

THOMAS CRYE, 2ND DISTRICT
COMMITTEE AND/OR DISTRICT REPORT
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

The Sheriff's announcement that we were asked and we sent Bradley County Officers to North Carolina and Florida to assist in law enforcement duties during the recent hurricane on the surface appears to be a worthy cause. But a review of the 911 tapes from Miami area law enforcement officials raises serious issues on potential county liability. This is a serious issue since we have twelve pending lawsuits relating to the Sheriff's Department in the millions of dollars.

Apparently, neither North Carolina nor Florida approved the deployment of these officers and they were out of their jurisdiction and not trained on local protocol. Troy Walker, Special Agent in Charge Florida Department of Law Enforcement Miami Region and Mike Phillips with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement both phoned at the request of area chiefs of police to ask Bradley County why officers were in their area with full Bradley County gear carrying AR15s. Walker stated an executive order for assistance was never issued and notified our staff that Florida is not an open carry state and the presence of the deputies with long guns was unsettling as anxiety levels in the area were high. Walker confirmed Florida did not request assistance from Bradley County and stated a private security company perhaps bamboozled the deputies. Bottom line, Walker and area chiefs feared a blue on blue incident.

In light of the Sheriff's commitment to transparency and based on information revealed in the 911 calls from Miami Law Enforcement Community, the following information is requested relating to the sending of Bradley County personnel:

*Copy of authorization from each state requesting assistance.

*Proof that waiver to operate out of jurisdiction was obtained and explanation of any training obtained in local law enforcement protocols were the officers were deployed.

*Who paid salaries and if not Bradley County documentation showing who is/was responsible for payment of salaries.

*Were all officers on regular pay or were any on vacation? If on vacation how were they paid?

*If employed by a security company as implied by the Florida official, a copy of all contracts be provided.

*List of Bradley County vehicles that were used. If none, explanation of method of transportation and who paid also for travel expenses including hotels.