

From: VolusiaExposed [Volusiaexposed@cfl.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2010 3:31 PM
To: 'drew.atkinson@eog.myflorida.com'
Cc:
Subject:Volusia Jail Deaths

Mr. Andrew Atkinson
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

July 3, 2010

Mr. Atkinson:

In a recent St. Petersburg Times articles it was noted that Governor Crist instructed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate the events surrounding Inmate Samuel Dread's collapse on the exercise yard at the Lancaster Correctional Institution.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/state-probes-handling-of-prison-inmate-who-collapsed-during-mid-day/1097786>

We ask you to review our concerns of inmates collapsing and DYING under questionable circumstances at the Volusia County jail.

Since Florida government discontinued (1997) having the State Prison inspector investigate county jail deaths, Florida counties have been left to self-investigate these deaths through their sheriff departments. Further, since Volusia County is a HOME RULE county, the medical examiner office is NOT an independent body, but rather a branch of Volusia County Government.

FDLE does investigate all police involve shootings, therefore absent the State of Florida returning the responsibilities to the Florida State Prison inspector, it would appear appropriate to have FDLE investigate all in custody deaths at county jails.

Our concerns have been reported to the local State Attorney, but in our opinion, politics appear to make the local SA somewhat reluctant to investigate our concerns. (Please see our attached web link for further explanation)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/fdle/inmatecollaspe.html>

Our concerns center around the possibility that jail staff submitted falsified reports involving at least two inmate deaths, that the local sheriff department and medical examiner office manipulated these investigations to reduce the county's civil liability. (Please see our attached web link for further explanation)

It is important to stress that the Volusia County Medical Examiner office handles autopsies in both Volusia and Seminole counties, thus affecting two different judicial circuits. IF our concerns are accurate (the manipulation of death investigations) then our concerns meet the requirements of being forwarded to the Special Grand Jury on Public Corruption. (corruption involving two or more judicial circuits).

Regardless, we believe that our concerns cry for an outside independent investigation, therefore we ask that you assign the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate our concerns.

Thank You