

Sheriff



Ben F. Johnson
VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

123 W. Indiana Avenue
P.O. Box 569
DeLand, FL 32721-0569

April 10, 2008

Mr. Albert Prevatt, Sr.

Dear Mr. Prevatt:

As you are aware, Inspector Paul C. Decker forwarded your letter regarding concerns at the Volusia County Jail to me. The only two concerns you brought forth which would fall under my jurisdiction would be the deaths to which you referred. I asked Captain Jim Melady to research these deaths and he reported the following:

John V. Nelson, II, DOB: 01/07/43, died at the Volusia County Branch Jail on December 19, 2006. Volusia County Sheriff's Office Major Case Investigator John Johnson responded and conducted the death investigation in conjunction with the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office. This death was ruled Natural.

Ronald Wadsworth, DOB: 10/31/63, was released from the jail to a nursing home. According to the Medical Examiners Office, Mr. Wadsworth died on June 30, 2007. Their office took jurisdiction over the case only to review the records and signed the death certificate, labeling the death as Natural. *The Volusia County Sheriff's Office was not in any way involved in investigating the death of Mr. Wadsworth, which is typical of a natural death from a nursing home.*

Any complaints/allegations regarding failure to follow jail procedures should be and are being addressed by the Volusia County Department of Corrections and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Sincerely,

Ben F. Johnson
Sheriff

BFJ:sp/0401.0172.08

cc: Inspector General Paul C. Decker, Florida Department of Corrections
Victoria G. Marsey, FDLF, Bureau of Standards, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program
Director Marilyn Ford, Volusia County Corrections
Assistant County Attorney Nancy Jones