



THE FLORIDA SENATE

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SENATOR STEVE OELRICH

14th District

February 27, 2008

Mr. Michael Crews, Director
Professional Compliance Bureau
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Mr. Crews:

I am the former Sheriff of Alachua County; resigning just prior to my election as District 14 State Senator. The purpose of my letter concerns Mr. Robert E. Chapman, who served as my jail director from 1998 to 2006.

In 1998, I appointed Robert to serve as administrator at the county jail. In 1999 and 2000, under Robert's leadership, the county jail earned state and national accreditation and reaccreditation. He became concurrent certified in law enforcement and corrections during that time, along with successfully completing FCJBI's Senior Leadership Program. The county jail was also certified annually for meeting every applicable standard of the Florida Model Jail Standards.

Some contractual problems with the jail medical provider occurred. Major Chapman changed the medical contractor, the medical director, and the health service administrator. Mr. Chapman also led a team of sheriff's office and county staff into the Gainesville medical community repairing the relationship and negotiating monetary settlements. Because of Major Chapman's efforts, the medical care at the jail was rescued.

History will show that Robert Chapman is a fair-minded man and a principled leader. I would be happy to work with him again without reservation. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Oelrich

REPLY TO:

- 4131 Northwest 28th Lane, Suite 4, Gainesville, Florida 32606 (352) 375-3555
- 310 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5020

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