



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**ASHLEY MOODY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

October 21, 2019

**By Hand Delivery**

Senator Bill Galvano  
305 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear President Galvano:

My niece was outside playing and heard the first shots ring out at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018. She lost a dear friend due to the acts of an evil person and the cumulative failure of the criminal justice system. The Parkland families deserve accountability.

Accountability requires acceptance of responsibility by leaders for their unit's failures, especially when failures are repeated. Here, there is evidence of repeated failures by the Broward Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Israel's leadership. Parkland was the second active shooter incident in two years. And, while any incident like this is naturally confusing and chaotic, law enforcement is expected to have policies and training in place that eliminate or minimize that confusion and chaos and to learn from past incidents. That did not happen under Sheriff Israel's leadership. As detailed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission's Initial Report, which is in evidence, the Broward Sheriff's Office radio system failed for a second time during an active shooter incident. Similarly, the Commission found a lack of training in responding to active shooter situations and a failure to establish a command post and take control of coordinating a tactical response. (Report p. 167-69, 197-99, 228-29.) This was not just one deputy, or a handful of deputies, failing to respond appropriately, follow procedures or file reports. This was the failure of an organization led by Sheriff Israel that failed to protect the Parkland families.

Governor DeSantis made a difficult, but well thought out and supported decision, to remove Sheriff Israel. To ensure the safety of Broward County and accountability of our leaders, the Senate should support the Governor's decision, as I do, and uphold Sheriff Israel's suspension and remove him from office.

Sincerely,