

Johnson, Ben

From: Tim McGuire [tim_mcguire@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 1:37 PM

To: Johnson, Ben

Dear Sheriff,

I'm deeply saddened to inform you it is time for me to hang up the leash at this time. This is harder for me then retiring from the DOC after 25 years, because I know my dogs and I can make a huge contribution to the community working well trained hounds assigned to the Sheriff's Office. From the beginning of this journey Skeeter and I have been told this program was not needed and that you were the only person that wanted a Bloodhound Team. I excepted it as a challenge to prove them all wrong. For some reason people thought the hounds were suppose to perform like seasoned dogs as puppies in the beginning. Jake was washed out because he could not resist deer and I started over with Lacey as a 5 month old puppy going on calls, knowing I was pushing her. She is now 2.5 and with out hesitation I can tell you, she will be one of the top trailing hounds in the United States. You observed first hand the level little Lacey is at. That was not a fluke, it was good old fashioned man trailing and 4 weeks ago Joker Wild saved a human life in Port Orange. The program payed for itself that night, stated by Capt.White. I knew when John left the unit we were on our own. I wish things could have been handled different with John. Some people feel I put Howard up to calling you, that was not true, I was as shocked as all were. I now understand what happened, he observed every week how the patrol dogs are trained for behavior issues. With his lack of experience, it reflected in his Bloodhound training with over correcting his dog. I except part of the blame from not stopping it at the beginning, he with out a doubt was our biggest supporter. John is a good man and admired leader. When I sent you the e-mail it was in good faith because of your love for hounds.I simply wanted to share with you the level the hounds were at, the hounds were coming into maturity with progression in there training and I wanted to show them off to someone who cares. Last week I was told I have to keep my hours at 20 a week and 40 for the pay period and was ordered I can not take a call from central when I exceed my 40 hrs. This week I was asked to do PT for the concert on Saturday that it is OK to work over 40 for this, but it is not OK to work over 40 to save a human life. PT is not the issue, I accept that detail, it's the point, I'm working two hounds for VCSO and being told TCI will handle my calls when I'm on PT or exceed my 40 hrs, that is very frustrating when I know in my heart Lacey will run circles around any dog they have. I have pride in our hounds, but feel I'm on my own. I can not pour my heart into my life passion anymore with this way of thinking. There is no way I can lay in my bed and think I could be on scene, possibly saving a life, rather more importantly to save a couple hours of pay. This statement overwhelmingly made me realize the hounds are not needed. If you called Skeeter in, he would advise you all this to be true and that is why he hung up the leash. Ben, you were my friend before you were my Boss and you will continue to be my friend. You with out a doubt are the best Sheriff in Volusia County ever and I'm a proud man to say I worked for you. My family, including My brother Shon look forward supporting you in your re-election coming up. I will stay on as long as it takes for a new handler to be selected and train them. If a decision is made to end the program I will pay fair market value for the dogs. They are my family, especially Lacey. I have no hard feelings with VCSO. I am truly honored you gave me a chance and I gave 100% but very few people can understand these droopey eared smelly tracking machines. They just aint cool to most. I will give Dana a formal letter of resignation next week. I will contiue assisting agencies with Bloodhound training and start Lamans Bloodhound Services inc, back up. Thank you again, Tim

Confidential for you please, that is all I ask, folks take things personel when a opinion is given. I would like for this transition to be graceful. It's no ones fault it just was not meant to be. TM