

June 8, 2007

12:00 pm. Bob received a phone call from our lawyer. She wanted to see us. I was at the Gainesville Health and Fitness Center in ReQuest. Bob came over and said we have to go. Our lawyer was on the phone with Huckstep when we walked in. He told her the sheriff made her decision and that was to terminate. Why, was the question... what had happened between the time the State Attorney said it was not criminal and the explanations Bob had given to Internal Affairs had warranted termination? I cannot begin to tell you the emotion that flooded all of us. Bob and our lawyer requested to speak with Darnell and she refused. She said when he was a civilian and had some kind of a problem she might speak to him then and only then. We were told to come back to the lawyers office at 3:00pm to meet with Huckstep. Darnell was going to let Bob resign but only with the words "pending termination" were in the paperwork.

3:00 pm. Bob, I and our oldest daughter Danielle were in the lawyer's office. Huckstep, Darnell's second in command and her new head of Internal Affairs Vermilion came in with a piece of paper. They put it in front of Bob and on it, it said you are being charged with 4 counts of untruthfulness and 2 counts of criminal acts. Huckstep and Vermilion were asked why, where did this come from? They said it was in the report. Report? What report? Where was it? We wanted to see it. Huckstep looked at Vermilion and Vermilion said it was not done yet but Bob was to clean out his office the next day at noon and they would have it ready then. That would have been on June 9, 2007. Again, Bob requested a meeting with the Darnell and again he was rejected. She was not going to speak with him.

32 years of Exemplary Service to Law Enforcement and Corrections, gone just like that.

So, he signed the paper. He had no choice. Bob had lost the color in his face. I was horrified. My daughter was crying. We did not understand any of it. I called my brother, Joe Cirulli, who was in his office at the health club to come over to us. I needed his strength and his level headedness. All I could think of was my parents and the pain they would feel, too. We had never done anything to disgrace my parents or the rest of the family. Nothing seemed to be sinking in. We still had no report. All I kept thinking, was this really happening? The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the State Attorney had already said their findings. We figured he was going to get some time off (more than the 4 months he already had off) without pay for our mistake but this....

Our lawyer gave Huckstep a letter stating the law about releasing any information before she and Bob could get the report. They knew about releasing it and the report was going to be done the next day. Huckstep then asked Bob if he wanted to go thru a back door at the Jail. Bob looked at him and said I have nothing to hide, I will go in and out of the front door of that Jail. We left our lawyers office in shock. I won't go into the scene at my parents home with them and all my brothers and sisters (which includes my brother-in-laws, our other brothers).

6:00 pm....I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM MY BROTHER JOE. HE HAD A MESSAGE THAT WAS LEFT ON HIS CELL PHONE. IT WAS FROM DARNELL...SHE TOLD HIM HOW BAD THE REPORT WAS AND IF HE WOULD LIKE, SHE HAD A COPY OF IT FOR HIM. YOU CAN IMAGINE; DARNELL WAS OFFERING A COPY OF THE REPORT BOB COULD NOT SEE BECAUSE HE WAS TOLD AN HOUR EARLIER IT WAS NOT DONE. HOW COULD MY BROTHER BE OFFERED THIS REPORT? AGAIN, WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON HERE? WHY WOULD SHE WANT MY BROTHER TO HAVE THE REPORT BUT NOT US? HE CALLED HER BACK AND LEFT HER A MESSAGE, NO THANKS I WILL GET IT FROM MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.

June 9th, 2007

11:30am..... Bob left to get our lawyer and drive to the Jail to clean out his office. STILL NO REPORT. At 1:15 pm Bob called me and said if the phone rings or the media shows up at our house to just tell them I am not home and as soon as we get the report I will talk to them. The Sheriff's Office had released the report while Bob was still in his office of 9 ½ years, cleaning it out. For us, still no report. Sure enough, it was on TV 20's website. I could not bring myself to look any further than that.

2:30pm.... Bob comes home. He had just dropped our lawyer off and brought his office to our home. Still no report, not at our lawyers office, not anywhere for us.

5:15pm.... Our lawyer calls to have Bob come to her office. She had just gotten the report. He left and my daughters and I waited.

5:30pm..... I turned on the news....the first story was the reporter standing in front of the camera with a report in his hands. He was flopping it up and down saying he bought it for \$5.00 from the sheriffs office. He then started to tell my daughters and I what Bob had done wrong. We turned the TV off and waited for Bob to come home.

5:35pm.....All of our family showed up. Yes, to cry and to let us know they would never leave our sides. They loved us and we would get through this together. Then, our wonderful neighbors and friends came over. They didn't need any explanations; they knew the truth about what kind of person Bob was and is.

June 9th, 2007 thru June 9th, 2008.....We sit and wait for what the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commission are going to do now that Darnell had done what she had done. We tried to get the information across. It was so twisted and so POLITICAL.

I can't begin to tell you how many times I said the words, Let Go, Let God. I never in my wildest dreams would have told twisted lies to hurt someone so bad. Our lawyer became my psychologist on our many visits. She told me it was so hard for us to understand how people could lie and do this because we were not the kind of people that would hurt anyone on purpose and would never think of doing it. Again I know, not everyone loves their boss, all the time. Heck I had my moments with my bosses, but never would I have thought to do this to any of them because I didn't like them anymore.

There are so many other points that I could go on and on but for right now I have to stop. When I can write again, I will. I say a prayer for the employees of Alachua County Sheriff's Office that had nothing to do with this. I thank God he brought Sheriff/Senator Steve Oelrich in our lives, because he is a good man deep inside of him. I know, I was with him when he prayed with a 17 year old we were taking care of while she waited for a double lung transplant. I know all the good that man was doing and he has stayed at our side during all of this. He knows he had good people working for him at the Sheriff's Office and he knows Bob was the right man for the Jail job because of his heart and because he knew Bob would never break the law.