of need. The enthusiasm and curiosity of the students made the day even more memorable!

# News from Around the State **REGION**



## By Josh Fleischer, Region 6 Director

Hello from Region 6. I hope everyone begun this New Year off right. I am Detective Josh Fleischer with the Holmes Beach Police Department and the FCPA Region 6 Director. In Region 6, we continued to see a rise in Contractor Fraud, FEMA Fraud, Vehicle Burglaries, Vehicle Tag Thefts, AI Scams, and Construction Site Thefts.

If you are in Region 6, which is Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, and Highlands counties, I want to remind you that the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association meets every second Wednesday of the month at 0930 and meet in a different county every month. We have a general meeting and hold a training session. The training changes every month. We also discuss what has been trending in our region. If you are in our area and would like to get on our email list about our upcoming meetings and trainings, please email Cynthia Sharp at [Cynthia.Sharp@lakelandgov.net](mailto:Cynthia.Sharp@lakelandgov.net) who is the Florida Crime Prevention Association member at large and also the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association Secretary.

Region 6 has been busy since the conference as I am sure everyone has been. If you want to grow your social media, I invite you to check out the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Facebook, Instagram, and X, to see some awesome Crime Prevention videos. There is a new video posted every Wednesday.

The State College of Florida, all Manatee County Law Enforcement agencies, and Department of Transportation partnered in February for the second annual Operation Spring into Safety. This event was a free, family-friendly interactive touch-a-truck, health and safety event. Families got to come see the large construction equipment used to build roads and bridges, Law Enforcement Vehicles, Helicopters, Fire and Rescue Vehicles, Food Trucks, and much more. We also had helmet fitting and a bike confidence course.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Manatee Sheriff's Office, Palmetto Police Department, Bradenton Police Department, and the Holmes Beach Police Department partnered with Manatee Bridging the Gap for their annual Fishing Tournament. The event brought Law Enforcement together with kids from the community in a positive manner. Some of these kids have never been fishing before. To make things extra special this year AMI Dolphin Tours also joined the event to give the kids a boat ride and tour of the Manatee River.

Lastly the Polk County Law Enforcement area has also been busy since the 2024 conference. The agencies have participated in Cops for Kids, provided 400 families with toys and meals, held their annual Kiwanis Pancake Festival and touch-a-truck, and started "Project Prom". This new project partners law enforcement with local businesses in the mall to provide kids with prom select formal wear, shoes, and jewelry at no cost to them.

Here in Region 6, we continue to strive to bring more businesses, community, and law enforcement together with new initiatives and projects. We look forward to continuing these initiatives and providing more information at our next update.

# News from Around the State **REGION**



## By Damian Spotts, Region 7 Director

First and foremost, I hope this message finds you well and that you are having a great start to 2025. And no, this was not written by ChatGPT Lol. I actually like to personally wish my email recipients well, unlike ChatGPT, which commonly uses it as a greeting.

Looking around at the happenings amongst the agencies within Region 7, I see a fair mix of activities related to crime fighting and community engagement. Back in the day, crime prevention units were “just that” but these days, those units are commonly becoming very busy community engagement units. I am quite sure many department community engagement units are breathing a little sigh of a relief from the community event this past holiday season.

Apart from the usual “Coffee with a Cop” events, some agencies are expanding that concept and adding elements like Vero Beach Police Department’s “Coffee with a Cop Sock Drive” or the “Cops and Teen Talk” hosted by Jupiter Police Department. The concept remains similar with a goal of community engagement but the scope of the audience is broadened and or targeted by adding the different elements.

We all know coffee is a great draw for many people and is frequently used as a fulcrum for engagement. But, Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office is switching gears and taking advantage of a natural resource, their lake, and engaging their community by a fishing oriented event known as Hook’n’Specks.

It is nice to see agencies going outside the box and using unique outreach opportunities. In the case of Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, they used a holiday to engage their audience, specifically Valentine’s Day to seek Valentines. But these Valentines will be greeted with handcuffs instead of flowers and offered a free, all-inclusive stay at a local gated resort.

Not that tax season really has much to do with it anymore, but scams are always around and agencies are diligently putting out information through their social media platforms to inform the public about the newest and the latest scams. Many scammers are impersonating local law-enforcement officials or State and Federal agencies, such as the IRS or Florida’s Sunpass Authority to defraud people. Many of these scams are just old scams that are recycled and put back into circulation with a renewed appearance. Kind of like bell bottom jeans and Pokemon, eventually they’re gonna come back.

Whatever it is that you are out there doing, enjoy it and your community. Have fun seeing the fruits of your labor. It is a lot of work coordinating all the events and activities related to crime prevention and community engagement, but the net result is a better community for all to enjoy and live within. With that said, I look forward to seeing many of you at our conference this October. Our FCPA Board of Directors are already diligently planning the conference this year, which will be back in Orlando Florida. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and FCPA website for updates related to the conference.

Until next time, “see an opportunity, take an opportunity to spread the word of crime prevention”



# News from Around the State

# REGION

# 8



By Peter Judge, Region 8 Director



**BSO Deputy Taryn Session was featured in the COPS Office PhotoContest of the Year**

Region Eight, which covers Broward County, Miami-Dade County and Monroe County have many events up including an historic change.

The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Dania Beach District, Neighborhood Resource Team, made it to the big time and had their photo included in the COPS Office PhotoContest of the Year. In the photo below our own BSO Deputy Taryn Sessions is seen during a shopping with a cop event. Congratulations Deputy Sessions.

For our historic event in the region, The Miami-Dade Police Department closed its doors and became the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO). The MDSO is looking forward to the future.

Region eight is also gearing up for Spring Break 2025, The Hyundai Air and Sea Show, US Navy Fleet Week, The Dade County Youth Fair, the Biscayne Bay (Baynanza) Bay clean up, Calle Ocho Music Festival, Nascar Cup Series, and the Florida Marlins start spring training.

Region Eight is looking forward to a safe and eventful springtime.





Are You Ready?

# CONFERENCE '25



In today's changing environment, it is more important than ever for crime prevention professionals to educate themselves and stay on top of new laws, trends and technology to map their path to success. The FCPA Crime Prevention Conference makes it possible to accomplish all of that in one place. We have all the experts and tools to help you map the future. Make your plans now to attend!

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Crime Prevention Officers & staff
- Homeland Security Analyst
- DARE Officers
- School Resource Officers
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Security Officers
- Community Police Officers
- Community Liaison Officers
- Loss Prevention Managers
- Government Officials
- American Society for Industrial Security Members
- Business owners
- Security personnel
- Law Enforcement personnel

Attendees, Exhibitors and Sponsors can register online at:  
<https://conference.floridacrimeprevention.org/registration2.html>

# Southern States Crime Prevention ANNUAL CONFERENCE **CALL FOR SPEAKERS**



The Florida Crime Prevention Association is looking for dynamic presentations for our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference that provides how-to content, best practices, and thought-provoking ideas. All with a focus on how to reach new levels of performance and motivate the pursuit of excellence in Crime Prevention.

2025 Conference Dates: October 20 – 24, 2025  
Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, FL

<http://Conference.FloridaCrimePrevention.org>

We are especially interested in train-the-trainer programs that are ready to roll out to the community. Attendees express a strong desire for presentations that are engaging, enjoyable, and applicable in the “real world” of crime prevention. Other desirable features:

- Leading-edge information and emerging trends in the field of crime prevention.
- Practical strategies for improvement and innovative, non-traditional approaches.
- Tangible implementation tool(s) such as PowerPoints and handouts.

All classes must be train-the-trainer. Our attendees should be able to take what has been presented and institute it in their communities. Speakers can create two PowerPoints – one for the train-the-trainer and one for our members to take back and use in their community.

Here are a few topic ideas:

- Building Bridges between Law Enforcement and the Community
- Cybercrime
- Youth Crime Prevention
- Human Trafficking Education
- Crime Prevention for College Students
- Internet Safety
- Outstanding Agency Prevention Programs
- Social Media
- Auto Theft Prevention
- Latest in alarms, cameras and other Crime Prevention Technology
- Health & Fitness for Crime Prevention Officers “Eating and Staying Healthy on the Run”
- CPTED for Houses of Worship and Schools

# Southern States Crime Prevention ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

## BE A WINNER!

### Submit your 2025 Award Nominations

Awards packets for the 2025 Annual Southern States Crime Prevention Conference are now available online at <https://conference.floridacrimeprevention.org/awards2.html>.

Final submissions are due by 5pm no later than  
September 19, 2025.

Categories include the following:

- Outstanding Crime Prevention Program
- Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year
- Crime Prevention Unit of the Year - Large Agency
- Crime Prevention Unit of the Year - Small Agency
- Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award - the Lifetime Achievement Award is presented solely at the discretion of the FCPA Board of Directors to a person who has spent at least 10 years in the Crime Prevention field and has proven their dedication to the area of Crime Prevention.





# Southern States Crime Prevention ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

