



August 2, 2010

FRANK T. BRUNO JR.
COUNTY CHAIR

Re: Release of Inmate Silva

JOIE ALEXANDER
VICE-CHAIR, AT-LARGE

To The News Media:

ANDY KELLY
DISTRICT 1

On behalf of Volusia County Government, and the Division of Corrections, we regret the way we handled the release of Inmate Silva on July 30, 2010. You have a right to be upset at how this was handled at the jail.

JOSHUA J. WAGNER
DISTRICT 2

JACK H. HAYMAN
DISTRICT 3

Although I understand the jail staff's rationale for allowing this inmate to bond out and then leave through the rear access, I believe this was an error in judgment and obviously created the impression this inmate received preferential treatment. I do understand that security is of paramount importance, but there were other steps the jail could have taken to mitigate security concerns. We have an outstanding Corrections Division, but we're all human and missteps in judgment occur.

CARL G. PERSIS
DISTRICT 4

PATRICIA NORTHEY
DISTRICT 5

JAMES T. DINNEEN
COUNTY MANAGER

The news media has a right to gather and report news concerning jail matters. It's not Volusia County's philosophy to create unnecessary barriers to you doing your jobs.

As a result of my review of this incident, I have directed that our Corrections Division immediately create a written policy that states all inmates will be treated uniformly when they are taken into or released from our custody. All inmates will bond out through the front door. As part of this policy, we will put in place procedures that ensure there is an orderly conducting of jail business when inmates of high media interest are bonding out. As part of this policy, we will designate an appropriate area for reporters/cameras outside of the jail lobby. All news media will be treated professionally and fairly. Our longstanding policy of not granting interviews inside the jail will remain. I do believe this is in the best interest of security.

As per our media policy, news reporters should continue to go through our communications director, Dave Byron, for information needs concerning the jail. Please feel free to address any concerns to Mr. Byron.

Sincerely,

James Dinneen
Volusia County Manager