



Daytona Beach Police Department
Jakari E. Young, Chief of Police

129 Valor Boulevard • Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Telephone: 386-671-5000
www.dbpd.us

January 15, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

It is my honor and privilege to support Sarah Thomas to be the next Circuit Court Judge for the 7th Circuit. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Thomas for the past 5 years. During this time, my agency and I, have relied on Ms. Thomas and her extraordinary trial skills to secure the convictions of many dangerous individuals. Sarah makes herself available to our agency at all hours and helps with anything we need. We often rely on Ms. Thomas to provide trainings and refresher courses on the law. Ms. Thomas has been a voluntary instructor for our new cadet classes for the last two years.

Ms. Thomas recently prosecuted one of our largest human trafficking cases in this circuit. She worked closely with multiple units at Daytona Beach Police Department and secured 13 convictions and took another dangerous criminal off the streets. This case was an effort of passion for my agency. The Defendant in this case was putting a trafficking amount of fentanyl into the streets of Daytona Beach while also running a sex trafficking ring a mile away from the courthouse. Ms. Thomas spent many hours at the police department prepping officers and advocates for their trial testimony to make them feel more comfortable. She reviewed countless warrants and helped sort and organize the evidence in a meticulous manner. This effort paid off when Derek Jones was convicted of 13 different crimes and sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Ms. Thomas is personable, professional, and easy to work with. She has the appropriate demeanor to control a courtroom and simultaneously treat people with deference and respect. I speak for my administration and our agency when I say we would all be pleased to have someone like her on the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Young", written over a horizontal line.

Jakari E. Young
Chief of Police

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