

From: "Davidson, Gary" <GDavidson@vcso.us>

To: 'VolusiaExposed.Com' <volusiaexposed@cfl.rr.com>, "Chitwood, Michael" <MChitwood@vcso.us>

Cc: "Gant, Andrew" <AGant@vcso.us>

Subject: RE: VCSO News Releases

Date: Thu, 12 Jan 2017 23:01:03 +0000 (01/12/2017 06:01:03 PM)

On Thu, 2017-01-12 at 21:13 +0000, **Davidson, Gary wrote:**

> **As you may have already noticed, your placement on our media distribution list has been restored.** Just our way of saying new

> Sheriff, clean slate. It's our hope that we will move forward in the
> new Sheriff Chitwood era with a spirit of understanding and a
> cooperative working relationship built on mutual trust and respect.

>
> Regards,
> Gary

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: VolusiaExposed.Com [mailto:volusiaexposed@cfl.rr.com]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 2:48 PM

> To: Chitwood, Michael

> Cc: Davidson, Gary; Gant, Andrew; volusiaexposed@cfl.rr.com

> Subject: VCSO News Releases

>
> Volusia County Sheriff
> Mike Chitwood
> DeLand, Florida
> mchitwood@vcso.us

>
>
> Sheriff Chitwood:

>
> It has come to our attention that the Volusia County Sheriff
> Department has removed several media outlets from official VCSO NEWS
> RELEASES, this including VolusiaExposed.Com, although we have not been
> officially notified of our removal.

>
> While we were receiving these news releases - PIO Davidson included a
> tag line to these releases which stated - "Information is the currency
> of democracy."

>
> In recent media articles - you stressed the importance of insuring
> that ALL citizens - regardless of economic - social position -
> citizenship would received the very same level of service and
> protection from your department.

>
> Further - you promised in one of these media articles - that the VCSO
> would remain transparent to the public.

>
> While you may or may not see VolusiaExposed.Com - and apparently
> others
> - as media outlets - I can assure you that we receive daily news
> releases from several government agencies - to include the Office of
> Governor Rick Scott.
>
> The Florida Supreme Court has even recognized VolusiaExposed.Com as a
> "local news organization". (see page 2 of the below linked Florida
> Supreme Court decision) [http://law.justia.com/cases/florida/supreme-c
> our/2015/sc15-311.html](http://law.justia.com/cases/florida/supreme-court/2015/sc15-311.html)
>
> Sheriff, if you wish to be true to your commitment to equally service
> ALL persons within Volusia County. We submit to you - that your agency
> should do so regardless of their economics - social standing -
> citizenship - OR where they seek their information regarding your
> agency. Absent that - your agency's transparency will always be
> somewhat cloudy.
>
> May we suggest that you review the following YOUTUBE video - regarding
> President Richard Nixon's decision to ban reporters from the
> Washington Post. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHe8LYekBRM>
>
> Our final thoughts - not much surprises us - however, your apparent
> decision to ban certain already recognized media outlets - caught us
> by surprise. Surely - you are better than that.
>
> We respectfully ask you to reconsider your decision.
>
> Should you reconsider - we will consider this matter closed -
> requiring no additional comments. Absent that - we will have an
> obligation to our readers - to advise them that we are no longer
> receiving VCSO news releases.
>
> Regards,
>
> VolusiaExposed.Com
> volusiaexposed@cfl.rr.com
>
> cc - Gary Davidson
> Andrew Gant
>
> bcc - NONE
>