

From: Derrick Jackson
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2014 10:08 AM
To: Lisa King
Subject: Judge Swartz Letter

Lisa, I know you are fully aware of what this is all about, but wanted you to see what I've sent out to several staff. Feel free to share with whomever you think needs to see this.

Recently, I was made aware of the emails that have been sent around the organization regarding the letter I wrote to Judge Swartz. Seeing that email was the way in which some wanted to have the conversation I wanted to respond in the same way. However, just as I went directly to Yee and Morrison and brought it up to our command staff I am more than willing to have the face to face conversation with whomever is willing.

For those that believe the way in which the organization found out about the letter was wrong, I remind them that it was me who went directly to Yee and Morrison to inform them of the letter.

For those that wonder how our organization or someone within it could write a letter for a criminal that shot at one of our own, I too would be furious if that were the case. However, that is not what occurred in this instance and I encourage you to talk with detectives who investigated the case.

For those that don't care what the crime is, but still wonder how our organization could ever express concern for a criminal, I would simply reiterate what so many have already expressed to me. That this is no different than the countless times someone in uniform has gone to a prosecutor to advocate for reduced charges or to give someone a break. Not because they were innocent, but because of how they assisted after the crime was committed. The one major difference I see is that I never interfered with the conversation around what to charge, what to plea down to or how the case was run within the judicial system.

Some have said that they feel undermined by the administration and me. Although that was not my intent, I know that without clarification some may see it that way. I would hope that the way in which I have carried myself and the work that I've done for staff over the last 5 years is not discounted by one situation.

Some have said that "I need to decide if I'm one of you or one of them", and to that I fundamentally disagree. The day that I relent on my values and belief of bridging that very same sentiment is the day that I have failed...the day that I turn in the badge that I worked so hard to acquire and that I am proud to wear. Who else at my age and in my position would commit to the physical and mental demands of the academy without the firm belief and love for what it represents?

Some have said that this only happened because "I don't know what it's like to work the road." And although they are correct that I do not know what it's like to work the road, I do know what it's like to put your safety on the line for this office. In the same vein most have no idea what it's like to do the work that I do for this

organization and the risks I face daily living where I live and doing what I do. In fact, most of us choose the opposite and move as far away from the communities we serve for safety reasons. My choices represent my firm belief in being the embodiment of the bridge between community and law enforcement regardless of the dangers associated with it. And although many don't recognize it, part of that decision is to do what I can for those that work the road each and every day.

The deputy I've spent the most time with and worked the closest with was involved that morning and so was the one kid I chose to mentor. That alone makes this a situation that very few could possibly understand. I did not write that letter out of some sense of guilt but with a firm commitment to my beliefs. To me it was important that the judge had all of the information needed to make his decision. And although I do not for one minute believe my letter had a major influence on the judge, I will say that providing him the facts prior to his final sentencing was the moral and ethical thing to do.

I've apologized to Yee and Morrison for any personal strain that this situation has added to them since they were obviously most impacted. And wanted to send this email to answer any questions or misinformation that may be out there. I don't believe in hiding from difficult conversations and believe that this organization is too important to allow one situation to detract from the work we do. Feel free to share this email with any and all that you think might want to read it and I'm always here for any that would like to speak in person.

Thanks for taking the time to read and be safe.

Derrick L. Jackson
Washtenaw County Sheriff's
Director of Community Engagement
734-973-4503
2201 Hogback Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105