



October 13, 2010

Sheriff Jerry Demings
Orange County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802-1440

Dear Sheriff Demings:

As I have previously stated both publicly and to you personally, I am a strong proponent of the Sheriff being a separately elected Constitutional Officer, and as such having full control of the operations of their office. I want to commend you for the strong advancements you have made in cutting the crime rates. Your focus on proactive policing has paid off and the citizens of Orange County are safer because of it.

During the several "ride alongs" I have done over the past couple of years, I have noted the comments of deputies and management who have been pleased about the non-monetary incentives you have given them in participating in some of these more aggressive crime-fighting activities. While the deputies may not have been taking home more in pay, it was my observation that they were enjoying their work more because of these opportunities and rewards.

It is my recent understanding that you anticipate returning monies, as statutorily required, that the Orange County Board of County Commissioners had allocated to you for the 2009-2010 fiscal year to compensate deputies due to a breakdown in negotiations with the bargaining unit.

When I voted for your budget last year, it was my understanding that those monies would go to the deputies for a job well done. There is no doubt in my mind that their strong efforts have made Orange County safer. The importance of job satisfaction for deputies is tied to and corollary to continued decreases in crime rates. If it requires a vote of the County Commission to return those funds to your office so that they can be allocated this budget year (2010-2011), I would be happy to support it.

I do not wish to insert myself into your contract negotiations with the deputies bargaining unit, but the sole duty of the County Commission with regards to the Sheriff's Office is to approve your budget and I did so this year believing those funds would be allocated to the well-deserving deputies.

It is in that role that I write to you today. You are doing a fantastic job of keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe. I simply want to ensure that you are able to properly reward your deputies that are on the front line of that effort.

Should you wish to contact me on this further, please give me a call in the office at 407-836-7362. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Segal".

Commissioner Bill Segal

COMMISSIONER BILL SEGAL, DISTRICT 5

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