

For Immediate Release July 18, 2022

Florida COPS take over \$1 Million in Pension Cash Bonuses!



“Over \$1 million in cash pension bonuses abuses taxpayers,” said Dave Jaye, researcher, <https://tripleddippers.org/>. “No one in the private sector collects a paycheck and a pension at the same time to do the same job—but Florida COPS can for 8 years!

The Top 13 Baker’s Dozen of Florida COP Triple Dippers are taking \$11.8 Million in Pension Cash Bonuses and \$2.3 Million in Salaries at the same time to do the same job. Palm Beach Sheriff employees take 11/13 TOP Florida Pension Cash Bonuses!

“Huge taxpayer-paid Pension cash bonuses are “Golden Handcuffs” whereby Officers who are burned out physically, and mentally, want to retire, to stay on to work to take the maximum taxpayer-paid pension bonus, denying younger, healthier, quicker and better-educated officers to be promoted. Taxpayers, next in line promote younger officers and law-abiding citizens suffer. Law enforcement is a young man/women’s profession.” Triple Dippers is formally called the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) where “Public Servants” collect a salary and interest-earning pension at the same time to do the same job and don’t pay 3% of salary into the Florida Pension system like every other Florida public employee. Triple Dippers receive five years and now for COPS, eight years of these pension payments as a lump sum cash pension bonus and continue receiving their pension payments when they retire for the second time. See the entire Florida DROP Triple Dipper List sorted by full name, employer, first retirement date and projected retirement cash bonus at <https://tripleddippers.org/fl-statewide-2022-april-29305-tripleddippers/>

“Florida’s Triple Dippers are greedy. How many luxury cars, vacation homes, and gourmet meals can one person reasonably use?” asked Dave Jaye. “These Million-dollar Pension cash bonuses should be used to pay for tutors for High School and College students and give younger people a chance at these jobs to start a family, and buy a home instead of fattening the paycheck of overpaid, over-the-hill top COP brass and bureaucrats.”

In 2022, the Florida Legislature and Governor increased Pension Cash Bonus collection time from 5 to 8 years, a 60% hike, for the most senior and highest-paid COPS and their Secretaries (Special Risk and Administrative support) creating Pension Cash bonuses of over \$1 million after 25 years of employment or age 55!
<https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/fl/2022/bills/FLB00027524/>

Alexander Casas, 53, Chief of Police of Florida International University is Florida’s Triple Dipper King, collecting a Pension Cash bonus of \$1.1 Million and a Salary of \$250,668 at the same time to do the same job and not paying 3% of his salary into the Florida Pension system \$7,520 each year.

The top 13 Florida Police Baker's Dozen Triple Dippers are:

	First	Last	Employer	Current Age	Job	Pension Cash Bonus 5 years	Salary	Pension Cash Bonus with 8 years	First Retirement Date	Pension Cash Bonus Date	
1	ALEXANDER	CASAS	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	53	Chief of Police	\$ 1,127,499	\$ 250,668	\$ 1,860,373	12/1/2020	11/30/2025	alcasas@bellsouth.net
2	JAMES	HIGHTOWER	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	54	Sergeant	\$1,017,759	\$ 121,344	\$ 1,679,302	7/1/2019	6/30/2024	hightowerj@pbso.org
3	SEAN	MURRAY	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	53	Major	\$1,002,042	\$ 213,888	\$ 1,653,369	6/1/2020	5/31/2025	murraysp@pbso.org
4	ERIC	COLEMAN	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	56	Major	\$983,533	\$213,888	\$ 1,622,829	4/1/2021	3/31/2026	ericcoleman134@gmail.com
5	RONALD	MATTINO	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	56	Major	\$928,227	\$213,888	\$ 1,531,575	1/1/2018	12/31/2022	mattinor@pbso.org
6	MALORA	DUPLANTIS	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	52	Deputy	\$861,579	\$ 111,108	\$1,421,605	7/1/2021	6/26/2026	mdduplantis@att.net
7	ROY	VRCHOTA	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	50	Major	\$ 856,401	\$ 195,852	\$ 1,413,062	7/1/2020	6/30/2025	wyoezridr@gmail.com
8	TIMOTHY	MCCANN	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	53	Sergeant	\$ 856,126	\$121,344	\$ 1,412,608	7/1/2020	6/30/2025	mccannt@pbso.org
9	CHRISTOPHER	KEANE	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	53	Major	\$ 839,805	\$106,320	\$ 1,385,678	3/1/2021	2/28/2026	keane5348@comcast.net
10	DELMA	NOEL-PRATT	CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS	52	Chief of Police	\$839,475	\$190,938	\$ 1,385,134	7/1/2021	6/30/2026	purplecop@hotmail.com
11	ERIC	MONATH	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	52	Lieutenant	\$830,704	\$138,492	\$ 1,370,662	7/1/2021	6/30/2026	ericm315@aol.com
12	ALFONSO	STARLING	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	56	Colonel	\$819,441	\$228,564	\$ 1,352,077	3/1/2018	2/28/2023	starlinga@pbso.org
13	JOHN	PRIESCHL	PALM BEACH CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	54	Colonel	\$818,654	\$ 228,564	\$ 1,350,780	8/1/2019	7/31/2024	prieschli@pbso.org
						\$ 11,781,245	\$ 2,334,858	\$ 19,439,054			

Only 52% of private-sector employers offer a 401(k) employee-funded retirement plan. The private sector employer 401K median is only a 3% match, [https://20somethingfinance.com/401k-match/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Bureau%20of,sad%20statistic%20in%20itself\)%3A](https://20somethingfinance.com/401k-match/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Bureau%20of,sad%20statistic%20in%20itself)%3A)

The Florida Legislature in 2022 additionally increased the taxpayer paid match of “Public Servant” salary by 3% across the board, a new annual \$373.5 million tax burden on Florida taxpayers. Triple Dippers still don’t pay a penny of their salary into the pension system, but the Taxpayer paid match of Triple Dipper Salaries increases to 21.34% compared to 13.82% for Regular Class Employees and 69.73% for Legislators and the Governor. In 2012 the taxpayer-paid salary match for DROP Triple Dippers was 4.33%. <https://www.myfrs.com/pdf/newsletters/rp/20220401Newsletter.pdf> <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7038/Analyses/2022s07038.ap.PDF> The Florida Legislature creates Million-dollar Cash bonuses for “Public Servants” but passed a law to allow schools to avoid paying the 7.65% employer Social Security and Medicare share of Substitute teacher and other substitute School Employee pay.

Add the Cherry on the top – these Triple Dippers are cashing out their unused days off at their final highest salary, not the salary when the days were earned taking more money from taxpayers and artificially spiking their final year's pay on which their pensions are calculated. Collecting a paycheck and a pension at the same time, Triple Dippers can afford to delay Social Security which then increases 8% per year to age 70. That's about a 40% increase in Social Security payments! Triple Dippers is formally called the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).

“Giving “Public Servants” a paycheck and a pension at the same time to do the same job has led to **\$36 Billion in unfunded Florida Retirement obligations**, a \$1,675 liability for every man, woman and child in Florida! <https://alec.org/publication/unaccountable-and-unaffordable-2020/>

“Triple Dippers are Greedy are taking a salary with huge benefits and interest-bearing pension at the same time to do the same job while living next to neighbors who lost their job or businesses, retirement savings, children's college savings funds and possibly their cars and homes,” said Dave Jaye. “Ending the Triple Dipper program Statewide would create approximately 29,305 new jobs--without cutting a single Government position! Hiring entry-level employees to replace Triple Dippers saves approximately 40% --\$840 million, plus approximately \$62.8 Million that Triple Dippers don't pay 3% of pay into the Florida pension.” Law enforcement employees typically collect huge amounts of overtime which results in even higher outrageous pension cash bonuses.

“The Florida Legislature and Governor should require current Triple Dippers to contribute 3% of pay to the State Pension program just like every other ‘Public Servant’ and increase the ‘Public Servant’ contribution from 3% to 5% as proposed by then-Governor Rick Scott. Retirement cash bonuses should be eliminated”.
<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2011-02-01-fl-scott-announces-pension-reforms-20110201-story.html>

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