

January 16, 2008

Michael Crews
Director FDLE
P.O. Box 1489
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489

ATTENTION: MR. CREWS

Dear Mr. Crews:

First, let me introduce myself to you: My name is Albert L. Prevatt, Sr. and I have worked for the Division of Corrections for Volusia County, located in Daytona Beach, Florida for approximately the last 18 + years, since I was honorably discharged from the US Army. I have, in effect, sacrificed my entire career as a Correctional Officer with the county to expose the widespread corruptions in the Volusia County Division of Corrections, under Director Cindy Clifford.

It was recently brought to my attention by the county themselves that they had submitted a CJSTC-78 form against me to FDLE, in a feeble attempt to discredit my professional reputation and integrity with you, as a senior law enforcement officer and to try to convince you that I am totally unreliable and of questionable moral character. This is, in reality, nothing more than a sly ploy of deception on their part to try to prevent me from being credible in your initial opinion of me. The county has deliberately and maliciously fabricated extremely damaging allegations that hold no merit against me because they knew I was going to report numerous wrongdoings and illegal criminal activity to you, that has been going on for sometime now, under the direction of Director Cindy Clifford, who is quite conveniently announcing her retirement in February of 2008.

Some of these illegal/criminal activities include, and are not limited to:

- (1) The suspicious death of Inmate Jack Nelson on 12/19/06: Three different officers confessed to falsifying documentation and failing to make required rounds to check on this inmate's welfare during the night while he was incarcerated and under county custody, in an attempt to cover up this unfortunate and very critical and highly volatile event. As a disciplinary action, they were given a 10 day suspension

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for two of the officers involved and the other officer received only a two day suspension. The two officers who initially received the 10 day suspension had this suspension reduced to only five days and then were given five days of overtime to compensate for the so called "suspension," so consequently, they lost no money, whatsoever, in this "punishment." The other officer with the two day suspension was then promoted to sergeant by Director Clifford, not long after this terrible event occurred. Interestingly enough, an event of this magnitude was never even given to the Internal Affairs officer, Capt. K. Modzelewski, for an investigation, or I suspect, to FDLE. Shocking, isn't it?

- (2) Sergeant B. Waddoups confided to me that he was given a very "high" annual evaluation by Lieutenant Moore. As a result, Director Clifford told another lieutenant, W. McClelland, that this officer's evaluation was to be "redone," because of the extremely high rating he received. The interesting fact in regard to this "do over," is that Sergeant Waddoups never directly worked under the direction or supervision of this lieutenant, but Lieutenant McClelland did, in fact, re-evaluate Sergeant Waddoups' performance rating, per Director Clifford's instructions and dropped it eleven points below the original rating, even though his performance was totally unknown to this evaluator. Surprisingly enough, this happens on a regular basis at the jail, Mr. Crews, and when sergeant Waddoups complained to Director Clifford, she then **raised** his evaluation back **up** another six points in an attempt to not only shut him up, but to make herself look like a fair, concerned, and impartial advocate for her officers. This same lieutenant, W. McClelland, coincidentally, also did my annual evaluation in the past two years and he gave me a similar bogus evaluation and undercut my work performance because of the same situation of not working directly over me as my supervisor and knowing anything about my work performance firsthand. I too, appealed to Director Clifford, who once again "came to the rescue of her officers" and increased my contested evaluation up a whole half a point. Director Clifford, who now realized that she could depend upon Lieutenant McClelland to do her bidding, promoted Lieutenant McClelland to a Captain status, after these evaluations.
- (3) There was another record of a death of an inmate who was in the clinic at the Volusia County Branch Jail. His name was Inmate Ronald Wadsworth, a 43 year old white male. While in the clinic, due to his illness, he deteriorated at a very

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rapid rate. At the time, I voiced my concerns for this inmate to one of the nurses and I was told to "Shut the fuck up" and "mind my own business." This inmate had horrific bed sores and he had to be fed through a straw. This inmate died on 6/30/07. He was, unfortunately, in a vegetative state and no threat to anyone whatsoever. I felt that I had tried on more than one occasion to do the best that I could on this inmate's behalf, to help rectify this situation, but to no avail; no one would listen to me. It was all so needless, as he could have died at home with his family, rather than be incarcerated.

- (4) Warden Neel's son, Justin Neel, who also worked at the Volusia County Branch Jail, was involved with female inmates and it was not only unreported, but it was NEVER investigated by Internal Affairs by Captain K. Modzelewski for criminal conduct or official misconduct on his part and no criminal charges were ever filed. I firmly believe that FDLE was never notified of this either, as he obtained a job at the Tomoka State Prison shortly after this.
- (5) Captain Thomas McAllister's son brought contraband in for an inmate in violation Of FS 951.22, **a third degree felony**. Again, no criminal charges were filed, nor any internal investigation initiated by Captain Modzelewski of Internal Affairs in this serious infraction of the law. Shortly thereafter, I happened to overhear Lieutenant Gray talking to another officer in regard to this incident and when he became aware that I was present, he shut the door right in my face at the Volusia County Jail.
- (6) Officer T. Williams' battery against a female staff member: Again, no criminal charges were ever filed on him, as a high ranking officer. Again, I do not believe an Internal Investigation was initiated on this and I also do not believe that FDLE or the state attorney's office was even notified.
- (7) Two female officers were involved with viewing pornographic materials while on duty in the workplace and received only a two day suspension for their misconduct.

- (8) Lieutenant J. McClelland was also involved with female inmates and no criminal charges were ever filed on him either, as a high ranking officer. Again, I do not believe that Internal Affairs felt any need to initiate an investigation on this misconduct. I think it is also logical to assume that FDLE was not made aware, nor the State Attorney's Office notified of this abuse to a confined female inmate. I think perhaps a "cover up" was the conclusion to this series of events as well.
- (9) Three off duty corrections officers got drunk and stole a rug at a local Daytona bar and grill, Unos, and were only given a suspension of ten days, again initially, but it was later reduced to five days with a letter of reprimand by Director Cindy Clifford. This was a **third degree felony** that was actually caught on video tape by the establishment, leaving no doubt, whatsoever, that it ever took place. It was uncontested evidence to the crime. Conveniently enough, Officer E. White, one of the officers involved in the felony, is the brother-in-law to Assistant Director Bruce Scherer, so therefore, I am extremely doubtful that it was ever investigated properly by Internal Affairs, again, Mr. K. Modzelewski selectively not initiating any action in regard to this obvious crime in an attempt to just make it "go away," even though, once again, it was undisputedly recorded for all to see. I am pretty confident that this was not brought to the attention of FDLE, or the state's attorney's office at the time. Do you see a pattern here? Internal Affairs is very selective and subjective about how far they go and who they investigate for wrongdoings.
- (10) Officer K. Marks made a (alleged) statement to an inmate at the Volusia County Correctional Facility that she would "Kill her and bury her under the dorm." This was confided to me by another officer that worked with her. I do not know about the outcome, and again, have heard nothing about any further disciplinary action or further investigation into this matter by Internal Affairs.
- (11) Officer Dinh was in fact, heard to call a black inmate a "Nigger," in an effort to relay to that inmate that he did not like being referred to as "a Gook." Point taken, but this officer did utter a racial slur and was only given a letter of reprimand as a disciplinary action against him, and at the time was on probation and is still on probation after this incident. He was not terminated. I doubt this was reported to FDLE or anyone else as well. Obviously disciplinary actions depend on the officer.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Crews, obviously this is NOT all of the illegal/criminal activities going on at the County Correctional Facility. This is NOT the first time that I have reported illegal/criminal behavior by our department to FDLE. The very first time, years ago, I was conveniently placed on an unpaid medical leave of absence for approximately three months duration and then was vehemently slapped with a false criminal charge by one of the supervisors that I had reported. I then had to go to an intense jury trial, my professional reputation was smeared and damaged beyond repair but justifiably I was found "not guilty" for a contrived accusation maliciously bestowed on me for a calculated result that, thankfully, did not manifest.

Once again, I am writing to FDLE with the same dilemma of years ago, because I am attempting to report these inexcusable criminal acts at the county and I have once more become an unwilling participant and victim of a maliciously contrived and a calculatingly orchestrated attempt at allegations aimed at me in an effort to do the most damage at this time and discredit my professional reputation, honesty and integrity and to literally ruin my life and make it so irreparable by not only inferring that I would utter something so vile and morally degrading to another human being for no apparent reason, in a disgusting attempt at a racial slur backed by an inmate who was not even present within the immediate circle of the conversation, nor even privy to the conversation that was being exchanged at hand at the time, but I have been wrongfully and premeditatedly been terminated from my 18+ years career and livelihood with the county right before the holidays for the most impact for something that allegedly happened back in July 2007, been blackballed from finding another job in my chosen field, have had a ludicrous imitation of an Internal Affairs, investigation---a "witch hunt" if you will, that was done selectively and deliberately with information compiled on me that was cleverly and covertly created and was subjectively compiled on me through my department, and am threatened with having my certification taken from me by FDLE for absolutely no wrong doing or indiscretions on my part, other than what the county fictiously made up. It was all pre-

text. Every move by my (previous) workplace has been done in an effort to sabotage and destroy a career I have carefully cultivated over a lifetime and wreck any credibility on my behalf so that you will not respond to my request that these unethical and morally wrong actions be investigated to ensure that they will not continue in the future. Obviously I am powerless to go any further than to contact your agency for an impartial and unbiased investigation into this matter.

My recent termination went from an alleged allegation by an inmate, completely skipped the disciplinary process, and then proceeded straight to suspension with the immediate removal of my badge and ID at the time, to termination without any justification other than the Internal Affairs' Captain Modzelewski's subjective findings from a delayed and drawn out farce of an investigation months later, rather than an immediate follow-up of the alleged event and accusation. It was, on more than one occasion, advised by my supervisors, "Nothing but inmate allegations," and yet the investigation was obviously covertly given a high priority behind by back, to prove my guilt, as nothing was even attempted, not even a logical interview with the other officer that I worked with at the time of said occurrence, to disprove the allegation and attempt to exonerate me or prove my innocence at the time. The "veteran officer" was **guilty** and the inmate who changed his story many times over was the **reliable source**, even though incarcerated for criminal conduct in the first place. That's what my termination was based upon. And as further "icing on the cake," Unemployment has refused any further telephone communication nor Unemployment benefits to be initiated to me based on the lies they have read in my file from Volusia County. The county has successfully sought their revenge on me and has succeeded in incapacitating any income I can hope to generate at this point prior to a Personnel Board Hearing that has been postponed until well after the holidays in February 2008; again a great premeditated and successful calculation on their part.

Mr. Crews, I am quite sure there are many more officers with similar stories that have had their lives and careers decimated, as I have. I know for a fact when you investigate further you will be able to see first hand what is going on in Volusia County. Now that Director Cindy Clifford is retiring, perhaps the time for an investigation is at hand so that the newly appointed director will have better guidelines to operate by fairly and objectively. I think that 30 days is enough time to investigate our department.

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Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter and the time that you have given me to relate my circumstances to you. I am at your disposal for any further information that you may need. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert L. Prevatt, Sr." followed by a small circular mark.

Albert L. Prevatt, Sr.