



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Changes Worker's Compensation Carrier

Effective October 1, 2019, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) employees will be covered by a new worker's compensation carrier. Sheriff Rick Staly directed the Sheriff's Office Risk Management Unit to explore other carriers for the state required insurance after becoming dissatisfied with the current carrier's handling and denial of employee claims related to illnesses reported by employees. These illnesses are believed to be related to the Flagler County owned Sheriff's Operations building at 901 East Moody Boulevard in Bunnell, which was abandoned by all personnel on June 15, 2018.

On July 24, 2019, FCSO's Chief of Staff Mark Strobridge notified the Florida Sheriff's Risk Management Group (FSRM) that the FCSO would not be renewing the worker's compensation coverage effective October 1, 2019. Instead, FCSO selected coverage through the Public Risk Insurance Advisors (PRIA).

PRIA is Florida's largest government entity insurance brokerage and currently handles worker's compensation coverage for the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners and several Sheriff's Offices including Jefferson, Gilchrist, Sarasota, Orange, and Lake Counties. The non-renewal notice was sent to FSRM just days after the carrier agreed to settle all worker's compensation claims with several dozen FCSO employees over building-related claims.

"Our deputies put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect our community and I expect our insurance partners to stand with us," said Sheriff Staly. "Our employees should not have to worry about fighting for coverage. They need to know that our insurance carriers will be there if they need them. I did not like the way employees were treated and I continually expressed that, which fell on deaf ears, so we changed carriers."

PRIA has guaranteed rates for two years, which is expected to save taxpayers over \$450,000.00 dollars in premiums. FCSO's new Risk Management program, using data analytics and best practices, is decreasing claims and costs that is anticipated to lead to further rate reductions or cost avoidance in the future.

FSRM will continue to provide the FCSO with General Liability, Automobile and other coverage.

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