



News Release:

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office Labor Units have voted overwhelmingly - NO CONFIDENCE in Sheriff White's Performance for a number of reasons.

Of the 271 Union members who respond to calls, investigate crimes and protect your streets, we are proud to say that 73% took part in the ballot process and voted.

This breaks down to the following: Of the 197 members who voted, 93% marked the ballot which stated "I have no confidence in Sheriff White's Performance." Only 7 % marked the ballot which stated "I have confidence in Sheriff White's Performance." The voting started on June 17, 2008 and lasted until June 27, 2008 when the votes were tallied.

This is yet another clear message to Sheriff White that those members who provide the service to the citizens of Pasco County want and demand professional leadership. A decision to take a vote on the members confidence level on Sheriff White was not taken lightly. There were many items considered before the vote which brought about such a decisive voice by the membership. The following are some items considered by members prior to voting.

- The Union knows Sheriff White hindered Law Enforcement's ability to deter crime in Pasco, creating safety issues for members and citizens by purposely stopping the execution of SWAT- assisted narcotic search warrants in 2005 and 2006. In 2006 alone, SWAT assisted in only two high risk search warrants for drugs and weapons. During this period in 2006, homicides more than doubled. Even in 2007, Pasco's Crime rate has increased, while neighbouring counties declined.
- The Union feels Sheriff White has taken minimal steps during his seven years to reallocate resources to needed areas and/or conduct an outside study on manpower allocation. Current zones are outdated, unworkable and are inefficient. To the contrary, the Union believes he has created under staffing in Patrol and within the Detective Unit, while creating unneeded positions which have no effect on crime or the safety of the citizens. The population of Pasco County has skyrocketed, yet the Union believes Sheriff White has done nothing to provide adequate Law Enforcement to the citizens to compensate for this growth.
- The Union feels Sheriff White is transparent in his efforts at fighting crime and providing safety of members. It is only during this election year that he has **finally** allowed some attention to gang members, narcotics and other crimes that have plagued our County for some time. This is after seven years of denying that there is a problem.
- The Union knows that Sheriff White has cut manpower in the STEP unit: members who seek out and arrest drunk drivers. Many families lose loved ones due to drunk drivers, yet the Union believes Sheriff White's removing positions from STEP is a safety concern for everyone's loved ones driving upon the roadways of Pasco County.

- The Union believes Sheriff White, as the top law officer, publicly approved of Amendment One, knowing it would eliminate large amounts of revenue for the Pasco Sheriff's Office (estimated at over 7 million dollars). This also prevented the hiring of 10 needed deputies that were approved during the budget process by the BOCC. His personal vote on the matter is not of concern; it's the top Law Enforcement Officer who knew how this Amendment would affect public safety and schools.
- The Union knows that Sheriff White left positions vacated until the end of the budget year of 2006-2007. After placing deputies in danger and detectives at risk for months, he finally mass hired deputies to fill the void. This hiring included over 40 Law Enforcement Officers and 30 Detention Deputies. This included the 19 deputies approved to be hired in April 2007.
- The Union believes that many years of experienced Law Enforcement Officers have left and are leaving Pasco to go to other agencies due to the ineffective leadership being provided by Sheriff White. Hundreds of years of law enforcement experience is here in Pasco County, yet Sheriff White fails to listen to those who know the job, know how to fight crime and know how to make this a better and safer County.
- The Union knows that Sheriff White does not consistently apply his own General Orders and policy, frequently ignoring them without implication. In lieu of providing written changes, he provides only verbal changes which usually never materialize into the General Orders.
- The Union knows that Sheriff White is not consistent in the application of discipline to his members or staff. As recently as this year, he essentially terminated a deputy without providing ANY due process, only to acquiesce when an attorney pointed out his own violation of written policy and Florida laws.

It is obvious from the results of this vote, the members of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 29 Labor Units, are concerned with the direction of the Sheriff's Office and the lack of leadership provided by this Administration. Although it is also a concern that the Sheriff can not even agree to a simple Labor Contract, this vote was placed in the forefront to determine if Rank and File Deputies believe that we (as a Sheriff's Office) are doing enough to protect the citizens and the deputies that patrol our streets.

This vote speaks loudly to Sheriff White. Sheriff White is again asked to make the needed changes within the agency and start providing proper Law Enforcement to the citizens of Pasco County and job security for those within the agency.

The Union, with this vote, has sent yet another message to Sheriff Bob White. Whether he is listening to our message or not, the members of the Sheriff's Office will continue to do what ever we can to make this a safer community for all of us, regardless of the limitations placed upon law enforcement by the Sheriff and his administration. We all need to work together to combat this continued growth in crime. We need a Sheriff who is willing to do what is right.