

OPEN LETTER TO STATE ATTORNEY

Request Rationale For No Plea Offer

**THIS ARTICLE IS BEING OFFERED
AS A JOURNALISTIC EDITORIAL,
NO LEGAL OPINION, OR AUTHORITY, SHOULD BE INFERRED**

Mr. R.J. Larizza
State Attorney
Mr. Bryan Shorstein
Public Information Officer
Seventh Judicial Circuit
State Attorney's Office

October 16, 2023

Ref: The criminal prosecution of Ms. Iyanna Rollins
Request Rationale: For No Plea Deal Offer

Mr. Larizza / Mr. Shorstein:

REFUSAL TO OFFER PLEA DEAL

As you may be aware - our publication – VolusiaExposed.Com has been covering the developing events surrounding Ms. Rollins' 2022 arrest and criminal prosecution. (see the below links to our articles)

August 15, 2023

**Open Letter To Judge Rowe
The Politics Of Judicial Bias**

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/openlettertojudgerowe82023.html>

July 22, 2023

Situational Ethics From The Bench

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/rollins72023.html>

July 14, 2023

Car 54 Where Are You?

A Traffic Stop Gone Very Wrong !?

... and liberty and justice for all.

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/iyannarollins72023.html>

August 12, 2022

Open Letter To Sheriff Mike Chitwood

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2022/rollinsarrest72022/openletterchitwood8122022.pdf>

July 30, 2022

The Arrest Of Ms. Iyanna Rollins

Driving While Black In Deltona, Florida

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2022/rollinsarrest72022.html>

During a recent status hearing – the prosecutor advised Judge Rowe that the “State” would not be offering a plea deal in Ms. Rollins’ prosecution. (see below linked court video)

<https://youtu.be/t3HRbLTQPsc?si=11Jc7v1GQ3w0PYWx>

The refusal to offer Ms. Rollins a plea deal is of interest to us for the follow reasons:

EVENTS SURROUNDING MS. ROLLINS’ ARREST

As you may recall – Rollins was arrested for allegedly “kicking” two deputies as Volusia Sheriff Sgt. Chad Weaver was taking her into custody.

Sgt. Weaver was under the mistaken belief that Ms. Rollins was departing from an address that had a burglary alarm in progress. In truth – the burglary alarm was transpiring at an address one block over from Ms. Rollins’ location.

Ms. Rollins did not take kindly to Sgt. Weaver reaching into her car – turning it off - and in the process “touching” her. Especially given the fact that Sgt. Weaver had not even attempted to explain to her why he was detaining her. (see below linked video)

<https://youtu.be/PJdSifi7GtI?si=QAYNshTPvFwj48im>

During a July 10, 2023 Motion to Suppress hearing - Sgt. Weaver testified that he had opened Ms. Rollins’ car door – reaching in to turn off the car – in response to Ms. Rollins’ starting to roll up her car window. (see below linked Motion to Suppress)

<http://www.volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/iyannarollins72023/motiontosuppress.pdf>

From this publication’s review of the video – Ms. Rollins’ car window remained down – never moving in a upward direction. (see below linked article for access to videos – Weaver’s testimony & arrest video)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/openlettertojudgerowe82023.html>

Within Judge Rowe’s decision denying Rollins’ Motion to Suppress – Judge Rowe repeated the false assertion that Rollins was rolling up her window. (see below - linked judicial decision)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/rollins72023/denialmotiontosuppress2.pdf>

Once apparently “touched” by Sgt. Weaver – Ms. Rollins quickly exited her car and immediately started to strongly vocalize to Sgt. Weaver her displeasure of being “touched”.

Sgt. Weaver then proceeded to place Ms. Rollins in handcuffs advising her that she was not being arrested. A struggle ensued whereas Ms. Rollins was eventually placed in handcuffs – and ultimately charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence.

THE ARREST OF MS. NAOMI ROBINSON

Compare Robinson’s Arrest & Prosecution To Those Of Rollins’

The actual burglary alarm address (2639 Ainsworth Ave. Deltona, FL) is where Ms. Naomi Robinson resided. The landlord – with the assistance of the sheriff department was apparently in the process of eviction procedures against Ms. Robinson.

Three days after Ms. Rollins' arrest – Ms. Robinson was also arrested and charged with fleeing and eluding sheriff deputies (**stop sticks were deployed**) – battery on two deputies, including allegedly biting Deputy Hansard's hand. (see below linked arrest report)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2022/rollinsarrest72022/robinson/robinsonarrest.pdf>

Note: There exist only nineteen (19) court case numbers between Ms. Rollins' case of 2022-101651-CFDL and Ms. Robinson's case of 2022-101671-CFDL

Ms. Robinson was afforded a rather sweet plea bargain by your office. Her charges were either dismissed or adjudication was withheld – even for the battery charges. (see below linked article for particulars – or visit <https://www.clerk.org> and search Ms. Robinson's case number)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/rollins72023.html>

PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT?

So the obvious question here is - why would the State Attorney's Office offer Ms. Robinson a plea deal – but not Ms. Rollins?

Is it because – Ms. Rollins may have a “false arrest” civil suit against the Volusia Sheriff's Office and the State Attorney's Office wishes to provide some coverage to the sheriff regarding this possible lawsuit?

Or - is it because Sheriff Chitwood is upset that Ms. Rollins' arrest video made it on to social media outlets – and members of the public were questioning the validity of her arrest?

Within his own social media post – Sheriff Chitwood posted his ire at the person that made the initial social media post – accusing the poster of **“drag(ging) one of our deputies through the mud.”** (see below linked article to review Chitwood's social media post)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2022/rollinsarrest72022.html>

Sheriff Chitwood further stated within his social media post that he **“won't let his (deputy's) character come under attack”....** and that **“this young lady made a decision to fight as hard as she could against a sergeant who was just trying to clear a burglary alarm.”**

Again – unlike Ms. Robinson – who got a sweet plea deal – Ms. Rollins did not bite a deputy.

Absent an explanation from your office - there exist the appearance that Ms. Rollins' prosecution is MORE about holding SOMEONE responsible for the social media posts that raised Sheriff Chitwood's ire – THAN any alleged criminal violations by Ms. Rollins.

(see below link to article containing Sheriff Chitwood's social media response)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/vcso/2023/rollins72023.html>

SHERIFF “MEDIA” MIKE CHITWOOD SHOULD TESTIFY

Maybe since Sheriff Chitwood posted on social media regarding Ms. Rollins' arrest that ***"it's part of my (his) job to stand up and state the truth"*** – he should be called by the defense as a “hostile” witness – and testify to the “truth” in this case? Could Sheriff Chitwood testify whether he has had any discussions with the State Attorney (**directly or indirectly**) regarding the dispositions of either Ms. Rollins' and Ms. Robinson's criminal charges?

Could Sheriff Chitwood testify whether it is a violation of sheriff office policy for a sheriff deputy to use profanity towards a citizen?

And finally – could Sheriff Chitwood testify whether he has ever expressed the desire to get away from the “warrior mentality” that some policing organization promote? (see below link media article & video – in which Chitwood discusses moving away for the “warrior mentality” of policing)
<https://www.wesh.com/article/sheriff-chitwood-talks-excessive-force-policy-and-reform/32816616#>

SHERIFF MIKE CHITWOOD's FIEFDOM

This publication does appreciate that Sheriff Chitwood throws around his “political popularity” in order to obtain certain discretionary political favors. Within a February 21, 2012 letter to Circuit Judge Joe Will (see below linked letter) then Daytona Beach Police Chief Mike Chitwood expressed his ire towards the judge for labeling two DBPD officers as “liars”.

<http://www.volusiaexposed.com/stateattorney/bradylister/chitwoodletter.pdf>

Recently, in an unrelated matter - Sheriff Chitwood placed a ban on the Daytona Beach News-Journal (NJ) from receiving sheriff office press releases or comments – apparently because one NJ reporter quoted a source alleging that Sheriff Chitwood's stance on a local jury's verdict was “un-American”. (see below media articles)

<https://flaglerlive.com/sheriff-chitwoods-dangerous-attacks/#gsc.tab=0>

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/10/11/editorial-sheriffs-screed-against-reporter-hurts-everyone-including-himself/>

From this publication's perspective – your office's refusal to offer Ms. Rollins a plea deal has nothing to do with her criminal charges . Rather - we suspect it is being done as a political favor to Sheriff Chitwood – so that he can seek his revenge against the social media postings questioning the validity of her arrest – something that apparently Ms. Rollins had nothing to do with.

Ms. Rollins and the Daytona Beach News Journal are both being victimized by a tyrannical sheriff over something as silly as social media postings.

In 2020 - your office attempted to do a similar run around of the U.S. Constitution – as favor to the New Smyrna Beach PD – regarding your prosecution of Ms. Cristina March. County Judge Belle Schumman quickly put an end to those shenanigans

<http://www.volusiaexposed.com/nsbpd/cristinamarchdismissal32020.html>

Given that Judge Rowe doesn't appear to have the same tight hold on morality as did Judge Schumann - Sheriff Chitwood – with the assistance from your office – he may win this particular battle. However, your ultimate defeat will be the loss of the public's trust – and that forfeiture will surely be apparent within the future verdicts of juries.

<https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/news/local/volusia/2023/09/16/reaction-to-manslaughter-sentence-for-man-convicted-of-killing-daytona-beach-police-officer/70877261007/>

Mr. Larizza / Mr. Shorstein – please provide us an honest rationale why Ms. Rollins will not be offered a plea deal – absent that - should we as a judicial circuit consider changing the last sentence of the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to read - ***“with Liberty and Justice for all - that don’t piss off Sheriff Chitwood”?***

Regards,

VolusiaExposed.Com
editor@volusiaexposed.com

“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.” ~ John Adams