Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - July 1, 2022

This week, in recognition of National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day, I urged any law enforcement officer who may be struggling, to seek help. According to reports, approximately 100,000 officers in the United States suffer from PTSD, and first responders are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

<u>In 2021</u>, more than 250 law enforcement officers, firefighters, correctional officers and first responders nationwide committed suicide—that includes 22 in Florida.

Our officers are exposed to traumatic events while serving, and these experiences can leave them suffering in silence. That is why I am highlighting organizations committed to addressing this important issue—like the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay.

Shortly after taking office, I presented the center with a cabinet resolution for its then-regional law enforcement mental health support line: <u>First to Respond</u>. <u>Last to Ask for Help</u>.

This free, confidential help line is staffed by professionals who understand the trauma officers suffer. The line is now available statewide by dialing 1(866) 4FL-HERO. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline also offers 24/7 counseling—simply call 1(800) 273-TALK.

Supporting our law enforcement heroes and ensuring they have the resources they need is a mission close to my heart. So please, if you are struggling or know someone who is, seek help. This simple step may be your bravest act yet.



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