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WILLIAM P. CERVONE
STATE ATTORNEY
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
SERVING
ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, GILCHRIST, LEVY
AND UNION COUNTIES

PLEASE REPLY TO:

March 6, 2008

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

Re: Robert Chapman

Dear Mr. Crews:

I have been asked to write this letter on behalf of Robert Chapman, who is currently before the Professional Compliance Bureau for review of his standards and certification as a result of certain accusations made against him in Alachua County.

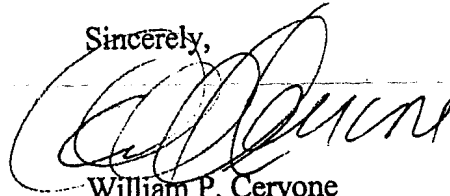
I have two bases upon which I am writing this letter. First, I have known and worked with Mr. Chapman in his capacity as Director of the Alachua County Jail for many years. Second, I personally reviewed the accusations against him and made the decision that my office would not initiate a prosecution for anything involved. In his capacity as Director of the Jail, it was always my opinion that Mr. Chapman did an outstanding job. Certainly, relations between my office and the Jail staff were excellent in all regards. There was never an occasion when I thought there to be any management issues. To the contrary, in past years there have been problems of that sort with the Alachua County Jail and none of those problems resurfaced after Mr. Chapman's appointment to run the facility. His professionalism and competence were always above reproach.

In regards to the second matter, I am positive you are aware of the resolution of the criminal aspects of this situation made by this office, which was basically to allow the Sheriff to deal with the matter as an internal affairs issue. I was completely surprised by all of the accusations made against Mr. Chapman. After reviewing all of the available evidence, I was convinced that no favoritism had existed or motivated any of his interactions with staff or inmates at the Jail. I was also convinced that the misjudgment involving the tag transfer and tax issue was an aberration and a matter best handled internally considering the de minimis nature of what was involved.

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I, as you, take all of the matters raised seriously as they reflect not only on Mr. Chapman but also on the law enforcement community as a whole. On balance and with some perspective towards the value of a full career and the nature of these concerns it was and is my opinion that Mr. Chapman has paid a significant price for what was involved and that suspension and/or revocation of his standards is not required. I hope that some consideration can be given to his situation so that an otherwise commendable career would not end in that fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Cervone', written over a horizontal dashed line.

William P. Cervone
State Attorney

WPC/am