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OPEN LETTER TO VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Request For Public Records

THIS ARTICLE IS BEING OFFERED AS A JOURNALISTIC EDITORIAL, NO LEGAL OPINION, OR AUTHORITY, SHOULD BE INFERRED

October 20, 2023

Ref: Law enforcement accreditation standards & the VSO restricting media access

Andrew & Laura:

VOLUSIAEXPOSED.COM'S BACKGROUND

Within a 2015 disciplinary decision regarding a local circuit court judge's misconduct – the Florida Supreme Court recognized VolusiaExposed.Com as a “media organization” (*see page 2 of the below linked document*).

<http://volusiaexposed.com/jnc/judgerecksiedlereprimand/sc15-311.pdf>

Recently – VolusiaExposed.Com secured official Florida State government issued media credentials. These credentials were awarded to us (**VolusiaExposed.Com**) along with an apology letter from the Ninth Judicial Circuit – after court personnel attempted to deny us media coverage of a May 2023 meeting of the Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Nominating Commission (FSCJNC) (*see our below coverage of the FSCJNC meeting*).

State Commission Forwards Six Supreme Court Nominees To Governor DeSantis

VolusiaExposed.Com Argues For Our Right To Cover The Nominating Process

<http://volusiaexposed.com/orangecounty/2023/flsupremectjnc52023.html>

Apology Letter From The Ninth Judicial Circuit

<http://volusiaexposed.com/orangecounty/2023/flsupremectjnc52023/circuitreplies2.pdf>

SHERIFF CHITWOOD'S PERCEIVED UN-AMERICAN PRACTICES

According to numerous recent media articles (*below are a few linked examples*) – the Volusia Sheriff Office (VSO) has decided to restrict information access to a certain media outlet (**Daytona Beach News Journal**) –

apparently because Sheriff Chitwood has self determined that the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* has published slanted articles / editorials regarding himself - or the VSO in general.

If these media accounts are accurate – and we suspect they are (*again see below links*) – Sheriff Chitwood became “offended” when the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* quoted a source stating that Chitwood’s stance on a recent jury verdict was “un-American”.

Apparently – Sheriff Chitwood then decided to rush out and proved the media source to be correct – by following the lead of Mussolini – Hitler – and Stalin in restricting the freedom of the press.

Unlike the above named dictators – Sheriff Chitwood took an oath to defend and protect the U.S. Constitution – from all enemies – both foreign and domestic.

<https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/opinion/columns/2023/09/25/chitwood-feeds-reporter-to-the-social-media-wolves-for-doing-his-job/70953403007/>

<https://flaglerlive.com/sheriff-chitwoods-dangerous-attacks/#gsc.tab=0>

<https://995wlov.com/2023/10/03/sheriff-chitwood-bans-news-journal-from-press-conferences/>

https://news.yahoo.com/editorial-sheriff-screed-against-reporter-093000876.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

But just for a moment – let’s move on from the U.S. Constitution.

If our (**VolusiaExposed.Com**) memory serves us – the Volusia Sheriff’s Office is currently accredited with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) – a national law enforcement accrediting organization that has been in existence since 1979.

Question: Is it the “opinion” of the VSO - that Sheriff Chitwood’s actions against the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* are in compliance with certain CALEA accreditation standards governing media relations – with particular attention given to Chapter 54 of these standards?

<https://www.calea.org/sites/default/files/Client%20Media%20Toolkit.pdf>

Law enforcement agencies that cherish their CALEA accreditation will usually parrot their agencies policies with CALEA accreditation standards. It is noted – that Chapter 54 of both CALEA standards and VSO General Orders address “media relations”. (SEE BELOW LINKED COPY OF VSO GO 54)

<http://www.volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/sheriffchitwood102023/vsogo54.pdf>

VOLUSIA SHERIFF’S OFFICE GENERAL ORDER 54-01 Public Affairs & Media Relations

According to the above linked copy of VSO GO 54-01 – “*the VSO MUST establish and MAINTAIN public affairs and media relations procedures.*” (see page 1)

Under subsection “B-2” and “B-3” – of same VSO GO – it requires that “*all legitimate media sources*” have access to press releases. (see page 3)

Under subsection “H2-4” – of same VSO GO – it states that “*media representatives in violation of the expected behavior will be ejected from the press area and are subjected to removal from the media distribution list.*” (see page 6)

Under subsection “H2-5” – of same VSO GO – it states that “*when a media representative violated one or more of the above listed rules, the Public Affairs Director and the Incident Commander shall submit a **written report** to the Sheriff detailing the event.*” (see page 6)

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

VolusiaExposed.Com is researching in preparation for an article that will question whether the VSO is honoring the long held American value regarding the freedom of the press – as is incorporated within the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

With the above in mind – this publication requests copies of any VSO **written reports** filed within the last six months – which memorializes any media representative’s misbehavior that would have facilitated that person’s ejection from a press area – or removal from the VSO’s “*media distribution list*”.

Please use our below listed email address as our point of contact – and advise us in advance of any cost associated with our request for records.

Should the VSO have any comments regarding the concerns addressed within this letter – please forward them to the same provided email address.

AMERICANS – THEY ARE A FICKLE BUNCH

Americans - they surely are a fickle bunch. While Americans tend to love their charismatic politicians – they will eventually abandon that infatuation for their first love the U.S. Bill of Rights.

This is especially so – when a politician wages war against the first two amendments to the U.S. Constitution. (see below linked document for particulars regarding the 2nd Amendment.)

Both liberal and conservative Americans have a particular love for the 1st and 2nd Amendments – and will come to their defense - especially when a “no party affiliated” (NPA) southern sheriff uses the U.S. Constitution as his personal door mat.

State of Florida V. Wendell Dallarosa

2022-11411-MHDL

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/sheriffchitwood102023/dallarosa.pdf>

Mr. Dallarosa – a respected former law enforcement officer questions both the veracity of Sheriff Chitwood and Judge R. Rowe. (see the above linked document). In a unrelated matter - Judge Rowe recently denied a Motion to Suppress in the below listed case – State of Florida v. Iyanna Rollins – a prosecution of particular interest to Sheriff Chitwood.

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/openlettertojudgerowe82023.html>

Regards,

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P.S. Andrew / Laura – we are fairly sure it was by oversight – maybe cause by an update to the VSO I.T. system – but about a week ago – this publication stopped getting VSO media releases – can you assist with getting that corrected?

Cc – as indicated

Bcc – several – including internal and external to VolusiaExposed.Com