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State Representative Fentrice Driskell Spearheads Bi-Partisan Police Reform Bill

Tallahassee, FL - Today, the Florida House Judiciary Committee issued a bipartisan legislative proposal which establishes statewide standards for police misconduct and updated training.

The proposed bill, PCB JDC 21-01, will update training standards across the state related to the use of force and require a third-party review of cases involving deaths or gunshot wounds, law enforcement agencies to preserve a record of officers' termination, resignation, or retirements for at least five years, and require officers applying for new roles to submit a sworn affidavit disclosing if they're under investigation or have been terminated for cause.

"When we can focus on policy in a bi-partisan way, we are able to develop solutions for Floridians' most pressing needs and concerns," **said Representative Driskell** (District 63-Tampa). "With this legislation, we will help make our communities safer by establishing policies that foster better relations between our residents and law enforcement. Here, we are able to lift up our first responders and those who put their lives on the line doing this work while also building bridges to the community, and especially to communities of color. This is the positive impact that we endeavour to have in this process.

Representative Driskell will be the co-prime sponsor of this legislation. Driskell serves as Policy Chair for the Florida House Democrats and ranking Democratic member on the House Judiciary Committee and spearheaded negotiations between the Florida Black Legislative Caucus, House Democrats and House Republicans. Stakeholder groups including law enforcement associations and community organizations were engaged during the process.

These efforts come on the heels of protests demanding accountability and transparency from Florida's law enforcement institutions. The bill also prohibits arresting children under 7-years-old unless they commit a 'forcible felony' which is a direct response to the outrage that sparked after a 6-year-old Orlando student was arrested in 2019.

"We have to be very careful to protect the most vulnerable in our society, which includes our children," **Driskell said**. "And we have to have policies in place with accountability and training for

officers to intervene so that what happened to George Floyd and countless others does not happen in our state.”

State Representative Fentrice Driskell represents Florida House District 63, which is located in Hillsborough County and includes the Tampa-area communities of Carrollwood, Lake Magdalene, Lutz, University, New Tampa, and Pebble Creek.

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Paid for and approved by Fentrice Driskell, Democrat, for Florida House District 63

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