

**Sheriff Benton, Susan,**

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**From:** Julian Deleon <jdeleon@avonpark.cc>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 1:08 PM  
**To:** Sheriff Benton, Susan,  
**Subject:** RE: question/ possible meeting?

Maybe so, I am kind of sensitive about stuff like that.....with the past experiences in the scaled down APPD and the executive investigations through FDLE, allegations of misuse of DAVID trying to jam me up. You know we have done nothing wrong here.

It is "OK" if we disagree from time to time. I have negotiations with the Local 3132 tomorrow. Any time after 3PM? or Friday.

I figured that I was reading too much into it, but it kept awake last night thinking about it.

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**From:** Sheriff Benton, Susan, [mailto:sheriff@highlandssheriff.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** Julian Deleon <jdeleon@avonpark.cc>  
**Subject:** RE: question/ possible meeting?

It would be fine to discuss.....however, I am busy the rest of the day. Tomorrow at 9:00 am is the first time I am available. AND you are obviously reading more into it.....talk later.....

*Sheriff Susan Benton*  
Highlands County Sheriff's Office  
434 Fernleaf Avenue  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
Office - 863-402-7213  
Cell - 863-381-2346



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**From:** Julian Deleon [mailto:jdeleon@avonpark.cc]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 12:51 PM  
**To:** Sheriff Benton, Susan,  
**Subject:** question/ possible meeting?

Susan,

Are you available to talk in person?

I have always thought well of you, and frankly, I do not understand the purpose or intent for the comment below in your email?

“You need to put down your baseball bat before someone gets hurt.”

First, for the record, I do not own a baseball bat, gun, or any other deadly weapon. Maybe, you meant something else? And were street southern slang.

Second, how would “someone get hurt”? Does this mean that I should be concerned about getting hurt? Or my feeling being hurt?

Sometimes, I read too much into things, but so do you, when it came to my letter about endorsing anyone.

I just don't know or understand the purpose of the slang statement of “getting hurt”.

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**From:** Sheriff Benton, Susan, [mailto:sheriff@highlandssheriff.org]

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 5:14 PM

**To:** Julian Deleon <jdeleon@avonpark.cc>; Schrader, Mark C. <mschrader@highlandssheriff.org>; Barfield, Jeffrey L. <jbarfield@highlandssheriff.org>; Paepow, David G. <dpaepow@highlandssheriff.org>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Editor

I beg to differ.....show me the FS that says that.....I wish you would go ahead and try pulling the funding.....and by the way, the County has never charged the cities for the communication center that we provide you. Be careful what you ask for because you are barking up the wrong tree. And yes you did endorse Fansler in your letter....

The real test would be for you to try to hire enough police officers to open the city PD back up. I would wage my next paycheck that any of our folks that used to work for the PD would go back to the PD and I have enough vacancies to keep them all.

You need to put down your baseball bat before someone gets hurt.

SB

*Sheriff Susan Benton*

Highlands County Sheriff's Office

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**From:** Julian Deleon [mailto:jdeleon@avonpark.cc]

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 4:55 PM

**To:** Sheriff Benton, Susan,; Schrader, Mark C.; Barfield, Jeffrey L.; Paepow, David G.

**Cc:** Jason Lister

**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Editor

Susan,

Every city resident pays the BCC county taxes. Whether we pay or not, they are entitled to every service your office offers.

If we pulled the funding, and 911 was called, your office has a responsibility to respond to the call.

I am not endorsing anyone. In fact, I made it clear that someone from your agency would be best suited to follow the direction.

There are some questionable candidates, and simply put, if some of these individuals take office, the CC would likely pull out.

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**From:** Sheriff Benton, Susan, [<mailto:sheriff@highlandssheriff.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 4:16 PM

**To:** Julian Deleon <[jdeleon@avonpark.cc](mailto:jdeleon@avonpark.cc)>; Schrader, Mark C. <[mschrader@highlandssheriff.org](mailto:mschrader@highlandssheriff.org)>; Barfield, Jeffrey L. <[jbarfield@highlandssheriff.org](mailto:jbarfield@highlandssheriff.org)>; Paepflow, David G. <[dpaepflow@highlandssheriff.org](mailto:dpaepflow@highlandssheriff.org)>

**Cc:** Jason Lister <[jlister@avonpark.cc](mailto:jlister@avonpark.cc)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Editor

Frankly Julian, it is not an issue for the Sheriff's Office for you to "pull out"; the only loser is the City of Avon Park residents. Those dollars mean nothing to us except to pay for deputies with some of their minor equipment, that are assigned to work within the city. Should you pull out, it only means less work for the Sheriff's Office. Especially since your two zones are routinely the busiest in the county.

It is a huge responsibility to provide law enforcement services to the city. You and I both know that the \$1.3 million dollars would not be near enough for you to re-activate to a full Police Department for the required service demands within the city.

I don't know what you are thinking about with this letter to the editor, however, to endorse Chief James Fansler shows me how you really don't have any idea what it takes to run this business.

*Sheriff Susan Benton*

Highlands County Sheriff's Office

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Sebring, Florida 33870

Office - 863-402-7213

Cell - 863-381-2346



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**From:** Julian Deleon [<mailto:jdeleon@avonpark.cc>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 3:51 PM

**To:** Sheriff Benton, Susan,; Schrader, Mark C.; Barfield, Jeffrey L.

**Cc:** Jason Lister  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Editor

Susan,

The letter below was sent from this Office to the local media. You understand my concerns based on the current list of candidates.

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**From:** Julian Deleon  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 3:48 PM  
**To:** 'Scott Dressel' <[scott.dressel@newssun.com](mailto:scott.dressel@newssun.com)>; 'Romona Washington' <[romona.washington@newssun.com](mailto:romona.washington@newssun.com)>  
**Cc:** 'Tom Staik' <[tom.staik@newssun.com](mailto:tom.staik@newssun.com)>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Editor

## AP City Manager weighs in on Sheriff's race.....

I have remained silent about it, but the City has a significant interest in the outcome.

Look, we have a \$1.3 million annual relationship with the current Sheriff. There is no other municipal stake holder in this County with this type of financial investment into this agency.

This City investment pays for several deputies which are dedicated exclusively to covering the City limits of AP with higher service levels.

The City and Sheriff contractual relationship is there because of Sheriff Benton and her top level command staff. It has been a good partnership, going on four years.

With this election of a new Sheriff, if there are any drastic changes from capricious individuals, or if the agency loses its accreditation or goes backwards in policing practices, we are

prepared and ready to make any needed adjustments. This may be the case, as it all starts at the top with the new Sheriff's vision for the agency. The current vision in place by Sheriff Benton and Chief Schrader is one that the City embraces.

She accredited the agency as one of her top priorities in her vision. That's not easy to attain and maintain. In my opinion, any aspiring candidate from her own agency could be a likely qualified candidate as they understand the direction and values.

I also like Lake Placid's Chief Fansler, and his brand of community policing services. Like the Avon Park Public Safety Officers, the Lake Placid Police Department also enforces their Town local ordinances. We do the same personalized service with our community policing program through our public safety officers. It's about quality of life, and peace of mind for City residents. Avon Park is the only agency in the County with officers certified in three disciplines, Police, EMT, and Fire Services.

I make no bones about it, the changing of the guard at the Sheriff's office could mean a change with the City. If we pull out, the Sheriff will lose \$1.3 million for the added patrolling of Avon Park. Should the agency fall under the leadership of an individual who lacks the values and vision currently in place, there would be zero hesitation from this office to recommend to the City Council to terminate the contract with the Sheriff and increase the service level and staffing of the Avon Park Public Safety Department.

Julian Deleon  
City Manager of Avon Park  
**Corporate Limits located within Highlands County District 1 & 2**  
110 E. Main Street  
Avon Park, FL 33825  
[www.avonpark.cc](http://www.avonpark.cc)  
Office: 863-452-4403  
Fax: 863-452-4413  
Cell: 863-443-4884

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**Our vision is a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together, the rights of all persons are respected, and community values are reflected.**

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