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Media Release: Wendell Bradford, Candidate for Volusia County Sheriff

Approximately one week ago, I was a guest on a Daytona Beach radio show and made a comment regarding the Volusia County Sheriff's Office and the money being there for several programs I mentioned. I informed the host, that I would be releasing information to where some of the money could be found.

Although I have not completed my total project, I feel compelled to release one of the items that I feel constitutes very poor fiscal management and is a large waste of taxpayer dollars. My decision to release this immediately was brought on by the elimination of another program due to a lack of funding, the bloodhounds, according to a media story published today. This follows cutbacks in School Resource Officers, Gang Unit, and Crimes Against Seniors, to name a few. Our law enforcement tax dollars are being squandered and the Approximately assets and resources available wasted.

Every law enforcement agency encounters the problem of overtime pay. All agencies have it and must control and manage it through strong fiscal management. The partial findings I have so far accumulated regarding overtime in the Volusia County Sheriff's Office are shocking. Yes, I am a Candidate for Volusia County sheriff, but this problem needs to be addressed immediately.

In the first quarter of 2011, January 1, through March 31, VCSO accumulated a total of 22,392 hours of overtime, the equivalent of one person working a 40 hour week, 50 weeks per year, for over 11 years. The communications center was responsible for 12,888 of those hours, while the Foxman Justice Center Daytona Beach had 910.75 hours, the New Smyrna Annex 1738.5 and the DeLand Courthouse 1960.0. SWAT was responsible for 855.0 hours, bomb disposal 308.7, and evidence 262.5. School Resource deputies accounted for 211.5. PAL had 36.0 and District V juvenile had 5.0.

The above itemization is a partial breakdown of overtime costs, but the total hours encompass all departments except patrol units.

These numbers are not an anomaly. The communications overtime for the month of April 2011 totaled 3581.75 hours and other departments are duplicating earlier results. In the year of 2009, combined communications of the Sheriff's Office Fire/EMS dispatch and Communications Services Section/Law Enforcement Dispatch totaled 47,003.25 hours of overtime pay and in 2010, 50,590.45 hours of overtime pay.

Not only does the overtime rate have the 50% dollar burden, it also carries pension costs at a higher rate as well as social security contribution by the employer.

We can no longer justify program and safety cuts due to funding. Better management of our assets and resources is necessary. The above examples are not acceptable.

Wendell Bradford - Candidate for Volusia County Sheriff