



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO
International Secretary-Treasurer

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

I am writing today to bring to your attention a situation that is having a negative impact on the survivors of public safety officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

The year of 2021 saw a 55% increase in line of duty deaths for police officers, attributed mainly to COVID, which was, by statute, deemed "line of duty". This year, in addition to COVID, both the Senate and the House have passed legislation that will deem many public safety suicides as well as total disability "line of duty". The President is expected to sign this into law. As a result of these changes, which we applaud, has come a far greater incidence of survivor filings for P.S.O.B. benefits. Your Bureau of Justice Assistance is a productive and remarkable unit. They are always available to answer questions and concerns from both survivors and the organizations that represent them, however, they have not received additional staffing as a result of these increases in claims, which has understandably resulted in longer processing times.

These processing times are critical for these survivors, many of whom have had their family incomes either disappear or become reduced to the point of real hardship. These survivors deserve better.

I urge you to look at the current staffing of B.J.A. and make adjustments and additions, as needed, to minimize the waiting time for these survivors. It is critical for these spouses and children to try to get on with their lives.

I thank you in advance for any consideration you might give this request.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam A. Cabral". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam A. Cabral
International President