



Inter-Office Memorandum

To: B. Masker, Warden; VCCF

07-28-2011

From: G. Watkins, Senior Corrections Officer/Law Enforcement Officer

Bart,

This is to inform you of my intent to end my tenure with the Volusia County Department of Public Protection. Over the past several weeks it has become more and more difficult for me to report for duty. The department and its practices are beginning to wear on me to the point it is no longer in my best interest to continue in the DROP program. I entered DROP in May of 2009 and had the intention of completing at least 3 years.

After transferring from Beach Protection in 1996, I made the determination to stick it out until something else happened or I was transferred to the Sheriff's Department. Well, here it is 2011 and I'm still here. I decided not to advance here as I thought it was unethical to lose my sergeant's status (almost five years) much less be transferred to corrections after being a sworn police officer for more than ten years. I found politics at its best, after being with Volusia County. To my dismay, that did not change, once here.

The staff, for the most part, was tolerable and easy to work with. But, there are the few that act like no more than "inmates with badges"! Their demeanor in dealing with others is totally unacceptable at times! There are more than one set of rules when it comes to discipline and policy, and the "race card" is blatant. The last issue I had with Kenneth Murray, to say the least, was ridiculous. Here an employee can act disrespectful, callous, and lie to supervisors and then I get admonished and looked down on for being truthful. And, to top it off, I get a write-up in my tracking sheet. A supervisor even goes to the extent to say if I write a VCDC 401 on the matter, he'll just shred it.

Believe me, this is not the reason I've decided to leave, just one in many. You can go back to 2005 when I HAD to retain an attorney, as the department violated state law (and still does), to justify my actions. Then, the administration, most of whom are no longer with VCDC, back pedals and says "nothing happened... there is no investigation," and destroyed legal documentation when asked by my attorney and county legal. I was even threatened with my job and retirement.

I have worked hard at this job, even to the extent of earning the status of "Employee of the Year" in 2009. All my evaluations have been above satisfactory or better. It is a shame I have to leave on such a note. With that said, my last day will be August 5, 2011.

Weekly Update to Shift Commanders
August 10, 2007
Page 2

cc: Mike Coffin, Director, Dept. of Public Protection
Marilyn Chandler Ford, Ph.D., CJM, Director, Division of Corrections
Personnel