

Dear Mr. Preston,

Let me introduce myself: my name is Uri Tal and I am an Officer with The Lauderdale Police Department (Lodge 161) since 2004. I was born and raised in Israel and came here at the age of 15. The U.S. has been everything that I could ask for my family and more. When I became a citizen I decided to leave my profession and realized my long life dream of becoming a Police Officer.

My career was going well; I was doing what I love and excelling specifically in Traffic and D.U.I. enforcement, which is my passion. The future looked bright. I was looking forward to becoming a Traffic Officer with my department and furthering my career in the field I loved.

Then came December of 2006 and the world as I knew it caved around me and my family. My department started an IA investigation on me for lying under oath, which was false. It was the first time in my life that I was in a situation that could affect the rest of my career, life and integrity. The FOP representative John Puleo (A GODSEND) has been there for me since the initial I.A, taking 5,6 sometimes 10 calls a day from me, all day everyday. There was not one time he did not answer me, had a good word for me and has believed in me during this hard times.

The department decided to send my case to the state attorney on April of 2007 and a few months later when I was notified of that, I had to retain not only John Puleo's support and dedication, but an attorney from the union. At that time, the RRA firm was representing the FOP and my case was assigned to their lawyer. Not to get any names thrown under the bus, let's just say that after John Puleo's unconventional dedication, the lawyer was the exact opposite. I had no service, let alone support from the lawyer who was suppose to help me save my life and career. I then decided, after "shopping" and asking who the best in the business was to privately hire Tony Livoti (ANOTHER GODSEND). Tony is the best defense lawyer I ever came across, and I've seen a few during my career...

Tony took the case and spent days as well as nights with me and then alone studying my case, because he and John always believed I was innocent. I cannot tell you how much they helped me and my family. Tony would talk to my wife on the phone if she needed support, him and John would come to my house to visit and check up if I was doing alright. Tony always (as John) answered the phone, no matter what time, or how many times I called. If not for the two of them, I don't think I could survive this chapter in my life. Furthermore and for your information (which I'm sure you know already), Tony, knowing the bad representation I got from the FOP lawyer at the time, did not charge me a dime!!!! In the mean time, the FOP hired John Fry and Tony Livoti as consolers for the FOP and it is probably the best decision the FOP could have made.

After about a year of investigation and sleepless nights on Tony and John's part, talking to and cooperating with the state attorney, the state attorney decided not to file ANY charges on me and closed the case, turning it back to the department.

As I stand today, the Chief has given a recommendation to fire me for violating the department's code of conduct for untruthfulness. I had my pre-determination hearing with the city-manager on 8/20/08. John and Tony were present and I could not have asked for a better representation from either of them, they know my case as if they went through my situation! A decision on the hearing will be made in approximately two weeks. Tony and John told me that if the decision is not in my favor and I quote: "they will take this to whatever level they need to prove the truth and my innocence."

I am honored to have both John Puleo and Tony Livoti as my representative and lawyer and furthermore as friends. I wish for all lodges the same help and support as I got from these two guys!

I would like also to let you know that Ralph Dean has been a great support, he as well, showed me that the FOP will stand behind me. With your permission, I will also like to tell you the full outcome of this case when it comes to a closure.

Sincerely yours,

Uri Tal

Uri Tal, FOP lodge 161.

954-881-1615

utal@bellsouth.net