

Date September 17, 2021

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Sept. 17, 2021



This week, I filed a brief in support of a suit filed by 200 City of Gainesville employees, including police officers, against the local government's COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The mandate requires every city employee to be vaccinated or risk losing their job. I joined Governor Ron DeSantis at a news conference to speak out against this unlawful mandate and to voice support for our brave law enforcement officers.

This is not about whether to get a COVID-19 vaccine or not. I'm vaccinated, and I encourage every eligible Floridian to talk with their families and medical providers about receiving the vaccine. However, local governments forcing compliance by our first responders—our law enforcement—is wrong, unlawful and threatens public safety.

Following national trends, Florida is facing staffing shortages in law enforcement. Many officers have retired or left the profession, and agencies are trying to fill those vacancies. Forcing officers out of their jobs over a vaccine exacerbates the retention and recruitment issues and, frankly, makes our state less safe.

Fewer officers on patrol and on the job can lead to longer emergency response times—benefitting no one but criminals. Firing essential first responders over such a personal medical decision is the last thing we should do—more importantly, it violates Florida law.

To read more about the brief filed in the Darris Friend, et al. v. City of Gainesville case, click [here](#).

We've trusted our police officers and sheriff's deputies to keep us safe, and we should trust them to make personal decisions about their own safety.

As your Attorney General, know that I'm in your corner, standing up against this egregious overreach of power and fighting to build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Ashley Moody vows fight against Joe Biden vaccine mandate, Florida Politics

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DeSantis, Moody vow to support Gainesville employees in fight against vaccine mandate, Gainesville Sun

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Attorney General Ashley Moody gives her support to city employees challenging Gainesville vaccine mandate, WTSP Tampa Bay

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10th Florida man arrested in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance fraud scheme, CBS 12 West Palm Beach

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Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody joins push against Biden admins' vaccine requirements, Orlando Weekly

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