

The week of Oct. 8th I was in charge of the ILP division while the director was out of town. I became aware of an incident involving a citizen who made a post on facebook about Deputy Carmack. The citizen (whose information I have) posted a mug shot picture of the deputy on her facebook. I received a call from Major Peake asking me questions about the incident. He asked if she did anything illegal that she could be arrested for. I stated that the pic was accessed via the Pinellas County site and she had not committed any law violations. He then asked that I obtain any and all information pertaining to her and all of her family. Peake went on to state that, "we cannot let someone say bad shit about the sheriff's office, we need to lock her up." I stated that what she posted was actually true since the deputy was arrested but he was clearly not happy.

Throughout the day he contacted me via cell at least five times asking for updates and if we had anything to arrest her on. He requested that I notify SIU detectives and have them begin conducting surveillance on her and her family and arrest them all. I have always prided myself on having the moral courage to stand up for what is right and I informed Peake that I was not comfortable with this activity and targeting citizens for posting derogatorily and true statements seemed like a misuse of power and unethical. He informed me that he would just deal with the SIU Sgt. Direct "because it would be easier."

Approx. one week later I had an in-person conversation with Col. Jeff Harrington and I informed him of all the details of this incident and stated I was not comfortable having the Intelligence division being used as an unethical tool to abuse the Sheriff's power. He acted upset about the incident and "said he would look into it." He then went on to say that maybe I would be happier working in a different division at the agency or maybe the agency was not a good fit for me. I left feeling that I would be moved and/or punished for addressing these violations.