

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In sharp contrast to candidate Scott Israel's recent assertions during the heated race for Broward County Sheriff, accusing current Sheriff Al Lamberti of fostering racial profiling and an imbalance in minorities at the Broward Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Lamberti has released a strong statement of concern combating Israel's allegations.

"I am disgusted by Israel's unfounded and completely baseless slander campaign against me personally and the agency I have served with honor and integrity for over 30 years", said Lamberti. My personal record is spotless and Israel's is far from it. You don't just go around making terrible accusations about my 6300 BSO employees without a fight from me", Lamberti stated. "This is filthy politics at its worst and a testament to Israel's desperation now that the recent polls have me 10 points ahead of him in the election. He can't come to the realization that the citizens are not buying his lies".

"Furthermore, says Lamberti, "BSO is made up of over 48% minorities and it has been widely reported in the media that I have made enormous strides at BSO recently by appointing the first Sheriff's Commission on Diversity and Equal Opportunity, headed by Dr. Henry Mack, one of the most respected civil rights leaders in South Florida. I have also commissioned the first BSO Hate Crimes/Anti Prejudice Task Force. What has Israel done in his career on these important issues, except have 10 separate internal affairs investigations launched against him for use of excessive force against minorities." Five of the investigation files are still missing!" stated the Sheriff.

"I am frankly disappointed that some of our most active minority community leaders are endorsing Israel without fully investigating his background and reputation for violence against minorities", says Lamberti. "It looks like it is politics as usual with little or no consideration for comparative professionalism. It is shameful.", said the Sheriff.

Sheriff Lamberti has been endorsed by both the *Sun-Sentinel* and *Miami Herald*, and by many bipartisan, community, political and union leaders. Most recently he received the election recommendation of Equality Florida, a statewide advocacy organization dedicated to ending discrimination. The general election takes place November 4