



NATHAN SMITH

Prosecuting Attorney
Nineteenth Judicial District West
Benton County, Arkansas

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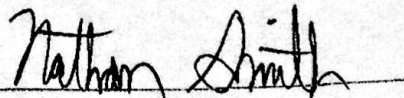
October 26, 2015

Sheriff Craddock:

I am writing this letter to urge you to establish a clear policy regarding the personal use of county vehicles at the Sheriff's Office. I learned on Friday, October 23, 2015, that you have not issued a new policy to address this issue despite your assurances to me on the phone that you would do so in the wake of Deputy Conner's foolish trip to Florida. I also learned that you have not even taken the limited step of clarifying the existing vehicle policy at the Sheriff's Office. It is apparent that despite the wording of that policy, officers have believed that it did not prevent them from using county vehicles for personal use. Despite the wording of a policy, if it is not enforced it is meaningless.

It is extremely frustrating to me that the misuse of Sheriff's Office vehicles cannot be prosecuted. The reason for this is your failure to act. Quite simply, it is impossible to establish the requisite criminal intent for the charge of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle if you lead your employees to believe that their actions are lawful by permitting them to continue unabated. For this reason, it is imperative that a policy change be made so that future incidents can be prosecuted. This policy change must not simply be on paper, it must be enforced.

As Prosecuting Attorney, my obligation is to see that the law is enforced fairly. As long as you allow confusion over this issue to exist in your department, it will be difficult if not impossible for me to prosecute incidents that may occur in the future. The policy regarding the personal use of Sheriff's Office vehicles must come from you, not me. Only the Sheriff can make policy for the Sheriff's Office. I am urging you to either draft a new policy or clarify an existing policy so that it is clear to your employees that purely personal use of Sheriff's Office vehicles is prohibited. I implore you to do this immediately.


Nathan Smith
Prosecuting Attorney